

## **President's Report**

### **August 2017**

It's hard to believe that we are launching another academic year; time seems to fly by faster each year. Although we began the celebration of Harper's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last spring with the annual Foundation golf outing and graduation, the celebratory activities will begin in earnest this week. The planning committee, co-chaired by two creative and capable leaders, Donna Harwood and Bev Riley, has organized a plethora of activities including the 50<sup>th</sup> Gala, Community Day in April, and opportunities for volunteering. Notably, the actual anniversary date of the College is September 13; that is when the annual Hullabaloo will be held where students learn about clubs and organizations. A full menu of activities and a wonderful historical timeline can be found at a special website: <http://goforward.harpercollege.edu/50/>.

As we prepare for the fall opening session, I am reminded as to how much the College has changed, both physically and in terms of our student population. In the early days, classes were held at Elk Grove High School in trailers. Plans had to be developed for the campus and its buildings, but it took a few years until they were built and occupied. The student population has changed, as well. Fifty years ago, our students were mainly from middle class families and there was little cultural/racial diversity. Today, Harper is rich in diversity and we celebrate our differences and have worked diligently to expand our understanding of one another through meaningful dialogue sessions and other initiatives.

In fact, Harper has been honored with the Association of Community College Trustees' (ACCT's) Central Region Equity Award. This award was given after Harper won the Illinois Community College Trustees' Association (ICCTA's) Equity and Diversity Award last spring. As the Central Region winner, we are a finalist for the national Charles Johnson Equity Award. This award recognizes exemplary commitment by a governing board and its president to achieve equity in the college's education programs and services and in the administration and delivery of those programs and services. Many thanks to Michelé Smith who has led our Diversity and Inclusion activities for the past three-plus years. We will learn if we won the national award at the annual ACCT annual conference in late September.

This year also marks the beginning of our case management approach to student advising/counseling. We have begun assigning students to an advocate (advisor or counselor) who will remain with their students until they have accomplished their academic goals. We plan to also align this approach with our 10 areas of interest which help students identify a broad field of study. This work is a critical part of our Strategic Plan and Title III initiatives.

We are also looking forward to beginning the year with a State budget which included funding for higher education. The budget passed this summer included funding for the Canning Center and our Hospitality program. As such, we have reconvened the programming committee for this

important building. We need to determine how the delay in this project has impacted construction costs. The State budget also included funding for last year. These dollars have positively impacted our financial position such that we will be able to transfer dollars to important initiatives including capital projects, the Hanover Park Education and Work Center and the Promise Program. I thank the Board for supporting this recommendation.

Needless to say, there is much to celebrate! Below are other notable activities and achievements.

### ***Student Success***

- Nicole Rusick, current Harper College freshman, won the Textile Student Design Competition sponsored by Alpaca Owners Association, Inc. in July. Her design of a felted alpaca fabric won her a \$1,000 cash prize. She won based on overall design, ability to manufacture, look of the board, and an essay.
- Harper Athletics finished in the top five in the National Association of Two Year Colleges Athletics Cup for best overall 2 –Year Non-Scholarship College Athletic Program in the country. The Hawks were the top team in Illinois.
- During the 2016-2017 academic year, 23 student athletes were named National Junior College Athletic Association All-Americans for their athletic and academic achievements.
- This summer approximately 50 Summer Scholar students toured several CTP and HC programs providing incoming freshman with an opportunity to learn about Career Programs.
- The Rita and John Canning Women’s Program is in the process of offering a new version of a specialized orientation to its participants to align more closely with the new case management and assigned advisor model in Student Development. Content includes information on growth mindset, academic and other support services for students, campus information, Blackboard navigation, resources in the community, as well as individualized academic advising and educational planning.
- Implementation of the Civitas Schedule Planner was completed in July. The Schedule Planner optimizes class selection and aligns scheduling options with a student’s outside time commitments, including employment, extracurricular activities, or recurring appointments saving time for students and making scheduling classes easier.
- The Testing Center hosted the Northern Illinois Testing Coalition’s (NITC) annual conference on campus. Testing professionals from 10 different local community colleges attended the conference for a day of professional development. Attendees also took part in presentations delivered by representatives from McGraw Hill regarding ALEKS as well as College Board on the topic of the newly redesigned SAT exam.
- Dual credit FY17 enrollment increased by 157 annualized FTE (34.8% increase from FY16) and 959 headcount (31.4% increase from FY16) with the introduction of 11 new district offerings and expansion of current offerings to additional schools.
- The pass rate for Harper College nursing students who take the National Council Licensure Examination is currently 100%.

- The One Millions Degrees Program has 51 continuing 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year scholars. The onboarding of first year scholars is currently underway. To date, there have been 33 scholars provisionally admitted and their intake appointments have been completed.
- Thanks to the Frontier Set Grant, Vicki Atkinson, Megan Dallianis and Jenyl Keeton from the Center for New Students, created and launched a new online module with New Student Orientation content. This module will serve as a companion piece to the in-person New Student Orientation experience and as an alternative option for students who are place-bound. It includes more than 20 pages of content including an introduction to educational and career concepts, areas of interest, and academic advising. In addition, it is designed to increase familiarity with Harper College overall with information about resources, safety and conduct, and opportunities to engage and interact with the college.
- Jason Altmann received the Michael K. Berger Presidential Award at the Illinois Association of the Deaf conference on June 24, 2017. The award is for the contributions he has made to the Illinois Deaf community through community advocacy and legislative work in the past two years.

### ***Facilities Management***

- A pipe leak in the X250 Conference Room on July 14, 2017 created a water event for a large area in Building X, on both the first and second floors. Facilities Maintenance and IT staff responded, limited the damage, and began repairs. All repairs are scheduled to be completed by August 14, 2017.
- Amy Bandman, Sustainability Coordinator, developed ideas and worked with Relan, a small business who partners with organizations to create eco-friendly products. Together, they created banners and beach totes for Harper from repurposed materials that hadn't been previously considered in support of the College's and the company's goal to create a more sustainable future. Harper College was featured in a blog on Relan's website: <https://www.relan.green/blog/2017/sustainable-products-in-front-of-you>.
- The scope of work for the Building X Dental Hygiene project includes the replacement of the dental equipment including: chairs, stools, monitor mounts, cabinetry and lighting. The work is underway and scheduled to be substantially complete by August 16, 2017.
- Classrooms H166, H184 and H186 in Building H will be converted into the new BEST (Building Energy Systems Technology) Lab for the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technology program. Equipment submittals are being processed. Demolition is complete and construction is scheduled to 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. Work will begin in August, 2017 and is scheduled to be substantially complete in November, 2017.
- The annual paving and maintenance of sidewalks includes crack filling, striping, and minor repairs in all lots throughout campus and repairs of sidewalks that were damaged over the winter. The work is underway and scheduled to be substantially complete by August 21, 2017.

- The scope of work for the reconstruction of the Blue Pool Pergola includes reconstruction of the wood pergola at the Blue Pool. The lead time for material has caused the construction of this project to be rescheduled to start in September, 2017 and be substantially complete in October, 2017.

### ***Information Technology***

- The Digital Classroom Refresh project was completed in July. This project updated 250 classrooms and conference rooms with new technologies.
- The Student Schedule Planner went live in July and is available for students to use. This product assists the students with finding available classes for their schedules.
- In order to comply with regulatory mandates, the Student System team completed several upgrades and initiatives during the month of July. The team created a targeted “pop-up” box located within the Student Portal. The “pop-up” provides the Gainful Employment disclosure to appropriate students. This was a requirement from the Department of Education. Banner Financial Aid and payment commitment were also upgraded to include regulatory updates.

### ***Advancement***

- Applications for Donor-Sponsored Scholarship increased from 796 last year to 1,470 this year, as of June 5. As of July 3, \$143,233 has been awarded in scholarships.
- The Foundation hosted its first ever “Reading Night” on July 12. A group of 15 community members and recent alumni reviewed 20 scholarship applications and awarded scholarships to eleven of the students. Many of the community members who attended the Reading Night event have had little experience with Harper and commented on how rewarding the process was. The Foundation will be planning to host more Reading Nights in the future.
- More than \$840,000 has been secured in sponsorship income for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala with a sold-out crowd expected at Priester Aviation on September 16. Proceeds from the Gala will benefit the Harper College Promise Program.

### ***Marketing Services***

- Radio and news broadcast enrollment marketing, highlighting specific programs and promoting fall start date.
- A direct mailer was sent to all-district highlighting University Center, downloadable high school College Planning Guide, career areas of study and variety of info sessions.
- Social Media highlights include Fast Track graduation, HVAC information session, ACCT Equity and Diversity Award, Motivation Monday Dr. Ender completion quote, and more.
  - Month-to-month stats for Facebook: 67% increase in post engagements,
  - Instagram: increased followers by 29,
  - Twitter: increased our followers by 14.
- Harper College introduced itself to new residents within the district through direct mail. This piece reached 7,784 new residents who moved into the district in the last nine months. As a

bonus, we utilized a personalized name URL which directed people to a customized landing page where they could sign up for e-news subscriptions to Learning Life, Live@Harper Arts News, Future Forward, Lifelong Learning and InZone. Campaign metrics to date include the following:

- 15 landing page views
- 1:41 minutes average duration
- 3-4 harpercollege.edu pages per session
- 9 new subscribers to Learning Life
- 7 new subscribers to Live@Harper Arts
- 7 new subscribers to Future Forward
- 7 new subscribers to Lifelong Learning
- 6 new subscribers to InZone

### ***Planning and Institutional Effectiveness***

- The *FY17 Accountability Report* was completed and will be available via the website after the August Board meeting. This report summarizes the College's efforts in the following areas: Operational Plan, President's Priorities, and Strategic Plan.
- Updates were made to the Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Plan dashboards to reflect the new targets developed during the FY17 fiscal year. The Strategic Plan dashboard also reflects progress made toward the goal teams' targets in FY17 as well as goal teams' plans for FY18. Both dashboards are available to the public on the Harper website.
- Harper College has successfully entered into an agreement with the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) and has received longitudinal employment data for students who exited Harper College in fiscal years 2010 or 2011. Analyses of these data are underway for initial report out this fall.

### ***Workforce Solutions***

- Last month, Crowder College in Missouri sent a team to visit Harper to learn how we have implemented our Registered Apprenticeship (RA) programs. The two-day visit allowed for time to study all aspects of a successful RA program including operations, student coaching, financial structure, outreach and recruiting of employers, and the development process for new programs. Crowder College is a two-year state community college that serves more than 5,500 students annually.
- Norma Nerstrom, manager of CE Career Training, recently had an article published in the *International Journal of Adult Vocational Educational and Technology*. Based on her doctoral research, the article highlights three stories of women adult educators who experienced transformative learning inspired by their graduate education programs. The stories illustrated how adult learners' beliefs were constructed, challenged, and then transformed enabling them to overcome prejudices, increase their self-confidence, and experience a new sense of personhood influencing how they worked as an adult educator.
- Issa Boulos, coordinator of the Community Music and Arts Center at Harper, has been recruited into the Ph.D. program at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. This is a prestigious program for people who are considered advanced researchers in the field of ethnomusicology. Only 14 people have previously earned this distinction. Best of all, he continues to work for Harper while completing the program.

- In July, the Harper Mobile Unit was in Elk Grove Village for a presentation held every third Wednesday of the month titled “Conversation at the Enclave”. The Enclave is a not-for-profit economic development public-private partnership that facilitates opportunities for education and development. The mobile unit represented Harper College as a Partner with the Enclave for Entrepreneurs. Additional information may be found at [EnclaveforEntrepreneurs.com](http://EnclaveforEntrepreneurs.com).
- Recently, the Harper Mobile Unit utilized its technology capabilities to facilitate a local team of young adults to participate in a CyberPatriot activity called the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. This contest places participants in the position of IT professionals with the objective of managing a network. The group gathered to meet the Mobile Unit at the Palatine Opportunity Center for exhibition Round #1. The National Youth Cyber Education Program is administered by the Air Force Association, and more information can be found at [uscyberpatriot.org](http://uscyberpatriot.org) and [poc.news](http://poc.news).
- August 1, the Harper Mobile Unit hosted the Palatine Opportunity Center teen group on campus at the PAC circle. It was a unique opportunity for the kids to learn coding fundamentals, and to utilize Microsoft Visual Studio to create some fun projects!

### ***Diversity and Inclusion***

- Harper College been chosen as the recipient of the 2017 Central Regional Equity Member Award. This award will be presented during the 48th Annual ACCT Leadership Congress, which will take place September 25-28. As the Regional Award Recipient, Harper College will be the sole nominee from the Central Region for the prestigious Charles Kennedy Equity Award that will be presented on September 27.
- The Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award honors colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. This year, Harper College will be one of the 2017 national recipients of this honor. The official announcement and press release are expected later this month.

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

- At the end of July Governor Rauner called the Illinois General Assembly back into Special Session to address K-12 education funding for this school year. Two months prior, the General Assembly approved Senate Bill 1, which would replace Illinois’ current K-12 funding model. Although all lawmakers felt the existing formula needed to be changed, the Governor who favored the replacement still disagreed with the amount of state dollars that should go to Chicago Public Schools. The Chicago Teacher’s Pension Fund as well and the state supported Teacher Retirement System are both considerably underfunded. CPS is the only district in the state that pays its own teacher pensions, while the state pays for all other pension funds within the Teacher Retirement System.
- Several weeks ago when the Illinois House and Senate overrode Governor Rauner’s veto of the budget, S&P Global Ratings removed Illinois state government from a credit watch with the potential of being downgraded. The rating agency indicated, “We no longer believe the state is at risk of experiencing a liquidity crisis in the near term as it was before.”
- On July 24, Community Relations attended a soft launch for the regional business collaborative, Next Level Northwest (NLNW). Next Level Northwest is a not-for-profit business accelerator program founded by five Northwest Chicago land municipalities to

support existing local businesses ready for the next level. Participating municipalities include: Elk Grove Village, Hanover Park, Hoffman Estates, Rolling Meadows, and Schaumburg. The mission of NLNW is to accelerate business growth and sustain the economic prosperity of participating municipalities and the region as a whole by taking Stage 2 businesses to the next level of performance.

- The Des Plaines Chamber of Commerce & Industry is launching an 8-week Boot Camp beginning this fall that will provide military veteran's the tools to be set-up for success and seamlessly transition into the job force, thanks to a grant that was provided by Rivers Casino. The Chamber, along with several member companies, Oakton Community College and Harper College will select 20 candidates for this special back-to-work "boot camp." Harper Business Solutions will be facilitating a portion of the educational program.
- On August 5 Community Relations attended the Mobile Home Back to School Event hosted by school district 59. More than 200 people attended the event. Ten organizations participated including School District 59, High School District 214, Elk Grove Township, Cook County Sheriff's Department, the Boy Scouts, Kenneth Young Center and Alexian Brothers. Families participated in a 5K run, enjoyed food and music, and received school supplies. Harper has participated in the event for the past three years.
- U.S. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi highlighted the story of Harper student Quinn Wyskochil on his social media channels. Wyskochil is excelling in Harper's HVAC program and landed a job as a field engineer for Rolling Meadows-based Automatic Building Controls. Krishnamoorthi described Wyskochil as a career and technical education success story – one that we'll see more of thanks to a bill he co-sponsored reauthorizing the Perkins Act.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an inspiring article about this year's recipients of the HOPE Giving Circle, which brings together influential women with a common goal of supporting women to pursue higher education and reach their full potential through financial support, ongoing mentoring and leadership development. During a recent reception, Michelle Feigler of Buffalo Grove and Rachel Kereszturi of Rolling Meadows each gave remarks about the impact that the group's \$10,000 scholarship would make.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a front-page article about the Canning Center project and how work may resume as a result of the recently approved state budget. However, the article notes that the State's Capital Development Board still needs to release the funding, and that it could take another year before shovels are in the ground since the project will need to go back out to bid.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Reflejos* ran an article about student Gabriela Sanchez, who left Palatine High School after her sophomore year to care for her terminally ill father. Although it took several years, Gabriela found the strength and courage to not only return to school, but thrive. In fact, Gabriela did well enough to earn Harper's High School Equivalency Distinguished Scholar Award, which will cover the cost of tuition for up to 30 credit hours.
- The *Barrington Courier-Review* and *chicagotribune.com* ran an article about Barrington High School partnering with Harper to offer dual credit health career courses beginning in fall 2018 so students can explore health careers and become certified nursing assistants. Due to the distance from campus, the high school said it's been difficult for students to work Harper classes into their schedules. The Barrington 220 Educational Foundation is providing \$90,000 to build a health care practice room at the high school.

- The *Daily Herald* ran an article on student veterans Victor Del Vecchio and Katie Lea Coy completing a 20-mile, 20-pound Ruck March to raise awareness for veterans' issues.
- Harper alum Isaac Jean-Paul made international headlines ([Telegraph](#), [Athletics Weekly](#) and others) with a gold medal worthy performance at the World Para Athletic Championships in London. The high jumper broke the world record three times in the T13 category for people with visual impairment.
- *Daily Herald* columnist Kerry Lester wrote an update on Harper nursing student Emily Kmiecik, whose leukemia has returned. Emily is scheduled to undergo a bone marrow transplant this month. She wrote another column item on Career Skills Institute graduate Patrick Brock in a touching story about his recent encounter with White Sox first baseman Jose Abreu.
- *EdSurge*, which focuses on educational technology, ran an article about apprenticeships in response to the president's executive order. Reporter Jeffrey Young interviewed Dean Rebecca Lake for the piece.
- The Illinois Community College Trustees' Association and [Patch.com](#) ran articles about Harper receiving the organization's Equity and Diversity Award, which recognizes exemplary commitment by the board and president to achieving diversity, equity and inclusion in the college's educational programs.
- The *Business Ledger* and *Daily Herald* ran an article about five Illinois manufacturers earning a national honor for apprenticeship programs. It mentions their partnership with Harper, the German-American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest and the Illinois Manufacturers' Association Education Foundation.
- *Practical Welding Today* magazine ran a glowing article about Harper's welding program and Assistant Professor Kurt Billsten, who's been named the 2017 PW Teacher of the Year.
- The *Daily Herald*, [chicagotribune.com](#) and *Patch* ran an article about Harper launching a surgical technology program.
- A column by Heidi Stevens that ran in the *Chicago Tribune* and the *RedEye* mentions Harper's partnership with the One Million Degrees organization. It features DePaul student Jacqueline Sanchez, who dropped out of high school at age 14 and – several years later – applied to OMD at Truman College.
- The *Daily Herald*, [chicagotribune.com](#) and *Patch* ran short articles previewing the Lifelong Learning Institute's annual program preview and a series of apprenticeship program information sessions.

### **President's Priorities Update**

1. Advocates for Students – Academic Success Coaches
  - The new Academic Advisors have completed their training period and are beginning to build their caseloads by working New Student Orientation. Preparations for expanding use of the Starfish software to support our new case management approach, in addition to early alert, have been underway. The first round of training to introduce the Academic Advisors and Counselors to these new features in Starfish has been taking place. We

remain on target for having the caseload assignments for fall semester in place the first week of classes.

## 2. First Year Seminar and Educational Plan

- New students are actively enrolling in more than 60 sections of First Year Seminar courses being offered for fall 2017. Nearly 700 students are already enrolled for this fall with students having more options of courses to select from that are aligned with the identified areas of interest. Faculty have created courses that address the unique features of and specific college and career planning needs within areas of interest. These courses will provide students with a more focused and personalized FYS experience.

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

- Building F Renovations – The second floor interior wall construction is complete and the contractor is currently working on the second and third floor ceilings, first floor interior walls, exterior curtain wall and the atrium stairwell.
- Building M Renovations and Addition – The site excavation is 75% complete and the contractor is currently working on foundations, masonry restoration, upper level interior walls, and HVAC and electrical rough-ins.
- Canning Center – The State of Illinois has approved the appropriation of the funding for the Canning Center project. The Capital Development Board (CDB) staff has requested authorization to proceed with an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) that would allow the College to proceed with the review of the plans and budget prior to the funds being released. This IGA is required by the CDB to proceed with the project.

## 4. Promise Program Funding

- Promise campaign has raised \$8,601,392.

Last year, we achieved our goal of conferring an additional 10,604 credentials as part of President Obama's American Graduation Initiative. Although we are pleased, we are not satisfied. We will continue our laser focus on student success. This includes implementing predictive analytics that help us determine which strategies are most helpful to students, launching a new student portal that provides information in a more user-friendly way and improving our online offerings, just to name a few.

I am honored and awed at what we have accomplished and look forward to another year where we will make a difference for our students, our community, and our nation!

*Ken*