

# STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2021



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

The College of Liberal Arts strategic plan is our shared mission until 2021 and was generated from plans submitted by each department, with input from the dean's office leadership team.

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**The College of Liberal Arts is a community of arts, humanities, and social science scholars who study the cultural, social, environmental, and historical context in which we live, and examine what it means to be human. Our students and faculty share a commitment to the well-being of the human community, the natural environment in which we live, and to the inspiration of the human spirit.**



## ABOUT

Since its first class of students in 1880, CSU has provided a broad-based liberal arts education to all students, teaching the important skills of critical thinking, historical knowledge, empathy, and the ability to creatively interact with the world.

In today's College of Liberal Arts, our classes, majors, and programs reflect on, participate in, and challenge the times in which we live through an exploration of thinking and doing. By studying the human experience from a variety of perspectives, we engage in an unbounded view: one that encourages us to look backward, forward, side-to-side, and up and down. This multivalent view of the world, explored with rigor, imagination, and analysis, teaches people how to navigate ambiguity and the complex terrain of our modern world.



The College of Liberal Arts exists to advance the human experience.



### MISSION

Through our research and scholarship, we add to the world's body of knowledge and artistry. This informs a comprehensive liberal arts education so that students become citizens who possess effective communication and critical thinking skills, historical knowledge, empathy, and the ability to creatively interact with the world.

### VISION

Central to every CSU student's collegiate experience, the College of Liberal Arts aspires to play a leading role in our university's distinctive 21st century land-grant mission.

### VALUES

As a College, where our disciplines help us learn to appreciate and integrate the dichotomies in life, we embrace the values of:

- Scholarship and knowledge, which develops wisdom
- Learning that is continuous, interactive, and cooperative
- Active engagement with our communities and the world
- Equity of access



The liberal arts are not just a field of study. The liberal arts are a living thing, a thread that connects us all. We are all learners, who share a curiosity for our world that connects across disciplines and reflects our dynamic, diverse, and multiple interests. We are all scholars, exploring the intersections among teaching, scholarship, and research. We are meaningfully engaged in our communities, moved by knowledge and empathy to put our education into action.

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**The strategic plan has three pillars that inform the College's direction and decisions:**

- 1. PURPOSEFUL LEARNING**
- 2. IMPACTFUL SCHOLARSHIP**
- 3. MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT**



# PURPOSEFUL LEARNING

**VISION: CLA will be recognized on campus, locally, and nationally for its rigorous and supportive academic environment that promotes intellectual exploration, self-discovery, and lifelong learning and success.**



## PURPOSEFUL LEARNING

Today's challenges illustrate the need for digital fluency, global literacy, interdisciplinarity, and public engagement. These demands cannot be confronted with technical know-how alone; they also require the habits of eloquence, empathy, imagination, and critical thinking whose roots run deep in the traditions of the liberal arts and sciences.

Our students learn to address social, political, and cultural problems through the exploration of their disciplines and their own creativity. Our faculty invite students into conversations with key ideas and with each other, and encourage those conversations to continue beyond the classroom.

## INITIATIVES

***We will foster a community of student-centered learning.***

- Engage students as active, confident, and responsible learners.
- Transform and elevate the role of faculty as teachers, mentors, and lifelong learners.
- Ensure an effective learning environment.

***We will develop innovative curricula that aligns with student's current and future needs.***

- Create a forward-looking curriculum designed to prepare students for a rapidly changing world, while maintaining a foundation of core, discipline-specific skills.
- Communicate the skills cultivated in CLA as essential and transferable.
- Build more opportunities for interdisciplinary learning.

***We will strengthen opportunity and inclusive excellence.***

- Demonstrate and communicate the value of a liberal arts education through coordinated recruiting plans.
- Implement a college plan for diversity and inclusive excellence.
- Foster an academic community of high expectations and achievement.

## IMPACTFUL SCHOLARSHIP

While a liberal arts degree provides the tools to explore, create, and lead, the liberal arts are intrinsically important in and of themselves. From ethics to anthropology, poetry to animal rights, cultural studies to environmental economics, our faculty and students engage in a variety of critical questions about the human experience. Through traditional research, outreach, and engaged scholarship, our community of scholars promote interdisciplinary collaboration and the research, discovery, and transmission of new knowledge to enhance economic and civic well-being.



## INITIATIVES

**We will enhance research and scholarly capacity and develop new opportunities for creative impact.**

- Promote excellence and impact through enhanced funding for faculty scholarship.
- Promote and strengthen scholarship of engagement and engaged scholarship.
- Expand research capacity through strategic faculty hiring and improved facilities.

**We will improve the College's profile through increased awareness and recognition of our creative research excellence.**

- Improve recognition for distinguished scholarship.
- Strengthen existing and create new graduate programs in areas of research excellence.
- Communicate the College's impact through strategic publications and engagement.

**We will empower research and creative collaborations and partnerships.**

- Develop partnerships within the College and across campus to enhance capacity to address complex issues, problems, and interests.
- Invest in current programs and/or create new initiatives that develop synergies with CSU research and institutional priorities.

**VISION: CLA will be an exemplary model of how our disciplines drive scholarly excellence in a land-grant university, recognized on campus and nationally for our leadership in research and creative excellence and impact.**

IMPACTFUL  
SCHOLARSHIP



# MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

**VISION: CLA will advance and demonstrate the unique position of the liberal arts in fulfilling the 21st century land-grant mission.**

## MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

We believe the disciplines contained within the College of Liberal Arts – spanning the humanities, social sciences, and visual and performing arts – will be key in addressing crucial issues and enhancing the quality of life of the diverse people of Colorado, the nation, and the world. We seek to put our education to work: inspiring audiences through the visual and performing arts, engaging with communities on topics that are meaningful to them, and teaching our students how to take action. Because we understand the systemic and structural causes of inequality, our engagement with communities around the world is centered on advancing the human experience.



## INITIATIVES

**3.1** *We will identify, develop, and reward scholarship, curricular opportunities, and individuals whose work addresses local, state, national, and global issues and challenges.*

- Build and strengthen internal and external partnerships through increased capacity for research and learning.
- Enhance community engagement through curricular innovation and learning opportunities in and outside the classroom, on and off campus.
- Contribute to intellectual and cultural life on and off campus through CLA leadership.

**3.2** *We will communicate the importance and values of liberal arts contributions through coordinated and collaborative strategies.*

- Create and implement a content strategy around the values of and value of the liberal arts at CSU.
- Create resources and a unified message across the College, departments, and units.
- Measure the College's impact through strategic communications and marketing efforts, and engagement.

**3.3** *We will enhance our engagement with alumni and foster stewardship in support of the CLA mission.*

- Build capacity and develop resources necessary to continue and expand College activities.
- Complete 2020 campaign fundraising goals connected to College strategic priorities.
- Partner with alumni in the local, regional, and global community to identify and align assets to address emerging issues, opportunities, and challenges.



In the College of Liberal Arts,  
we are driven by our passion  
to pursue knowledge, our  
intrinsic desire to create, and  
our dedication to engagement  
in our communities.

We are committed to fostering  
the transformational power  
of the liberal arts to create  
a more humane, livable, and  
sustainable world.





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