

APPROVALS

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Building Confidence Through A Liberal Arts Education

A Well-Rounded Education Makes A Well-Rounded Person

Gaining New Perspectives from a Liberal Arts Education

(by order of preference)

By Tiffany Nguyen

[Insert image & caption here when ready. Standard caption: Photo by _____, CLAgency's Head Photographer]

A fresh start, new perspectives, and different lenses. This was something Lauren Holly was looking for when she left her hometown of Illinois and first started at the University

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of Minnesota - Twin Cities. She is currently a senior majoring in Technical Writing and Communications with a sub-plan of Biology and Health Sciences.

Searching for the Right Education

Although Holly came from Illinois, the vast campus of the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities was not too strange to her, since her mother was originally from Minnesota. When she was deciding which college to attend, she knew she wanted something that gave her more than just “the standard”. She wanted a liberal arts education. “Minnesota has one of the best liberal arts education”, says Holly.

The Technical Writing and Communications (TWC) major has given her a chance to unlock her greatest potential by discovering her CLA Core Competencies. In the classroom, she “actually feel[s] like [she’s] learning something new.” Oral and Written Communication is one competency she feels she has gotten out of what she’s learning.

She is currently taking a course with Jason Tham, a PhD candidate member in the writing studies department, which has helped her gain knowledge of real life digital tools that has built her competency of Digital Literacy. She is able to “step out of [her] comfort zone” with the course.

Her courses challenge her to “think outside of the box”, referring to the competency of Critical and Analytic Thinking. Innovation & Creativity is also an important competency that stood out to her because she believes that creativity is important to her education as well as for her as a person.

These core competencies has helped her throughout her college experience. “My liberal arts education gives me confidence, even if I don’t get a job within my degree, I know I will do well in anything with the different perspectives I was given.”

Success in Diversity

Outside of class, Holly has been involved in University Technical and Professional Association of Writing (UTPAW), a small group made up of students within the writing department. This has helped her connect with fellow peers and work together to create several events, bringing in professionals for panels. Over the summer, she has also been able to work with external clients. “It was a cool experience. It was almost like an internship and really helped me build a portfolio.”

Undergraduate Representative for the writing department was also something that she has been involved in. Being involved has helped her make personal connections with people in her department. It gave her a chance to be heard as an undergraduate, being able to voice her opinions on certain decisions that were made within the writing department.

While being a student is part of her identity, Holly also participates in extracurricular activities. She is involved with the Multicultural Student Union as an officer, which has helped her be able to develop herself outside of academics. “Before coming to college, identity was something I never really thought about. But this group has been my personal and emotional support and has been critical to my college experience”, she says. The student organization aims to build a collective group of people that shares experiences despite coming from different backgrounds and experiences.

When Holly received the Charles and Myrtle Stroud scholarship for 2018-19, it was a great help to her and her family, who is helping her pay for her education. She has had this scholarship for her four years here and it’s great to know that she is “supported by the school and getting recognized for [her] hard work.”

Although Holly is unsure where she will end up after graduation, she is confident she will do well in anything. She has worked hard to achieve the position she is in now, a confident, well-rounded, and proud liberal arts student.

This story was written by an undergraduate student content creator in CLAgency. [Meet the team.](#)

TEASER TEXT

WEBSITE TEASER <i>This will appear in both the department newsletter and on the website.</i>	How does a liberal arts education help you be a well-rounded person? Lauren Holly is a senior studying Technical Writing and Communications with a sub-plan of Biology and Health Sciences with a diverse background and is a proud liberal arts student. Read about this Charles & Myrtle Stroud Scholarship recipient.
CLA FACEBOOK TEASER	Gopher Spirit? How about CLA Spirit! Lauren Holly is a proud liberal arts student at the U of M and received the 2018-2019 Charles & Myrtle Stroud Scholarship.
CLA TWITTER TEASER <i>280 characters or fewer--URL and @/# count as characters</i>	Can we say, #ProudUMNStudent ? Lauren Holly is a proud liberal arts student who received an amazing scholarship for this school year. Read about this senior's experience at the U!