




WHAT MATTERS IN COLLEGE AFTER COLLEGE

– A Comparative Study –

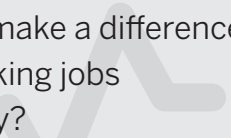


Research By
HARDWICK DAY


Commissioned By
THE ANNAPOLIS GROUP



Do alumni consider a liberal arts education
to be a good value?

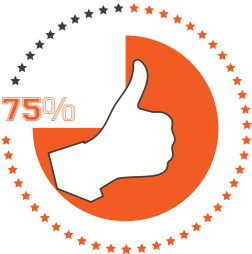


Does a liberal arts degree
really make a difference
for those seeking jobs
in a bleak economy?



With online and commuter
learning opportunities
so widely available,
does residential learning still matter?

● ANNAPOLIS GROUP OF LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES ● PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES
● TOP 50 PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES ● NATIONAL FLAGSHIP PUBLICS

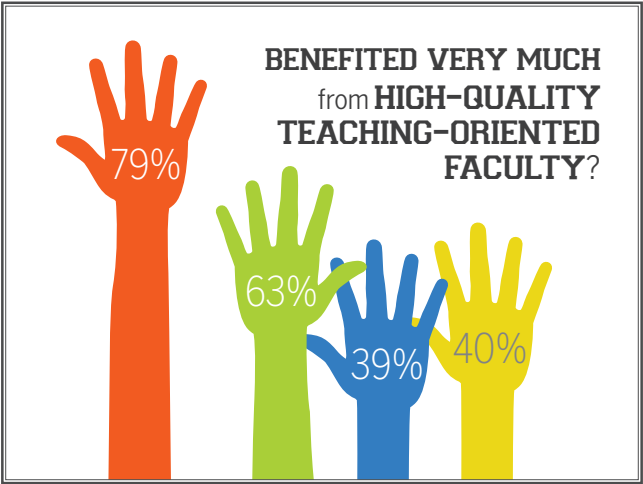


an **EXCELLENT**
overall undergraduate experience?



According to a new report, the answer to these questions is a resounding “yes” — especially among alumni of smaller, private, residential liberal arts colleges.

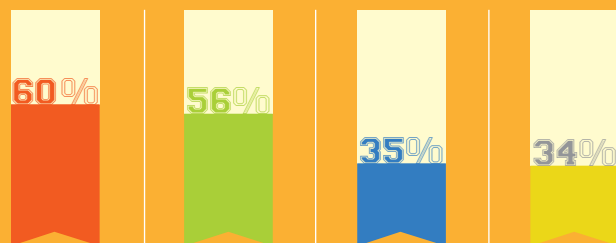
The report, commissioned by the Annapolis Group, a consortium of 130 leading liberal arts colleges, reveals that alumni of private liberal arts colleges believe their education has dramatically benefited their lives and careers. Conducted by the higher education consulting firm Hardwick Day, the findings are based on 21- to 24-minute telephone interviews conducted in 2002 and in 2011 with 2,700 alumni of top private, public and liberal arts institutions.



feeling ready?

percentage of alumni who said they felt

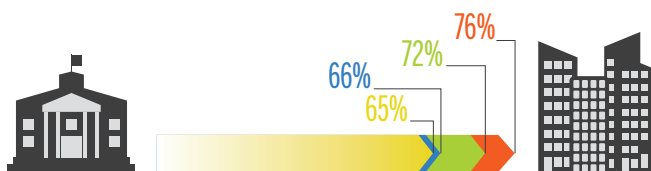
“BETTER PREPARED” FOR LIFE AFTER COLLEGE
than students who attended other colleges



Annapolis Group colleges are rated as more effective in developing broad skills that are often deemed important in careers and life.

FIRST JOBS

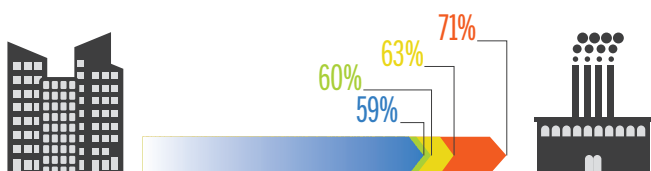
Alumni who give their college a high effectiveness rating for helping them to prepare for their first job

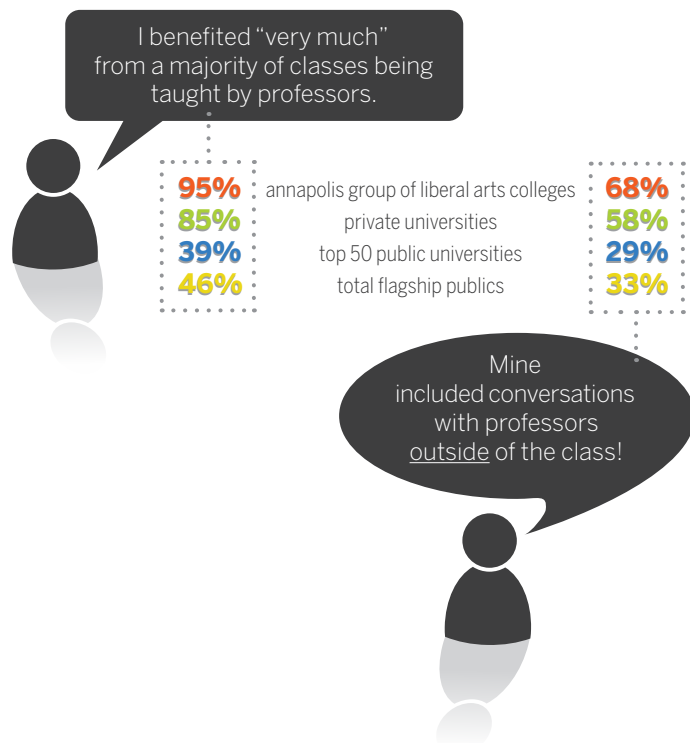


Compared to graduates of top public universities and top private research universities, liberal arts alumni rated their colleges most highly in preparing them for first jobs, career changes and advancement, and overall preparation for life after college. They were more likely than any other group to have graduated in four years and to credit their undergraduate experience for helping them solve problems, make effective decisions, think analytically, write and speak effectively and work as part of a team.

CAREER CHANGE

Alumni who give their college a high effectiveness rating for helping them to prepare for career change or advancement

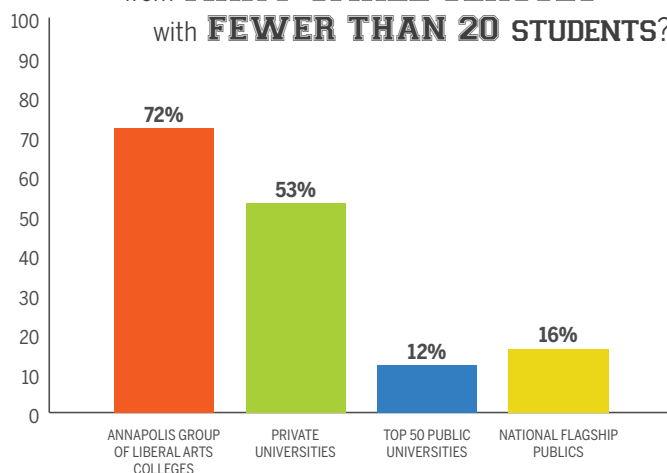




According to the report, liberal arts college graduates are more likely to say they experienced a sense of community, participated in smaller classes and had professors challenge them, work with them on independent study or research projects, talk with them outside of class and become their mentors. These activities, collectively termed student engagement, have been identified by scholars as essential components of an effective education.

BENEFITED VERY MUCH

from **MANY SMALL CLASSES**
with **FEWER THAN 20 STUDENTS?**



my professors often
**CHALLENGED ME
ACADEMICALLY**
and also
PERSONALLY HELPED ME
meet those challenges



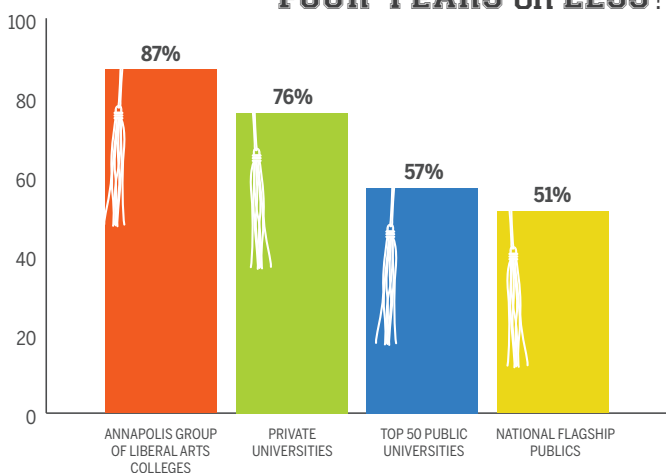
From Jim Day, Hardwick Day:

"The study findings ultimately address three of the big questions in the current discussion about higher education: Is it worth the cost? Does residential learning matter now that the Internet seems to be making online courses and for-profit education viable models for college learning? And, with the economy a mess, does a college degree really make a difference in the job hunt? This study shows that alumni generally, but especially alumni of smaller, private, residential liberal arts colleges, offer a strong and demonstrable yes."

HARDWICK DAY

PERCENTAGE OF ALUMNI

who **GRADUATED** in
FOUR YEARS OR LESS?



For more information, see
WWW.LIBERALARTSEDUCATION.ORG