

Litchfield Institute Formed

LITCHFIELD—An eclectic group of area professionals are joining their talents to form The Litchfield Institute, a new humanistic organization devoted to sharing their expertise in various fields with the community and with one another, the group's founder said this week.

Dr. Richard Nolan, professor at Mat-tatuck Community College and part-time pastor at the Bantam Episcopal Church, conceived the idea for the organization last spring. Dr. Nolan emphasized that the institute has no affiliation with his or any other religious organization or with any college.

"The professional and artistic talent in this area is enormous," said Dr. Nolan, a Bristol resident. "But one author doesn't know another when they may be writing about the same things. The institute can facilitate a meeting of like-minded people. It's great to see people connected and offering their

talents."

Members of the organization, who will offer lectures, workshops, exhibits, performances and other services to the community, include writers Miriam and Russell Bourne of Litchfield, Paula D'Arcy and Madeline L'Engle, in addition to a physician, a director of a school of nursing the head of Trinity College's Religion Department, an attorney and Litchfield's First Selectman, Charles Dobos. Membership is by invitation only, Dr. Nolan said.

"What we're trying to convey is the spirit of a university," he said.

Honorary fellows of the institute include James F. English, president of

Trinity College, John H. Lang, dean of Litchfield Cathedral in Litchfield, England, Michael S. Rion, president of the Hartford Seminary, and S. Dillon Ripley, secretary emeritus of The Smithsonian Institution. Mr. Ripley maintains a home in Litchfield.

"When an event is under the auspices of the institute," Dr. Nolan said, "the community can know that it's being put on by a quality, competent professional."

Another of the members is Jane R. Schick, from the Litchfield Council of the Arts. "She will help us contact people in the arts," he said. "There is a clear diversity of interests in this group—from science to the arts."

The institute plans to sponsor its first event in November, he added.