



## N. Central Grants Full Accreditation

### Harper reaches important milestone according to schedule set in 1967

William Rainey Harper College has reached its most important milestone to date with the granting of full accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools effective March 31, 1971.

Harper, the first public two-year institution established under the Illinois junior college act of 1965, was approved by voter referendum in the spring of that year.

In announcing the action by the accrediting body, Harper president Robert E. Lahti stated that the college has reached this important milestone with all due haste for a new institution which has taken on the challenge of providing comprehensive community college services to its constituencies.

"The North Central Association has fully accredited Harper College without qualification," Dr. Lahti said. He went on to note that some colleges receive qualifications to their accreditation, which means that the examiners will be back in three to five years to re-assess the qualifying conditions.

#### Credits Unquestioned

According to Dr. Lahti, full accreditation means that the college's credits and quality of instruction have unquestioned reciprocity among all institutions of higher education. "This is most important to our students and their families, while at the same time it is a tribute to our faculty," he noted. Dr. Lahti added that accreditation also means that the faculty is freer to pursue innovative approaches to the learning process, that the college will be considered more favorably for the awarding of foundation and government grants, and that more large corporations will reimburse employees who further their education at Harper.

The North Central Association based its final decision on accreditation for Harper partly on the results of a report prepared by the six-member accreditation examining



team which visited the college early in January this year. "The decision was also based on an exhaustive self-study of Harper made by the college faculty last year and my own appearance before the final examining board in Chicago late in March," Dr. Lahti explained.

The one serious concern about Harper noted in the 22-page North Central report "appears to be the failure to pass a needed tax levy increase last spring (March, 1970)." However, the report went on to note that the economic characteristics of the Harper district suggest that adequate funds can be obtained through a vigorous effort to interpret the services which can be given to the community through additional funds.

Dr. Lahti reported that Harper initiated the accreditation process at the earliest possible opportunity. "In 1967, the first year of classes, a North Central team was invited to visit Harper," he recalled. "We were conducting only evening classes in leased facilities. Our initial enrollment was 1,700. The first visit resulted in our being granted 'correspondent status' for accreditation."

As a correspondent, Harper became the subject of an extensive North Central study by four examiners who visited the college in 1968 and studied key areas of administration, curricula, faculty, quality of instruction, and philosophy. The accrediting body's evaluation of its 1968 study resulted in Harper advancing to candidate status in April, 1969.

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### Accrediting body issues depth report analyzing Harper's varied strengths

The North Central Association examining team, which visited Harper for two days in January, issued a 22-page report on the college. The report analyzed the various strengths of Harper.

North Central's six member examining team reported that the educational task of Harper "quite properly addresses itself to a broad range of programs and services. . . . Transfer and occupational (vocational-technical) curricula are offered. Substantial beginnings have been made in the areas of adult education, continuing education and community services, including cultural activities."

#### Faculty Well Prepared

The accrediting body said Harper's faculty "is well prepared and experienced. . . . Eighty-one per cent of the full-time faculty hold master's degrees in their teaching fields, many with additional college credits and eight per cent hold doctorates. Faculty were chosen to avoid the preponderance of former high school teachers often found in community colleges. The faculty appears to accept, sincerely, the classical concept of the community college, with concern that each student be given ample opportunity to prove what he can do."

Several sections of the North Central report recognized the efforts toward accountability which are given high priority at Harper. The examiners observed "The institution is to be commended for the development of a rather extensive faculty evaluation system which combines self-evaluations, supervisor evaluations, and student evaluations into a total appraisal that is used in determining faculty promotions and merit increases.

"The plan of developing procedures for the evaluation of administrators by objective (management by objectives) is imaginative and innovative. . . . In essence, it was apparent that there is a sound organizational structure which is well staffed with very capable administrators. Good leadership was observed throughout the institution."

#### Curricula Relevant

North Central's examiners also zeroed in on the relevance of Harper's curricula, reporting that "transfer programs are well designed and are reported to be articulated adequately with four-year colleges in the area. A recent follow-up study has verified that students are able to transfer their credits successfully.

"Career programs have been developed in consultation with a citizens' advisory committee and, generally, these curricula attract an acceptable number of students. . . . Approximately 28 per cent of the total (fall, 1970) head count was in career programs. This proportion is expected to increase.

"The college is investigating the need for several additional career programs. The primary emphasis has been upon curricula which serve students of average or better academic qualifications. This emphasis is explained, in part, on the basis of the favorable economic level of the families within the service area of the college."

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### North Central Report Concludes Tax Increase Needed by Harper

Following is the conclusion statement from the North Central Association's accrediting report on Harper College:

"The college has able administrative leadership that has achieved a great deal in a short time: excellent facilities; comprehensive program of instruction; capable faculty and sub-administrators; large enrollment including adults; good relationships with colleges and universities of the area; excellent financial and community support during the rapid development of the college.

#### Tax Increase Needed

"The only serious concern appears to be the failure to pass a needed tax levy increase last spring. The staff and the Board of Trustees are optimistic about passing a levy in the fall of 1971 -- and they are making plans for a vigorous campaign. The economic characteristics of the district suggest that adequate funds can be obtained through a vigorous effort to interpret the services which can be rendered with additional funds."

### Harper College HAPPENINGS

Published monthly for citizens of Harper College District #512 by the Community Relations Office.

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## Accrediting body issues depth report analyzing Harper's varied strengths

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Instruction at Harper, the accrediting body observed, is more than satisfactory. "The leadership in the instructional area is quantitatively commendable. Class size, work load, physical facilities, faculty and administrative morale all suggest that the instructional program is very good.

"There are instances of faculty making good use of closed circuit television, computer assisted instruction, audio-tutorial instruction and basic tutorial techniques. Faculty orientation and in-service professional development projects are provided for both full-time and part time instruction."

### Student Achievement

Proof of the pudding, the achievement of Harper students, was recognized in the examiners' report. "This inference (good student achievement) is supported by: grades earned at Harper College; a follow-up study of the graduates of June 1969, wherein graduates rated the institution as satisfactory, and a follow-up study that reported 90 per cent of the respondents, who were enrolled in four-year colleges, were maintaining grade point averages of 2.0 (C) or better."

Hardware and systems at Harper which directly support the instructional programs were noted "outstanding" by the North Central examiners. They reported "Harper College has an outstanding array of instructional media provided by the Learning Resources Center.... Chief among these is the library, which currently consists of about 36,000 volumes and some 500 periodicals.... Based on most recent figures, Harper College ranks eighth in volumes held, fourth in number of periodicals, and third in microfilm holdings among the 35 junior colleges in Illinois... The lower floor of the Learning Resources Center is devoted to storage and production facilities, television studios, and other instructional services."

### Student Services

The area of student services also received compliments in the North Central report. Student counseling, admissions, financial aids and placement, food services, athletics, and student activities were cited as having "capable leadership." The accrediting examiners also noted that Harper's counseling center "is one of the few community college units which is accredited by the American Personnel and Guidance Association.... All in all, the technical operations within student services may be characterized as superior."

Harper's business affairs office was highly praised in the accrediting report for its role in managing the allocation and expenditures of capital and operating funds. The examiners stated "Accounting and auditing procedures are in accordance with state laws, and information concerning the business operations of the college is readily available."

## OPEN HOUSE!

### HARPER HOT DOG DAYS

- Franks or Sloppy Joe's with Fries!
- Campus Tours!
- Gymnastic Show!
- Souvenirs for Kiddies!

*Bring the entire family out to dinner. 55¢ per person. Beverage included.*

SUNDAY—MAY 16, 2 to 5 p.m.  
TUESDAY—MAY 18, 6 to 9 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY—MAY 19, 6 to 9 p.m.

**College Center, Building "A"**

Further, the vice president of business affairs has a good analysis of the financial support which the institution will need in the years ahead. Budget projections, including estimated income, which appear to be quite realistic, have been prepared for each year through 1974-75.... extensive utilization is made of the computer center in providing data for use in making management decisions. Budget projections have been remarkably accurate."

### Long-Range Planning

Harper's overall long-range planning mode, established by the president last fall, was recognized by the examiners as a strong point. They observed that "A good set of items were identified for consideration, as part of a long-range planning decision matrix.... Items to be considered include the geographic area that Harper College should serve in the future; the number and types of students to be served; the kinds of programs and services that should be offered; the kinds of curriculum changes and instructional strategy innovations that should be made; the implications of such development upon campus and physical environment; the kind of financial plan needed; the concepts of organizational structure for the institution. Implicit in this charge is the consideration of a possible second campus for Harper College that would serve an augmented district reaching to the northeast of the present district."

### Governance

Governance of Harper College by its Board of Trustees was recognized by the North Central examiners as a keystone to the success of the college. The examiners stated that "The Board of Trustees of Harper College has a significant role in the governance of the college as defined by state statutes. The local Board constitutes the civic body through which the State Board (Illinois Junior College Board) communicates with the college. Yet the local Board has adequate authority to provide a program of education commensurate with the needs of the citizens of its district... The examiners met with four members of the Board and found them to be well informed, alert, energetic and keenly interested in the further growth and development of the college.... The local trustees and the administrators of the college seem to work cooperatively in a climate of mutual respect."

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### Comprehensive Services

Harper currently has an enrollment of more than 6,000 students. Educational programs include the first two years of a four-year bachelor's degree program, 19 two-year associate degree career programs in technical and semi-professional fields, 21 one-year certificate programs in vocational fields (to which several programs have been added since January, 1971), a generous mix of evening non-credit short courses, a co-curricular program of cultural arts activities, extension courses from four-year institutions, plus special interest workshops and seminars. Harper also operates a full-time community counseling center accredited by the American Personnel and Guidance Association and a dental hygiene clinic accredited by the American Dental Association.

Because Harper was granted accreditation without qualification by the North Central Association, the accrediting body will not return to re-evaluate Harper for ten more years unless specifically requested to do so by college officials.

### Community Support

The college and the community have good reason to be proud of the accomplishments of the past six years. In the beginning of 1965, there were no institutions of higher education in the northwest suburbs. Just six years later, residents have a community college serving the educational needs of students from teenager to senior citizen in an exciting learning environment with a faculty that is second to none.

None of this would have been possible without the excellent support of the community during the rapid development of the college from the dream to the reality -- up to full accreditation.

## CAMPUS EVENTS

May 10 Concert: Harper orchestra and chorus will present Stravinsky's "Symphony of Psalms" and Bach's "Double Violin Concerto" in College Center Lounge at 8 p. m. Free and open to the public.

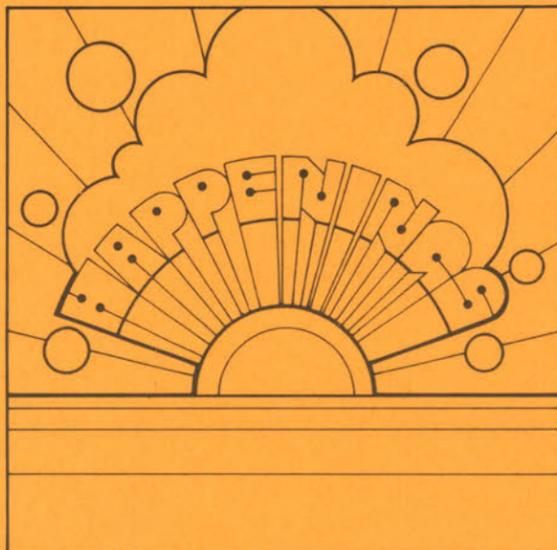
May 11 Lecture: Sherman Skolnick, legal researcher. Topic: "Cook County Court System." Room E-106, 12:15 p. m. Free and open to the public.

May 16, 18, 19 Open House (see ad above).

May 21 Annual Fashion Design Style Show produced by fashion design career program students. College Center Lounge, 8 p. m. Free and open to the public.

.... And don't forget to see art instructor John Knudsen's one-man art show in Room F-132 in the Learning Resources Center daily through May 28.

 **William Rainey Harper College**  
Algonquin and Roselle Roads Palatine, Illinois 60067



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