

## **President's Report**

**May 2017**

Spring has arrived and graduation is upon us! The entire College community is focused, with great anticipation on May 20, 2017. On this commencement day, we will confer more than 3,000 degrees and certificates, celebrate the achievement of a bold College goal, and begin a yearlong celebration of the College's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In addition, we will be honored by the presence of Arne Duncan, former Secretary of Education in the Obama administration. The anticipation is building and we look forward to this special day.

This Saturday we will also celebrate 660 students who will, with their families and friends, visit our campus and participate in the commencement ceremony. Each year we see more and more students participating in this special event where their achievements of earning degrees and certificates are celebrated. We anticipate that all in all more than 4,500 people will attend, thus the Outdoor Pavilion and grounds will be the perfect venue for this joyous event.

Last week we were pleased to note two important accomplishments by the College. First, the negotiating teams representing full-time faculty and the Board completed their work and are recommending a five-year collective bargaining agreement. Currently, the contract is being ratified by faculty members, and the Board will consider a recommendation to approve the contract at the May Board meeting. This is a considerable accomplishment that represents the best interests of all parties. Particular thanks go to David Richmond, faculty lead, and Judy Marwick, administrative lead, for successfully navigating the discussions and agreement. This is the first time in many years that a fully negotiated faculty contract was completed in the semester in which it began. This is a true testament to the extraordinary positive working relationship shared between the faculty and College.

A second accomplishment is of particular note. The College was informed by the Illinois Community College Trustees' Association (ICCTA) that William Rainey Harper College is the recipient of the 2017 Equity and Diversity Award. This award honors the efforts of many College leaders, faculty, staff and administrators who have worked persistently over the last four years to implement the recommendations of the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force that was commissioned five years ago. Special thanks go to Michelé Smith for her leadership and the College's Diversity and Inclusion Committee for leading these efforts. While much remains to be done, this award signifies that we are making progress. Trustee Bill Kelley, Michelé and I will attend the ICCTA convention in June to accept the award on the College's behalf.

We look forward to welcoming and celebrating the success of Harper's Water Polo team. The team recently competed in the American Collegiate Water Polo League's tournament and returned to Harper as Champions! Harper competed against notable teams from University of Minnesota, Iowa State University and University of Kansas. This is a tremendous accomplishment for this recently established team. Special thanks to Patrick Bauer for his coaching and leadership of the team.

The scope of the notable activities and achievements from this last month by members of the Harper community is truly impressive. I encourage you to read on.

### ***Student Success***

- The Center for Student Veterans & Military-Connected Students welcomed more than 70 faculty and staff visitors during its Open House on Thursday, May 4. Members of the College's Veterans Task Force helped to host guests and offered refreshments and tours of the new Center, located in A-137-A. A public Grand Opening will be held in the fall.
- Harper College honored students, faculty, and community members during its Honors Convocation on May 10. More than 400 people attended the event.
- The annual One Million Degrees "It's Who you Know" speed networking event took place at the Garlands of Barrington. Sixty students and volunteers were in attendance for a mock reception where OMD scholars practiced networking skills and collected business cards. Scholars also participated in a resume preparation workshop, hosted by the Job Placement Resource Center.
- Six One Million Degrees Scholars were selected to attend the "Dressed for Success" event in Chicago where they were provided with professional attire and practiced interview skills. Dressed for Success is a non-profit organization that provides clothing to low income women and has partnered with OMD for this purpose.
- The Center for Student Involvement (CSI) presented its 49<sup>th</sup> annual Celebration of Excellence on May 5. This annual event celebrates the best and brightest examples of student leadership and student contributions to campus life over the past academic year. More than 20 individual students and student organizations were recognized and represented with awards for scholarship, leadership, and service. The event was entirely student-designed and produced.
- CTP and BUS/SS held their Spring Advisory Committee Dinner in Wojcik Conference Center. More than 160 committee members were invited.
- The first Career Trek took place in Building H. More than 150 local high school students attended and visited the following programs: Business Administration, Graphic Arts, Fire Science, Law Enforcement and Justice Administration, Hospitality Management, Accounting, Computer Information Systems, Admissions, HVAC, Manufacturing/Maintenance/Welding, Supply Chain, Fashion Studies and Interior Design. Participating high schools included Palatine, Fremd, Conant, Schaumburg, Hoffman Estates, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling, Elk Grove, Rolling Meadows, Barrington, and the Academy of Forest View and Vanguard.
- Congratulations to Dr. Kimberly Chavis, Dean of the Health Careers Division, on earning her Doctorate of Education.

### ***Facilities Management***

- Building X Classrooms X236A and X236B will be converted into a new Physical Therapy Lab for the Health Careers Department. Construction is substantially complete.

- The Building P Chiller Plant will be expanded to serve Buildings A, C and W, in addition to the currently connected Buildings F, L, P and R. Construction and testing are substantially complete.
- Building H Classrooms H166, H184 and H186 will be converted into the new BEST (Building Energy Systems Technology) Lab for the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technology program. Construction is scheduled to start in May 2017 and be substantially complete by November 2017.
- The scope of work for the Building B Boiler Room project includes the replacement of two boiler burners, chemical treatment system, water softener, deaerator and accompanying piping. Construction is scheduled to start in June 2017 and be substantially complete by November 2017.

### ***Information Technology***

- The Information Technology team conducted a successful Banner registration load test prior to Fall priority registration. This ensures that Harper is ready for fall registration.
- The Global Viewer Enterprise (GVE) upgrade to the classroom podium workstations was completed. The GVE upgrade provides enhanced desktop functionality, enterprise-wide scheduling, monitoring, and time-stamped AV system data collection for reporting.
- The Call Manager phone system was upgraded to the newest version, which provided a fix for several bugs and updated security settings. Additionally, the desk phone firmware was upgraded, allowing users with several phone lines to see which lines contain voice mail.
- During the month of April, a large number of infrastructure initiatives were completed, including:
  - Removal of all technology infrastructure from Building M
  - Provisioned microwave-based network connection, which provides continued connectivity to the Marketing Department
  - Provisioned temporary internet access for displaced Building M staff who are now located in temporary facilities
  - Provisioned internet connection for the Building M construction trailer
  - Enabled security authentication in the Building Automation System
  - Completed migration of administrative network to a new Cisco infrastructure
  - Fax server/software installation
  - Virtual Ticket production upgrade for the Marketing Department

### ***Advancement***

- On Saturday, April 29, the Educational Foundation hosted the third annual Realizing Dreams Breakfast for donors that have established scholarships and donors that give \$1,000 or more a year. Donor Sponsored Scholarship recipient Michelle Feigler spoke about attending Harper as a GED student. Now she is part of the Honors Program, achieving a 4.0 GPA in her first semester.

Scholarship donor Patty Moyer spoke about her GED scholarship recipients, and why she supports scholarships for GED students. The breakfast included 80 Harper College students who have received Donor Sponsored Scholarships. Students were able to thank the donors and learn about philanthropy to Harper College.



- The Harper College Educational Foundation 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala has secured more than \$800,000 in sponsorship support as of May 10, 2017.

### HOPE Giving Circle Brings Women to the Table



Women have steadily advanced since the early 1980s, earning half of all college degrees and entering more fields that had been previously dominated by men. Despite these gains, the percentage of women at the top of corporate America has barely budged over the past decade.

At S&P 500 companies, women currently hold 6 percent of CEO positions, 20 percent of board seats and 25 percent of senior executive and management positions. In government, 19 percent of Congress is female, while the number of women governors stands at just five.

Yet, studies show diversity at the top positively correlates with better organizational performance. So, why are more women not in senior leadership roles?

The Harper College Educational Foundation's HOPE Giving Circle recently held an event, "Women at the Table," to explore the issue.

### Marketing Services

- Social Media Initiative Highlights
  - Building M Ground Breaking Ceremony was held on Monday, April 10, 2017. Strategy: Position Harper as a leader in partnership development and increase awareness of building M project.
  - Executing Harper's first Facebook LIVE broadcast. Coordinate partner social media efforts for maximum impact. (partnership)
  - Publish impactful images to gain public awareness of Building M project. (awareness)

- Demonstrate our thoughtful stewardship of funds. (accountability and affordability)
- Total Reach: 12,910

## Sample Images and Engagement



## Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- Since 2006, Harper College has contracted with Northern Illinois University's Center for Governmental Studies (CGS) to develop an environmental scan of the Harper District every three years. The most recent environmental scan was conducted in spring 2017. The purpose of the environmental scan is to identify the trends and drivers of change that will shape the Harper landscape in the next three to five years. The broad trend and issue areas included in the scan are: Economic, Demographic, Technological, Social, and Educational trends. In addition, the environmental scan highlights major issues facing community colleges.

## Workforce and Strategic Alliances

- Continuing Education, in collaboration with Access and Disability Services, has recently been able to adapt its CDL curriculum and provide interpreting services to serve deaf and hard of hearing students. To date, three deaf students have completed the curriculum and received their CDL licenses.
- This June marks the graduation of the 4<sup>th</sup> cohort in the Career Skills Institute. The Career Skills Institute is a two-year program providing vocational training for students with mild cognitive disabilities. The program assesses and strengthens basic employability skills and helps students develop a realistic career plan.
- Eiger Labs will sponsor a "Prototype Help Desk" (similar to our Legal and Accounting Help Desks) for clients of Harper's Small Business Development Center. Clients will be able to have their questions answered about the steps involved in having a prototype made. Additionally, they will be able to opt into Eiger's full service prototyping program; and be able to meet in Schaumburg instead of Rockford.

## Diversity and Inclusion

- Alejandro Mendoza, New Student Specialist & Adjunct Faculty Member, attended the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities' (HACU) 22<sup>nd</sup> National Capitol Forum on

Hispanic Higher Education Overview in April. The Capitol Forum was a two-day event aimed at promoting the critical role of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) to members of Congress. According to HACU, HSIs represent about 13% of all institutions. However, they enroll about 62% of all Latino undergraduates. Attendees of the Capitol Forum were able to meet directly with Senators and Representatives from Congress to discuss the importance of HSIs in helping to serve all citizens of the United States of America. In addition, HACU invited key federal agency leaders, allied organizations, corporate, community and philanthropic representatives to discuss grant opportunities available to current HSIs. According to HACU, Harper College is an emerging HIS. Alejandro, along with Juanita Bassler, serve as HACU ambassadors for Harper College. Participation in this national HACU meeting, and others like it, will help to assist Harper with effectively serving its diverse communities.

### ***Community and Legislative Relations***

- Illinois' historic budget stalemate continues. Speaker Madigan asked Governor Rauner to focus his attention on the budget. Governor Rauner indicated that the Speaker “hinted” that he might be willing to work on additional reforms.

A bill extension was granted on Senate Bill 888, which allows BSN degrees to be extended at 10 community colleges throughout the state.

Key May 2017 Session Dates:

May 12 – Deadline to pass House Bills out of Senate Committee

May 19 – Deadline to pass Senate Bills out of House Committee

May 26 – Third Reading Deadline, opposite Chamber

May 29 – Memorial Day – Session scheduled for both Chambers

May 31 – Scheduled Adjournment

- Staff from Harper College attended Motorola Solutions ribbon cutting and open house in Schaumburg, along with State Senator Laura Murphy and individuals from United States Senator Tammy Duckworth’s office, United States Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi and Representative Michelle Mussman.
- Harper College was also present at the Hanover Park stakeholder meeting with Village President Rodney Craig. Also attending were district staff for State Representative Michelle Mussman and State Senator Laura Murphy.
- More than 1,100 people attended Harper’s annual College and Career Expo on Saturday, April 22. The Expo is designed for students in grades 4-8 and their families. The focus is on inspiring these students to explore future educational and career choices through hands-on activities and experiences. Approximately 100 Harper College faculty, staff and students volunteered for the event along with dozens of community partners, including Northrop Grumman, D21, Language Stars, area public libraries, and local police, fire, and rescue units. Congratulations to the College and Career Expo Committee for organizing an amazing event!



- Various representatives from Harper participated in Career Week at Admiral Byrd Elementary in Elk Grove Village (D59). Activities took place at the school during the week of May 1. Harper conducted workshops and discussions on various careers and college readiness including “C is for College” led by Kathleen Reynolds and Amie Granger for the K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes. 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students learned about Promise and the importance of college. Career discussions included Law Enforcement by Brad Grossman, Sustainability by Amy Bandman and Athletics by Doug Spiwak.
- On May 4, Dr. Ken Ender participated in a Presidential Panel hosted by the Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce and Industry. More than 40 people attended the event. The panel also included Dr. David Sam, Elgin Community College President and Dr. Doug Baker, Northern Illinois University President. Jim Norris, Hoffman Estates Village Manager, served as moderator. Topics included funding, the needs of today’s workforce, creating an educational environment for today’s students and how partnerships amongst post-secondary institutions can expand career paths and employment opportunities.
- Amie Granger participated in the Career Day at Keller Junior High in Schaumburg (D54) on May 3. Topics included the importance of college readiness, the different types of colleges and Promise. More than 140 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> students participated in the Harper session.



### **Media Relations**

- A “long shot” idea doesn’t often make front-page news, but hearing that Harper recently invited President Obama to speak at next year’s 50<sup>th</sup> annual commencement ceremony was too interesting for the *Daily Herald* to pass up. Reporter Chris Placek wrote about the exciting prospect, which Dr. Ender shared at the April board meeting. The invitation doesn’t come out of left field. After all, Placek wrote, Harper took to heart Obama’s call for community colleges to produce an additional 5 million graduates by 2020 by embracing a new goal of 10,604 additional degrees and certificates – or Harper’s portion of that 5 million. Dr. Ender also was appointed to a White House task force charged with figuring out how to fill the shortage of skilled workers in the manufacturing industry. Arne Duncan, former Education Secretary under Obama, will speak at this year’s commencement ceremony on May 20. At least for now, Harper hasn’t been turned down. Dr. Ender said, “It’s a long shot, but if you don’t ask, you don’t get.”
- The *Daily Herald* ran a front-page story about Harper’s updated campus master plan, which outlines \$224.3 million in possible upgrades to aging structure, additions and new construction. The article outlined major projects and explored how they would be funded. One possibility, the article pointed out, is a no-tax rate increase referendum, meaning the tax rate would not increase as a result of other bonds being paid off. Not going to referendum would result in a \$23 savings for the owner of a \$250,000 market-valued home. Dr. Ender said, “We’re not interested in going back to the taxpayers and saying give us more money.” The *Journal and Topics* newspaper also ran an article on the topic.

- The *Chicago Tribune* wrote an article, “Apprenticeships offer a path to finance jobs,” highlighting the partnership that global insurance and risk management giant Aon has with Harold Washington College and Harper. The article also ran in the *RedEye Chicago* publication aimed at young adult commuters.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about the HOPE Giving Circle’s recent event, “Women at the Table,” which featured a panel of successful women in senior leadership. Keynote speaker Karen Lambert, president of Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington, said of having women at all levels of an organization: “We know it’s the right thing. We know it changes the conversation at the table. There are different opportunities to grow as an organization. We also know it’s good for the bottom line.”
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about new Student Trustee Niki Safakas.
- Personal finance website *Wallethub.com* ran an article about law enforcement as a career opportunity. Reporter Richie Bernardo included a Q&A with former police officer and current Harper Instructor Brad Grossman, who eloquently discussed many of the challenges facing police officers, effective policing strategies and the field’s long-term outlook.
- The *Daily Herald* wrote an article about the new trustees being sworn in at the April board meeting.
- The *Daily Herald*, *chicagotribune.com* and *Patch* ran digests on the One Book, One Harper/Lifelong Learning Institute’s lecture, “Civil War Ghosts and Legends.”
- *Daily Herald* columnist Kerry Lester ran an item about nursing student Emily Kmiecik, who’s battling cancer for the second time, and how Harper’s Student Nurses’ Association was holding a bone marrow registry drive in her honor. *Chicagotribune.com* and *Patch* also ran digests on the drive.
- The *Daily Herald*, *chicagotribune.com* and *Patch* ran digests on the recent presidential panel featuring Dr. Ender, Dr. David Sam of Elgin Community College and Dr. Doug Baker of Northern Illinois University.
- The *Daily Herald*, *chicagotribune.com* and *Patch* ran digests on Astronomy Day.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a short article about Liberal Arts Dean Dr. Jennifer Berne and an administrator at McHenry County College being selected for the Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence.
- The *American Journal of Transportation* ran an article about Claire’s Stores Vice President of Global Supply Chain Deborah Winkleblack and the specialty retailer’s distribution model. The article mentions that Winkleblack has taught logistics courses at Harper.
- The *Northwest Herald* ran an article about the Cary-Grove High School girls track and field program and highlighted student athlete Bree Bogucki, who has high-functioning autism. She began to love track thanks to her high school coach, and is now an All-American running for Harper.
- The *Daily Herald* sports section ran an article about the women’s softball team’s performance in the regional tournament.

## President's Priorities Update

### 1. Advocates for Students

- During the month of April, 55 unduplicated (60 duplicated) students were seen by the Academic Success Coaches. The coaches averaged a 90% show rate. This number is not inclusive of other means of communication with the students (i.e. email, phone, and text).
- In February, the coaches began tracking the number of students who have completed their Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA). Partly due to this outreach, 43% of students have already completed their 2017-2018 FAFSA. The coaches will continue to communicate with students to make sure FAFSAs are completed before the end of the term.
- In April, the coaches began contacting all of their students who had not yet signed up for the required Developmental Math/English courses (209 total students); 100% of these students were contacted either via Starfish, email, or text (or a combination of all).

### 2. First Year Seminar and Educational Plan

- Harper continues to increase its First Year Seminar course offerings for fall 2017. This fall will include some current FYS courses and new sections that align with the College's focus on Areas of Interest. These FYS sections can provide students with a more focused and personalized FYS experience.

### 3. Completion of Buildings F, M and the Canning Center

- Building F Renovations – The third floor interior wall construction is complete and the contractor is currently working on the first and second floor interior walls and exterior curtain wall.
- Building M Renovations and Addition – The interior demolition is 75% complete and structural demolition has commenced. The excavation for the addition has begun.
- Canning Center – The State of Illinois has put the Canning Center project on hold.

### 4. Promise Program Funding

- As of April 30, 2017, there were 389 donors recorded. The total contributions raised including verbal pledges were \$8,722,172.67.

In closing, let me express how honored I am personally to be involved with such a talented and vibrant community. Excellence surrounds this College community and is evidenced every day through the accomplishments of our students, staff and faculty. We continue to be completely focused on student success and enabling each student to realize their potential and have a promising future. We celebrate this week and then will strengthen our focus in FY18. It is always the journey that inspires and renews us. I look forward to the many things we will accomplish together as we continue this remarkable journey!

Take care,

*Ken*