

ENSURING A STRONG FUTURE

Community Task Force
August 15, 2018

How We Got Here

- **Harper College is preparing our community for the future.**
 - In 50 years as the community's college, Harper has helped shape the region, serving over 520,000 people in 23 communities and conferring nearly 90,000 degrees and certificates.
 - Harper is an important contributor to the region's economy, graduating tomorrow's talented workers and providing continuing education.

How We Got Here

- **Harper's affordable tuition is providing opportunity for our residents.**
 - Roughly half of district high school graduates enroll at Harper.
 - Students who complete the first two years of their bachelor's degree at Harper save up to \$59,000 in tuition.
 - Harper has awarded more than \$24 million in scholarships, grants and tuition waivers to almost 10,000 students just this academic year.
 - Next year, Harper will welcome the first class of Promise Scholars.

How We Got Here

- **Harper's award-winning fiscal responsibility shows respect for the community's tax dollars.**
 - Harper's tax levy ranks in the lowest half of all community college tax rates in Illinois; Harper has reduced its tax rate by more than 4.8% since 2013.
 - Harper is one of only 4 community colleges in Illinois with a Aaa bond rating, the highest possible rating from Moody's.

A Unique Opportunity

- **Harper's fiscal responsibility provides a unique opportunity to invest in our future without raising taxes.**

–As Harper retires old bonds, which account for \$23 in property taxes per \$250,000 of assessed value, it can issue new bonds at the same level which would provide funding for improvements while keeping taxes the same for local property taxpayers.

–An estimated \$180 million could be raised without raising taxes.

Community-Driven Effort

- Community Task Force was led by Kathy Gilmer and Tom Wischhusen.
 - We engaged the public to determine where the community would like to see Harper in 10 years.
 - We gathered input from taxpayers, students, faculty, staff, community leaders, and businesses through meetings and surveys.

Community Outreach

Task Force Meetings:

- May 2, 2017 | June 5, 2017 | June 30, 2017

Community Input:

- **October 16, 2017** (Palatine, Inverness and Barrington Area Communities)
- **October 23, 2017** (Schaumburg, Hoffman Estates, Hanover Park, Roselle)
- **October 30, 2017** (Elk Grove Village, Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Rolling Meadows)
- **November 6, 2017** (Arlington Heights, Prospect Heights, Mt. Prospect, Des Plaines)
- **January 11, 2018** (Mayors and Village Managers)
- **January 17, 2018** (Chambers of Commerce)
- **Online Feedback Form**
- **Multiple Public Surveys**

3 Guiding Strategic Priorities

Priority	Solution(s)	Cost
1. Drive Economic Opportunity in Our Community	Provide four-year degrees in University Center, housed in new regional economic development hub.	\$28.5 million
2. Educate for Today's High Tech Jobs	Modernize facilities and curriculum. Renovate accounting, business, education, and technology. Expand health careers and manufacturing facilities.	\$88.7 million
3. Maintain and Improve Campus Infrastructure	Enhance safety, increase efficiency, and support state-of-the-art educational techniques.	\$62.8 million
TOTAL:		\$180 million

Summary

- Harper is successfully preparing our community for the future.
- Harper's careful fiscal management affords us an opportunity to look towards the future of our college.
- Community developed a plan for achieving their vision for Harper.
- The public has indicated broad support for these three priorities.
- \$180 million financed without raising taxes was well-accepted.
- If put on the ballot as a referendum, voters will have the final say in approving the plan they developed for the future of their college.

Timeline

- August
 - Formal report at this meeting of the Board of Trustees
 - Board will formally receive the report (Exhibit XI-B)
 - Board will consider a ballot question (Exhibit XI-C)
- November
 - If approved, a referendum question would appear on the November 6 ballot
 - Bond issue for up to \$180 million without raising taxes

Questions