

Liberal Arts Colleges and Universities Produce Quality Employees, Says Morningstar CEO

Kunal Kapoor is a graduate of Monmouth College, an ACI member

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The chief executive officer of [Morningstar, Inc.](#), an investment research firm, said his firm wants to hire candidates who are "emotionally aware, self-aware, empathetic and gritty" – qualities graduates of liberal arts colleges and universities often bring to the workplace.

Kunal Kapoor, center, who became Morningstar's CEO this year, earned a bachelor's degree in economics and environmental policy from ACI member [Monmouth College](#), a private liberal arts college in Monmouth. He

later earned an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

"We've found the best hires at Morningstar are the folks who've done really well at smaller liberal arts colleges versus folks coming out of big universities who may be very accomplished," said Kapoor. He said that in his senior year at Monmouth, he reluctantly took an art history class his academic adviser recommended. "I ended up loving it," he said, because it helped him see the world from others' viewpoints.

"If you want diversity and if you want a balance of men and women in the workplace, liberal arts colleges are usually a very good place to be looking," he said. "I would encourage you to always think about the fact that the people that you aspire to work with and have as clients are often the ones who have a diversity of ideas and diversity of knowledge."

Dr. Clarence R. Wyatt, left, Monmouth College president, told the audience that Illinois liberal arts colleges and universities tend to have many first-generation college students. The "transformative power" of the liberal arts experience touched his own life, he said, pointing out that he was a first-generation high school student and college student. "Our family didn't have many financial resources. It was the philanthropy of others who made this path possible me," he said.

"Everyday, the independent liberal arts colleges and universities of Illinois make miracles happen. They enable young people to see and seize opportunities they would never have dreamed of, much less realized, without this experience," Wyatt added.

Kapoor and Wyatt addressed a Dec. 6 meeting of 35 Chicago-area wealth advisers and guests, sponsored by ACI. Its purpose was to introduce ACI to the financial advisers as a possible investment for their clients. Morningstar is represented on the [ACI Board of Trustees](#).