

## A message from the dean

I was in yet another meeting the other day. Talk turned to the role of higher education in providing the strategic workforce needs of the region. The pandemic has highlighted the need for health care workers and scientists. We need engineers for Wright Patterson Air Force Base and the manufacturing sector. If businesses are to recover and new businesses be invented, we need people with entrepreneurial and business skills. But most of all, we need the liberal arts.



The strategic importance of liberal arts skills is well documented. When hiring managers and CEOs are interviewed, up to 90% of them say the most important skills are exactly what we teach in the liberal arts: critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, the ability to work in teams, cultural sensitivity, communication. Employers can train people in the unique aspects of the individual job but need employees to come to them with the ability to learn, ask questions, and communicate clearly. Survey after survey identified these same skills as vital: a quick internet search with the keywords "skills needed for jobs of the future" resulted in the same skills list.

It is a mistake to think that strategic workforce needs equates to training for specific fields. That's important, but training is not education. Education gives individuals the ability to learn new things on their own, and the curiosity to want to keep learning. Education, and liberal arts education in particular, provokes the desire to keep up with the needs of the ever-changing workplace. I often quote the fact that 85% of the jobs in 2030 haven't been invented yet. How will those jobs be filled? By liberal arts grads who know how to learn, how to say "what if...?" and how to help make the future happen. You can't get any more strategic than that.



Linda Caron  
Dean  
College of Liberal Arts



### Triple Play

New York City has always been a dazzling swirl of fashion, film and politics. And despite the stifling grip of the COVID-19 pandemic, Wright State University alumnus Christensen Oninku continues to point his career arrow at the Big Apple.

[Read more](#)

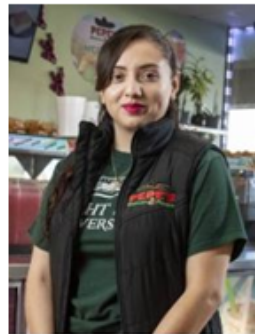


### Human Interest

Wright State political science alumnus Neal Duiker balances Air Force mega-contracting with serving the homeless.

Driving around downtown Dayton in an old white bus looking for homeless people to help is a regular thing for Neal Duiker.

[Read more](#)



### Flavor Enhancer

Jazline Gomez, a 23-year-old WSU psychology and Spanish major, is the owner of Pepe's Mexican Flavors, an authentic Mexican restaurant that features everything from street-style tacos to corn on the cob coated with mayo, cotija cheese, cayenne and lime to mango ice cream with chili pepper and coconut.

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### **At Your Service**

Public service seems to be in his DNA. Wright State University M.P.A. alumnus Tom Thompson has served in the Air Force, in municipal government and in law enforcement. His most recent effort is founding a nonprofit that serves the region's immigrant community.

[Read more](#)



### **Green Scene**

Wright State grad student helps secure a federal grant to advance environmentally friendly weed-killing technology. Cori Lohstroh, who is pursuing a master's degree in rhetoric and writing from Wright State, combines her passions for the environment and writing.

[Read more](#)



### **Playing for Keeps**

"Everyone likes to play outside."

Those are the words of Juan Muñoz, co-coordinator of the Albuquerque, New Mexico, chapter of Latino Outdoors.

The group's mission is to inspire, connect and engage Latino communities in the outdoors and embrace culture and family as part of the outdoor narrative to help ensure that Latino heritage and leadership are valued and represented.

[Read more](#)



### **CLASS Corner**

All workshops presented virtual via WebEx until further notice:

<https://wright.webex.com/meet/wayne.stark>

### **Is Graduate School Right for YOU?**

Friday

February 12, 2021

1:15 pm - 2:00 pm

### **Internships 101 for Liberal Arts Students**

Tuesday

February 16, 2021

12:15 - 1:00 pm

### **Using Social Media to Connect with Jobs and Internships**

Thursday

February 25, 2021

2:15 - 3:00 pm

### **How to Excel at Virtual Career Events as a Liberal Arts Student**

Wednesday

March 10, 2021

12:30 - 1:15 pm

### **Winning Interview Strategies for Liberal Arts Students**

Tuesday

March 23, 2021

10:45 - 11:30 am

### **Salary and Benefits Negotiation**

Thursday

March 25, 2021

2:15 - 3:00 pm





## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

### Supporting the College

Take a moment to think about your ties to the College of Liberal Arts. Perhaps you are one of our alumni and can remember well what the campus looked like when you were a student and which COLA faculty or staff made the greatest impact on you. You might serve on an advisory board and help provide feedback on the direction our programs and college are headed. Maybe you are a donor who passionately supports scholarships for students in need.

Perhaps you are an avid patron of our fine and performing arts programs who has attended art exhibitions, dance performances, main stage performances in music or theatre, or our signature arts fundraiser, ArtsGala. You might have hired COLA students as interns or COLA graduates as employees. You could be a faculty, staff, retiree, or current or prospective student of our college. You might be part of our professional mentoring program. Or maybe you are passionate about the liberal arts and about what we do in COLA and are looking for ways to get more involved.

Whatever your connection is, we thank you for your interest in the College of Liberal Arts, and we encourage you to remain involved or get more engaged in the important work we do on behalf of our students.

As you reflect on your ties to COLA, if you would like to make a gift in support of student scholarships, academic research projects, special programs, and other needs, please visit this website to learn more or contact Colleen Lampton-Brill, Director of Development for the College of Liberal Arts, at 937-775-4921 or [colleen.lampton@wright.edu](mailto:colleen.lampton@wright.edu).

If you would like to consider additional ways in which your engagement can positively impact the college today and into the future, please contact Nick Warrington, Director of Events and Community Engagement for the College of Liberal Arts, at 937-775-2575 or [nick.warrington@wright.edu](mailto:nick.warrington@wright.edu).

### Building a Professional Network and Connecting with WSU Alumni

Wednesday  
April 7, 2021  
1:15 - 2:00 pm

### First year on the Job Success

Thursday  
April 15, 2021  
Noon - 1:00 pm



ArtsGala funds the dreams of Wright State students working toward pursuing careers as Broadway performers, movie directors, musicians, and artists. Despite the immense obstacles of the COVID-19 pandemic, our students have adapted.

In an effort to safeguard essential scholarship support, we are testing multiple possible scenarios to achieve our fundraising goal for this year. We are not yet sure which plan will best allow us to remain safe and also create a memorable experience for students, donors and guests, so stay tuned.

No matter what form ArtsGala takes, your backing is critical. We appreciate your continued support that helps us keep the dreams of arts students alive.

## College of Liberal Arts

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