

Fall 2018

## A View from Melrose

Miles K. Davis  
*Linfield College*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield\\_magazine](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](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](mailto: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.