



February 28, 2019

Dear Friends,

This has been an excellent year for the Wilmette Institute. We have enrolled over 1,250 learners in 61 courses. The number of countries from which our learners come has grown to 126. Our YouTube website now has 65 Web Talks and countless private course presentations and publicity videos; 2,450 subscribers have viewed our videos more than 242,000 times.

A survey of 1,300 young Bahá'ís identified 70 college students who would like to take Wilmette Institute courses for credit in the next two years. They will be invited to enroll in special online, three-credit courses or in one or two blended courses that will begin at Green Acre Baha'i School, with online discussion and study following. The latter courses will be particularly designed to attract non-Bahá'í students from nearby colleges. We intend to provide lecturers to campuses and to seek courses where they can be guest speakers. We will augment our Web Talks with more discourse webinars involving prominent non-Bahá'í speakers and online web symposia where, in two hours, two or three speakers will present their research and take questions live over the internet.

The Wilmette Institute has received a large five-year commitment that will cover the expenses of our effort to take Bahá'í courses to universities across the United States. But because of the conditions of that commitment, the donation cannot be used to cover the expenses to conduct our courses, to run our Web Talks, or cover our administrative costs. We need to raise \$100,000 in donations by April 30 to avoid a deficit. So far, we are up to \$46,000. Can you help us raise the remaining \$54,000?

With warm Bahá'í greetings,

Robert Stockman, Director

Wilmette Institute Board

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John Hicks
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Contribution Form

O God, my God! Illumine the brows of Thy true lovers, and support them with angelic hosts of certain triumph. Set firm their feet on Thy straight path, and out of Thine ancient bounty open before them the portals of Thy blessings; for they are expending on Thy pathway what Thou hast bestowed upon them.

— 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Our goal is to raise \$100,000 in crucial funding

Please provide the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Total amount enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to Bahá'í Services Fund: Wilmette Institute, and send to the address below.

Wilmette Institute
Bahá'í National Center
1233 Central Street.
Evanston, IL 60201-2886

Your charitable contributions may be tax deductible.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE WILMETTE INSTITUTE ONLINE
Available only to Baha'is residing in the lower forty-eight United States

It is now possible to contribute to the Wilmette Institute online, if you are a Bahá'í residing in the lower forty-eight United States. Here are the simple steps:

- Type in <https://ocs.bahai.us/ocs/>.
- On “Online Contribution Page,” type in your User ID and Password. Then click on “Sign In.”
- On the next screen, click on “Enter Contribution.”
- On the following screen, click on “One-Time Contribution” or “Continuing Contribution.” Now you are five steps away from completing your contribution to the Wilmette Institute. For a one-time contribution, follow the steps below (steps for a continuing contribution are very similar):
 - 1. Select Fund and Donor:
 - A. Click on first blue square with white down-pointing arrow.
 - B. Choose “Wilmette Institute – Contribution.”
 - C. Enter amount you wish to contribute (include household members if you wish).
 - 2. Confirm Amount: View fund selected and amount.
 - 3. Select Payment Method:
 - A. Select payment date.
 - B. Select method of payment (bank account, credit card).
 - 4. Authorize Contribution.
 - 5. Contribution Complete.

Wilmette Institute

Fact Sheet

The Wilmette Institute, an educational agency of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, was founded in January 1995 to contribute to the development of human resources within the Bahá'í community, its friends, and supporters. It delivers flexible, well-organized, formally conducted academic, professional, and service-oriented courses that are designed according to standards of excellence and the Bahá'í standard of the independent investigation of truth.

The Institute began offering summer classes in 1996 and online courses in 1998. The online courses, available for individual or group enrollment, involve a series of units that require the learner to read and post comments and complete a final integrative assignment. Local groups of learners who take courses together may enroll at a discount.

While only two courses were offered online in 1998, the number increased to sixty-one in 2017. More than 110 courses have been developed and offered, some as many as fifteen times. Over 13,300 students, residing in 126 countries, have participated in our courses. In a typical year, about a third of our students either request scholarship assistance, benefit from needs-based discounts, or take advantage of discounts necessary to make the courses affordable to non-Bahá'ís or large numbers of Bahá'ís.

In January 2008 a new course-management system using Moodle software went live, greatly improving the quality of our courses. In November 2009 a new registration system using Cvent, a commercial event-registration system, was inaugurated. Its registration and marketing capabilities more than doubled the Wilmette Institute's enrollments overnight. In November 2012 the Institute upgraded its course software and added video conferencing. In 2015 it inaugurated a series of free Web Talks and in 2018 it inaugurated discourse webinars.

Over the next five years, the Institute aims to establish partnerships with dozens institutions of higher education that will allow many students to take online courses on the Faith for credit. It plans to steadily improve course quality, expand its use of web video to reach young adults and the community of interest, increase its web publication of student projects and faculty research, and train its faculty in order to become the main source of Bahá'í-inspired university-level courses in the world.