

Fall 2018

A View from Melrose

Miles K. Davis
Linfield College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine

Recommended Citation

Davis, Miles K. (2018) "A View from Melrose," *Linfield Magazine*: Vol. 15 : No. 1 , Article 2.
Available at: https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine/vol15/iss1/2

This article is brought to you for free via open access, courtesy of DigitalCommons@Linfield. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@linfield.edu.

A View from Melrose



True cost

Putting a price on opportunity

There is a lot of discussion these days about the cost of higher education. The *cost-benefit analysis* of obtaining a degree, on the other hand, is rarely brought up. The data is clear: According to reports recently published by Georgetown University and *USA Today*, the pay gap between those with a college degree and those without one is at an all-time high. College graduates on the mean make \$17,500 more every year than those who don't have a college degree. This pay gap increases as one moves through life, leading to about a \$1 million income differential over a lifetime.

It is important to contrast this earning potential with the national average student loan debt of \$29,650. If you could invest \$29,650 and get \$1 million back, would you make the investment? Most people would.

That said, a college education should not be evaluated only on its economic return. Colleges like Linfield offer life-enhancing and life-changing experiences for students. It is hard to put a price on the opportunity to interact one-on-one with a professor who knows your interests and invites you to do collaborative research. How does one calculate the value of being part of a student-led club or athletic team, or a member of the school newspaper or forensics team? What does it mean to your life to make friends with peers from different backgrounds, to spend time abroad or to learn a new language?

Linfield was recently ranked the best value among liberal arts colleges in Oregon by two different publications – *U.S. News & World Report* and *Money* magazine. These rankings came about not as a result of Linfield being the least expensive college, but as a result of the quality of the educational experience and the resulting outcomes for students.

I invite you to share your experiences and outcomes with us. Please let us know how your Linfield education and time on our campuses benefitted and shaped your life.

I am humbled to lead this institution at this time in its history, and I look forward to hearing from you.

– Miles K. Davis, president

Linfield Magazine

is published by Linfield College,
McMinnville, Ore.

Fall 2018 Vol. 15, No. 1

Editor

Laura Davis

Creative Director

Cándido Salinas III

Photography

Jeff Kennel

Web Design

Jonathan Pierce

Contributors

Kelly Bird

Kevin Curry '92

Laura Davis

Miles K. Davis

Holly Douglas

Debbie Harmon Ferry '90

Christian Feuerstein

J. Lukas

Travis McGuire

Scott Bernard Nelson '94

Liam Pickhardt '20

Jonathan Pierce

Timothy D. Sofranko

Jeff Summers

President

Miles K. Davis

Vice President for

Institutional Advancement

John McKeegan

Director of Communications

and Marketing

Scott Bernard Nelson '94

Director of Alumni

and Parent Relations

Debbie Harmon Ferry '90



FSC certification ensures that products come from responsibly managed forests that provide environmental, social and economic benefits.