



Executive Summary

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The Master Plan for William Rainey Harper College has been developed by Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kuhn Architects and Graywood Design (EE&K/Graywood) to address the physical needs of the College through 2020. Harper College is a comprehensive community college dedicated to providing excellent education at an affordable cost, promoting personal growth, enriching the local community, and meeting the challenges of a global society. Currently, the College serves over 40,000 students annually on its 200-acre campus, with 24 buildings and over 1.3 million square feet. The Master Plan seeks to identify Harper's unique characteristics and personality in order to propose design solutions that are specifically tailored to the needs and aspirations of this remarkable educational institution.

Working closely with Harper's Board of Trustees and President Kenneth Ender, as well as a broadly-based campus Steering Committee with input from faculty, students, staff, and the

community, the Master Plan design team conducted extensive analyses of Harper's academic programs and its campus. As a result, four Master Plan goals emerged, as follows:

A More Effective and Welcoming Campus

The Master Plan strives to improve the effectiveness of the campus in attracting and retaining students and in making the resources of the campus more available, usable, and environmentally sustainable. Members of the Harper campus community noted that arrival and orientation can be confusing for first-time visitors and new students. For a community college student, access means more than just being able to find a parking place; like education itself, it means knowing where you are going and learning how to arrive there in a meaningful way. The Master Plan accordingly calls for a new configuration for the arrival at Algonquin, the main entrance to the campus. The new arrival sequence directs the first-time visitor to the services of the campus, located

in the Student Center, with a proposed oval entrance drive to improve the first impression and sense of orientation. The plan also proposes several new parking structures to make parking on campus more compact, sustainable, and cost-effective. A new network of campus bicycle paths is planned to make it easier for students, faculty, and staff to commute and circulate on campus by bicycle. Improvements are also planned for the Euclid and Roselle entrances to make them safer and better functioning from a traffic and pedestrian perspective.

Space for Academic Programs to Meet Current and Future Needs

To understand Harper's current utilization of space, as well as needs for future programs, data was collected on existing classroom inventory, academic programs, and projected enrollment growth. Harper's enrollment as of the baseline Fall 2009 semester was 10,393 FTE (Full Time Equivalent Students), with projected enrollment growth to 13,095 FTE in 2020 (an overall

increase of 26%). Since classroom space is currently perceived as scarce, an analysis of class scheduling and class start times was also undertaken. It was determined that existing classroom space is adequate for current needs if scheduling improvements are made. New general classroom space will be needed by 2015 and through 2020, as well as other space for academic programs including class labs, studios, and faculty offices. These needs are addressed in additions, new buildings, and upgrades to existing buildings proposed in the Master Plan.

Space for Student Services to Meet Current and Future Needs

One of the top priorities for the campus is a new Student Center, grouping all student services and related functions in one location on campus. This previously identified need was confirmed during the master planning process. The Student Center should be easy to find for visitors and first-time students. Reinforcing the importance of the need for support space on campus,

the program analysis revealed that spaces for academic resources such as the library, tutoring, counseling, study space, and student services are currently undersized relative to other community colleges. Given Harper's commitment to "increasing completion and achievement of all students," enhanced spaces and facilities are needed for these resources.

A Strategic, Cost-effective Approach to the Entire Campus

New buildings and additions proposed in the Master Plan will further strengthen the compact configuration of Harper's existing buildings and campus. For example, the proposed new Student Center includes the renovation of an existing building, plus two building additions, to make the best use of an existing asset. The Master Plan calls for the retention and renovation of Building D and the renovation of the Library as well as Building M for wellness/athletic activities and community events. It also calls for the completion of a system of

enclosed passageways linking academic buildings on campus. Professional cost estimates of each element and a detailed phasing plan have been developed to assist Harper in implementing the Master Plan. These estimates are based on a detailed analysis that includes information on each proposed new structure and renovation to existing facilities as well as site improvements. The Master Plan implementation strategy is flexible, recognizing that Harper will proceed with projects based on available funding.



