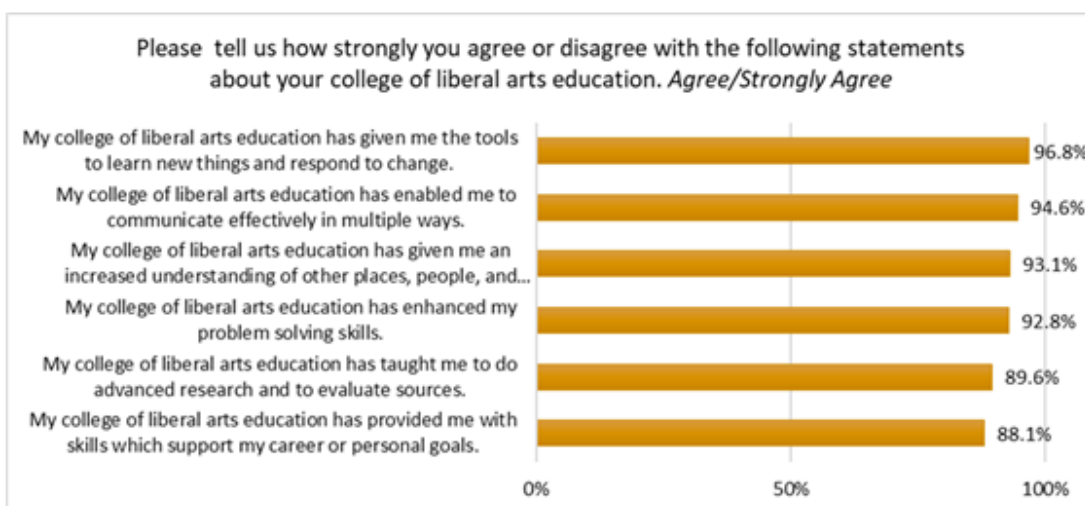


One of the reasons I sent out the depressing budgetary news last week was so I could focus on the positive this time around, for the last COLA Weekly of the academic year. And there is certainly a lot to celebrate.

We have successfully completed the semester using remote instruction. There have been hiccups, but nothing major. Together we have made an incredible transition in record time. The invention and creativity you have shown in responding to this crisis is flat-out awe-inspiring. Whether it is faculty figuring out how to teach typically hands-on classes like anthropology, art, music, theatre and dance via interactive video, or keeping up with routine office tasks from home (where would we be without our admins? I know I'd be lost), or maintaining contact with students with phone calls, chat rooms or facebook posts to be sure they stay connected, or maintaining the level of learning and course content so students are prepared for their next step, or hosting virtual graduations, you have been extraordinary. You have my complete admiration and appreciation, one and all. Bravo!

In the midst of all the virus craziness, COLA sent out an alumni survey. We got a good response: perhaps because people were looking for something to do while stuck at home. The response was hugely positive. We have data and comments for every department, which we can feature on our websites. We now have third-party validation to prove the liberal arts skills crucial to our student's future success, and they know that. We asked six questions that asked students to reflect on the importance of the liberal arts skills they acquired during their time here. The response was gratifying. The graph below shows you the percentage of respondents that agreed or strongly agreed with the statements to the left.



Here are a couple of quotes that summarize the fantastic job you all do, and have been doing. "As a first generation college student, WSU's College of Liberal Arts changed my life in more ways than I ever imagined. It is impossible for me to convey in this short survey just how thankful I am for the experiences that I had during my time at WSU." "As a student at Wright State I received the best support from faculty I could ever want. Without their support and encouragement I never would have pursued a Ph. D. and had the wonderful life I've had."

There will be a more complete report, including all the comments. But in the meantime, pat yourselves on the back!

I hope you find time to relax and enjoy the summer. Stay safe.

Linda Caron, Dean
College of Liberal Arts