Dear Friends of the College of Public Health,

As we celebrate the conclusion of another academic year, there are some new data that reinforce just how important a student’s college experience can be—not just on what they learn, but also on their future job engagement and their overall well-being.

A recent Gallup-Purdue Survey has some truly eye-opening data and is well worth reading. The full report is at: http://products.gallup.com/168857/gallup-purdue-index-inaugural-national-report.aspx. This survey looked at “workplace engagement” and “well-being” among over 30,000 college graduates.

Importantly, “...where graduates went to college—public or private, small or large, very selective or less selective—hardly matters at all to their current well-being and their work lives in comparison to their experiences in college.”

If a student reports “My professors...cared about me as a person” they are 1.7 times more likely to report thriving in all areas of “well-being” and are 1.9 times more likely to report being “engaged at work” than a student who reports that their professors didn’t care about them as a person. These students are also 6.2 times more likely to report being “emotionally attached to their alma mater.”

If a student reports having “a mentor who encouraged me to pursue my goals and dreams” they are 1.7 times more likely to report thriving in all areas of “well-being” and are 2.2 times more likely to report being “engaged at work.” These students are 4.1 times more likely to be emotionally attached to their alma mater.

There is a lot in this report worth reading, but it reinforces our strongly held belief that the “student experience” in college has a tremendous impact on their subsequent lives—above and beyond what they learn in the classroom. While many, today, are openly questioning the value of a college education, these type of data should certainly be taken into consideration. For those of us in the College of Public Health, this survey should be seen as a strong affirmation that our Vision to provide an “exceptional educational experience” is well-placed.

I know that you join me in congratulating all of our graduates, and in hoping that their college experience has prepared them for a meaningful career and a wonderful life.

Best Wishes,

[Signature]