

President's Report

January 2018

We are all looking forward to welcoming our students back to campus this week. The holiday semester break is something we all look forward to, however the campus is not the same without our students. So, it is with much anticipation that we look forward to the launch of the spring term on January 16.

We were delighted with the messages and stories at the President's All Campus meeting. This is one of two meetings where the President has the opportunity to address employees. This meeting featured the "power of moments" where students highlighted College employees who made a difference in their lives. One of those students, Michelle Feigler, shared her story and it was quite compelling. Therefore, we have asked Michelle to visit with us at the Board meeting and share her powerful moment with the Board. She has accepted our invitation and we look forward to introducing her to the Board.

It appears that enrollment has stabilized this spring semester. Once we factor in dual credit enrollment, we are hoping to see an increase in full time equivalent (FTE) enrollment. It has been a while since we have experienced an enrollment increase. We are also looking forward to the first enrollments from our Pearson partnership. It has been a slow start, however we are learning many things and both Pearson and Harper are committed to achieving success with this partnership. In the second half of the spring semester, we will begin enrolling students in an AAS degree in Business Administration from a new corporate client, the Brinker group. This group owns and manages the Chili's and Maggiano restaurant chains. This client, along with Lakeshore Communications Systems, will represent the beginning of our partnership with Pearson. We have learned that Pearson has other international corporate clients in the pipeline and we are learning all that we can so we are ready to implement as those clients come on board and we offer these programs at scale.

The College hosted two significant events last week. First, we greeted mayors and village managers from the 23 towns and villages we serve and briefed them on our updated master plan. This is part of our overall plan to educate and provide information to our community members regarding a possible no-tax rate increase that would be used to continue investing in our facilities. We also hosted a ribbon cutting for the University Center in Building D. The President from Northern Illinois University and the Provosts from Roosevelt and DePaul joined us to celebrate the opening of the Center, which will bring six bachelor degrees to our campus. This event generated an unprecedented positive response through social media. A special thanks to Bob Parzy and Mark Mrozinski for stewarding this project.

Even though classes were not in session over the past month, the College remained busy. Highlights are below.

Student Success

- The 332 students in the Rita and John Canning Women's Program had completion rates of 80%, and 83% of the students achieved a semester GPA of 2.0 or higher for the fall 2017 semester.
- On December 16, the 8th Firefighter Academy graduated a total of 13 Harper students. The Firefighter Academy is a joint effort between Harper College's Fire Science Technology Program and the Elk Grove Township Fire Department. The Firefighter Academy course is approved and sanctioned by the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal.
- In a joint effort between Student Affairs, Enrollment Services, Financial Aid and Advising, two Veterans Information Nights were held. The overall goal of these sessions is to increase the number of Veteran/Military Connected students for fall 2018.
- Harper College sent two student representatives and advisor Ferdinand Alfajora to join 2,000 attendees nationwide at the Student Veterans of America National Conference. This conference featured high profile guests along with numerous breakout sessions focused on higher education, career readiness, student veteran success, GI bill funding, and more.
- The Center for New Students is seeing excellent results from the newly launched "Credit for Prior Learning" advising/concierge support for prospective students, current students and community members. Customized web pages were launched (in partnership with Marketing and Enrollment Services) and during the fall semester the response to the new service was outstanding with 65 overall inquiries and 38 individuals served with customized 'next steps' resulting in application, advising and educational planning.
- Harper and One Million Degrees (OMD) will be renewing their partnership for an additional year. Three OMD students completed Associates Degrees from Harper in December 2017, and two students received CNA certificates from the Nursing program.

Finance and Administrative Services

- The Foundation has exceeded the original goal to raise \$10 million in support of the Promise Program. The Board of Trustees expressed interest in raising additional funds, thus due to last year's budget surplus, the Board established a \$1 million challenge grant for the Promise Program. These funds will be used to match additional dollars raised by the Educational Foundation in FY18 for the Promise Program. As of November 30, 2017, the challenge grant has matched \$146,118 raised by the Foundation.

Facilities Management

- 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. Installation of the equipment continues. Substantial completion is expected in January.
- 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 continues on the installation of the burner on boiler number one and the installation of the deaerator. Substantial completion is scheduled for February.

Information Technology

- Significant effort updating and preparing computers and other technologies in classrooms throughout campus took place in anticipation of the start of the spring semester. This included updates to desktop operating systems, software, and the desktop management system. Preventative maintenance activities also took place to ensure classroom technologies such as projectors, computers and document cameras were maintained and ready for classes.
- Over the holiday break, the Database and Network teams did a large amount of work. There were 16 upgrades installed and tested with the EBS and Banner systems, along with updates to the wireless system, the internal portal, and the external web site.
- The process within the EBS Financial System to automate budget transfers was completed. The project automated the process to route, approve and batch process budget transfer requests from all Harper College Departments.

Advancement

- Educational Foundation
 - The HOPE Giving Circle hosted its first event of 2018 on Thursday, January 11, 2018 with a presentation by Harper College Distinguished Alumna, Shannon Plate, who shared insights and tips from her book, *Listen Up: Untangling Great Communication*. Since the HOPE Giving Circle was created three years ago, \$75,000 has been donated by Hope Giving Circle members, resulting in 3 scholarships (to date) of \$10,000 each to Harper students.
 - The Major Gifts Committee will be hosting a prospective donor reception on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at the Barrington White House. The event is targeted to the “next generation” (prospects 60 and younger) who live in Barrington.
 - The Foundation’s year-end direct mail appeal was mailed in December. The appeal raised \$20,000 and the average gift increased by 33% over last year’s year-end appeal.
 - Foundation Board members, volunteers, Harper students and staff continue to make regular thank you phone calls to annual, major and scholarship donors. This strategic, consistent stewardship is resulting in positive feedback from donors who receive the calls and to date, we are 77% to the goal of reducing lapsed donors by 10% from last year’s figure.
 - The Foundation will be hosting the Annual Economic Update and Outlook Breakfast on Thursday, March 15, 2018. The event will feature Jack Ablin, Chief Investment Officer for BMO Harris Private Bank and is sponsored by BMO Harris Bank.
 - The Foundation’s Annual Giving Committee will be increasing focus on the Pavers for Promise initiative in the upcoming months leading to Community Day celebrations on April 14, 2018. In particular, the Committee will be targeting alumni and retirees who will be returning to campus for the festivities. A special campaign for Harper athletic alumni will focus on a paver wall in the newly renovated Building M.

- The Harper Heritage Society is pleased to welcome Richard and Jean Kolze as its newest members. This Society honors donors who have included the Harper College Educational Foundation in their estate plans.
- Communication / Harper's Diverse Faculty Fellows
 - The Diverse Faculty Fellow Program at Harper is a paid fellowship, which provides a unique opportunity for individuals to gain valuable teaching experience at a community college. Information on two fellows is included below.

2017/2018 Diverse Faculty Fellows - Brianne Mangione and Monica Shirley

It was a chance moment, Brianne Mangione was standing outside a classroom when Chuck Knittle, adjunct faculty in Paralegal Studies, noticed her and asked, "Do you need help?" He probably thought Brianne was a student; however, she is one of this year's Diverse Faculty Fellows. The two struck up a conversation that turned into an opportunity for her to observe him teaching – exactly the type of experience a Fellow is encouraged to pursue. For Brianne, this interaction reflects the welcoming feeling and sense of community she has encountered at nearly every turn at Harper. "It meant a lot to me that someone would go out of his way and start talking to me. Harper puts the community in community college," noted Brianne. "I feel very supported – by my division and my dean, Kathy Bruce; DREAM and my mentor, Nellie Khalil; my department and department chair, Pardess Mitchell; the Academy for Teaching Excellence; and even by people in the hallway. Everyone I have met is so nice and helpful. They go out of their way to ask if I need anything."



When you learn that someone went to law school, your natural inclination might be to ask, "What type of law do you practice?" Don't be surprised if the answer is, "I do not practice law." Not everyone who goes to law school wants to join a law practice. This is certainly true for Monica Shirley, one of this year's Diverse Faculty Fellows. Monica had a vision for fusing her two passions – higher education and the law.

"My master's degree is in adult education," noted Monica, "but I was also very interested in educational policy and the laws that affect students, so I decided to study law." Her passion for teaching had been instilled early on. Her mother and several of her aunts were teachers and always stressed the importance of education. In fact, Monica's first job when she was 15 years old was as a teacher's assistant. Despite having the desire to teach and the requisite education, Monica found it difficult to break into higher education. "It seemed like a vicious circle. People wanted you to have experience, but how do you get experience if no one will give it to you?" Then came the job alert for Harper's Diverse Faculty Fellow program – no teaching experience required.

Marketing Services

- Digital Marketing Awards: Harper College received three silver awards and one merit award in the 2017 Education Digital Marketing Awards. The College was recognized for:
 - 50 Facts Video (silver) <https://www.harpercollege.edu/50/50-Facts.php>
 - Student, Alumni, Faculty Stories Blog (silver) <https://www.harpercollege.edu/50/stories.php>
 - 50th Anniversary Website (silver) <https://www.harpercollege.edu/50/index.php>
 - 50th Anniversary Gala Website (merit)

The awards recognize excellence in digital marketing by two-year, four-year and graduate institutions.

- Harper College on the Air: Harper people and programs recently featured as part of the fall enrollment communication campaign included:
 - Agnes Szemborski, featuring the University Center, on WGN Channel 9 Morning News <https://youtu.be/or6HmMo5wA8>
 - Ferdinand Alfajora, featuring the Veterans Center, on WGN Channel 9 Morning News, <https://youtu.be/Vdme2gcPGA0>
 - Mark Mrozinski, featuring Fast Track, on WGN Channel 9 Morning News <http://wgntvpresentations.com/view/new/mail?iID=wjfBmfJHdGWbNNpHjQCn>
 - Rebecca Lake, featuring apprenticeships, on WCIU (The U) Morning News, <https://youtu.be/FBXzObuFKL8>

Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- The *2017-2018 Fact Book* has been released. The *Fact Book* is a one-stop resource designed to provide easy access to commonly asked questions about Harper College.
- Beginning January 17, students will have the opportunity to provide feedback on Harper College via the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Student Opinion Survey. Aggregate survey results will be shared with Harper and the HLC Peer Review Team prior to the site visit on March 5-6.

Workforce Solutions

- Rebecca Lake was invited to speak by the Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship regarding Harper Registered Apprenticeship programs. The program was presented at the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.
- Washtenaw Community College in Michigan consulted with Harper's Office of Apprenticeships regarding how Harper decided to offer Registered Apprenticeship programs and how to establish a Registered Apprenticeship college office.
- Harper College's Continuing Education ranked as #1 in enrollment for 2017 in the online learning program operated by LERN (Learning Resources Network). Of the 224 partner colleges and universities in North America offering online learning through LERN, Harper College topped the enrollment rankings. An analysis of our students enrolled in these classes during the past two years reveals an important trend. While 27% of our online students take additional CE classes,

73% are online only students, indicating that the program serves previously unmet demand. This program is coordinated at Harper College by Darby Lanpher.

Community Relations

- On December 15, Harper Community Relations hosted a Chinese delegation from Guangdong. The 16 state-level government officials and industry leaders toured campus and learned about Harper's various programs. The group received an up-close look at Harper's dental clinic, simulation hospital and surgical tech lab. The visitors were impressed by the size of the campus, Harper's facilities and the success of our programs and students. The delegation visited the Rolling Meadows area to learn more about the commercial environment and businesses. The Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce arranged the visit to campus.
- During the month of December, Community Relations hosted career exploration and college readiness activities with various Ambassador Schools. More than 380 eighth grade students at Barrington Middle School-Prairie Campus participated in a college readiness workshop. This is the third year Harper has partnered with Prairie to conduct the workshop. Students learn about the importance of planning early for college, steps to take in high school to create their pathway to college and the opportunities available to them through the Promise Scholarship program. Fifth grade students at John Jay and Robert Frost Elementary in District 59 learned about career clusters and career exploration. The kindergarten class at Euclid Elementary school knows that you are never too young to start thinking about college. The students participated in Harper's "C is for College" activity. The students talked about what they want to be when they get older and what they may learn in college.

Legislative Relations

- A federal judge on January 9 temporarily blocked the Trump administration's decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which provides young undocumented immigrants with work permits and protection from deportation. It remains unclear what the federal injunction really means as the administration has vowed to fight it. Meanwhile, lawmakers say they're working on a bipartisan proposal to find a solution for those known as "dreamers."
- After an extended break, the Illinois House and Illinois Senate will reconvene January 23 and January 30, respectively. No new news regarding higher education or property tax reform legislation materialized during the adjournment. The Governor will give the State of the State Address on January 31, followed by the Budget Address on February 14.
- The primary election will be held March 20. Local races to watch include the Democratic primary in Illinois Senate District 27 (incumbent is Republican Tom Rooney) and the Republican primaries in House District 53 (Republican David Harris is not seeking reelection) and House District 56 (incumbent is Democrat Michelle Mussman). On the federal level, the sixth House District has shaped up to be a hotly contested race with seven Democrats vying to face Republican Peter Roskam in November.

Media Relations

- The *Daily Herald* ran a front-page article introducing the new University Center at Harper College. Reporter Chris Placek highlighted the partnerships with DePaul, Northern Illinois and Roosevelt universities to offer a variety of bachelor's degree programs on Harper's campus, and at a lower

price point. Programs include Communication and Media, Information Technology, Business Administration, Criminal Justice and Educational Students/Early Care and Education, with additional programs under consideration. Dr. Ender said, "It's extraordinarily important to the community to provide access to bachelor's degrees right in their own backyard and, frankly, at a cost much more manageable than if they went to a university to pursue a degree." *Education Dive* highlighted the University Center and the Illinois Community College Trustees Association distributed the article on its listserv.

- The *Daily Herald* ran a front-page article about Harper taking preliminary steps to start the search for Dr. Ender's successor. The Aspen Institute will provide the Board of Trustees with guidance to develop a profile of desired characteristics and to define Harper's strengths and weaknesses. Board Chair Greg Dowell said hiring a president is the most important thing a Board does, especially since Harper's presidents tend to stick around for a decade or so. Dowell said, "It's where are we now, where are we headed, and where do we think the future will take us. When that visioning is done, that can help us think about the leadership characteristics to help get us there."
- The *Daily Herald* ran a front-page article about how community colleges are working harder to fill athletic teams. Reporter Bob Susnjara wrote about Harper's difficult decision to prematurely end the women's basketball season last year due to low roster numbers. Harper coach Sean Stochl and Athletic Director Doug Spiwak discussed the importance of emphasizing the high level of competition and out-of-state trips in its recruitment of potential players.
- The *Barrington Courier-Review* wrote about Harper student Lauren Brynjelsen opening a cooking school, OneLife Kitchen. The Barrington business focuses on cooking nutritional meals.
- The *Daily Herald* wrote a digest about Harper's recent move to refinance about \$125 million in outstanding general obligation bonds, saving taxpayers \$19.6 million through 2028. The digest pointed out Harper's Aaa bond rating from Moody's Investors Services, which helped the College secure a lower interest rate.
- *Insurance Journal* magazine wrote about the insurance apprenticeship partnership with Zurich North America and its success over the past two years.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Harper's longtime partnership with Northwest Community Healthcare, which was recognized through the Foundation's recent Stand Up and Be Counted event. The initiative honors area businesses that hire Harper alumni.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a digest listing Harper among the nominees for the Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Public Sector Partner of the Year award, which will be announced January 25.
- The International Nurses Association announced Harper alumna Nancy A. Baranello will be published in *Worldwide Leaders in Healthcare*.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about the Harper Symphony Orchestra and Northwest Special Recreation Association teaming up to put on a family friendly concert in a sensory-friendly environment. For example, lights were dimmed and "wiggling" and noises throughout the concert were completely understood by everyone in attendance.
- The *Daily Herald* sports section ran an article about recent games played by the men's and women's basketball teams.

President's Priorities Update

1. First Year Seminar and Education Plan

- More than 800 students enrolled in a Start Smart course during the fall 2017 semester. Of those students who successfully completed their Start Smart course, 87% completed an electronic educational plan.
- Efforts continue to enroll new students for the spring semester into a Start Smart course. There are currently over 140 students enrolled for spring 2018.

2. Advocates for Students

- With our new advising model and increased staff, the Academic Advising and Counseling Center was able to provide an additional 1,026 students with advising services this fall semester as compared to fall 2016.
- The Illume predictive analytics tool has provided the insight that we have a persistence gap with students who begin in spring as opposed to the fall semester. Not only will our spring start credential-seeking students who attend orientation benefit from getting an assigned advisor or counselor, we also will be adding spring start students who place into developmental coursework into the Early Alert (Starfish) monitoring system. Both of these strategies should have a positive impact on their persistence.
- In preparation for the spring semester start, advisors and counselors are busy reaching out to students on their caseloads. Target populations include students who have not yet registered for spring semester, as well as students who may have rolled into Academic Caution, Warning, or Probation who could use additional support. We are also reviewing fall grades and sending notes to students acknowledging success.

3. Buildings F, M and Canning Center

- **Building F Renovations** – The construction is substantially complete. The furniture installation on the second and third floor is complete with the contractor working on punch list items and furniture installation on the first floor.
- **Building M Renovations and Addition** – The HVAC, plumbing and electrical rough-ins are complete along with the demolition for the elevated track. The lobby, classroom and Northwest Community Hospital addition is enclosed. The contractor is currently working on exterior walls at the fitness center addition, and interior partitions, doors and interior windows throughout the building.
- **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

As of December 31, 2017 total funds raised were \$10,356,283.35 from 611 total donors.

The next four months will be active and busy for our students and employees. Before we know it, graduation will be upon us. As we trudge through this cold wintery weather, our thoughts will be of the spring and its warmer weather. Certainly something to look forward to!

Stay warm!

Ken