

President's Report

April 2018

Even though it's April—it certainly feels like November outside! As I write this President's Report, the College is gearing up for one of two final events connected with Harper's 50th Anniversary celebration. Today is Community Day, and in spite of the weather, we are expecting thousands of community members, alumni and retirees to visit Harper to tour the campus, participate in the College and Career Expo, Inspire U, and so many other activities that have been planned. The event will end with the Encore II performance where we will revisit scenes and songs from 50 years of musical theatre. I want to thank Amie Granger and Carolyn Muci for organizing this very special event.

Our final 50th Anniversary celebration will be the graduation ceremony on May 19. I am honored that David Coleman, President and CEO of The College Board, will be this year's commencement speaker. The College Board is the organization behind the SAT and Advanced Placement programs. It has long history in higher education and under David's leadership has partnered with Khan Academy to revolutionize the way students practice for the SAT—empowering students of all backgrounds. David has been diligently preparing for his commencement speech by sending videographers to campus to record our students' stories. We are looking forward to his comments and insights!

Although there was no formal Board meeting in March, the College was certainly active and the Board present during our HLC accreditation visit. The results were absolutely remarkable. As some have said, we hit a grand slam home run! In the more than 40 years that I have worked in higher education, I have never seen such a glowing report. The College met all criteria for accreditation, there were no sanctions and most importantly, there is no interim monitoring recommended. I wish to thank Darlene Schlenbecker and Julie Ellefson for their leadership of this most important endeavor! They were supported by a cadre of dedicated Harper faculty and staff; all contributing to this wonderful outcome.

Once again, Harper is honored to have a student who is being awarded a Jack Kent Cooke scholarship. Our Harper student is one of only 47 receiving this most prestigious award. Each recipient receives up to \$40,000 annually to complete their bachelor's degree, along with comprehensive educational advising. This year's Harper recipient, Mili Tomar, along with Dr. Alicia Tomasian, the Harper faculty member who works tirelessly to help students with their applications, will visit the Board meeting in May so we can all congratulate her.

There has been a lot of activity and notable accomplishments over the past two months. Below are the highlights.

Student Success

- Mili Tomar has won the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, worth up to \$40,000 a year for up to three years of study.
- Harper Radio WHCM-FM competed in the 2017 Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Awards. The station entered submissions in 10 categories. Harper won in one category, Best Use of Video in A Radio Station (Noah Festenstein) and were finalists in five other categories: Best Use of Twitter (Amber Boch, Kasey DeFillipo, and Sammie Cooke), Best Specialty Show (Nadir Rahman and Waad Osman), Best Community College New Coverage (David Silverman), Best On Air Personality (Keith Harris), and Best Community College Radio Station (All Staff).
- Students from the Harper Society of Engineers and Advanced Manufacturing clubs came together to design and build a bot for the 2018 District 214 Robotics Competition. The bot performed very well, beating Eastern Illinois in the college competition, and then holding its own against eight competitors in the final “Robot Rumble.”
- Harper Manufacturing student, Tyler Husfield, and faculty advisor, John Kurman, submitted a sculpture to the Building STEAM benefit for the Prairie Center for the Arts in Schaumburg. The piece was entitled “Shifting Into High Gear” and earned honorable mention. This event included a competition and live auction featuring sculptures created by students and local artists using parts produced by area manufacturing and technology companies.
- On March 13, the Illinois Appellate Court 2nd District heard an actual case at Harper College. This event was well attended by Law Enforcement and Justice Administration students, as well as other attendees. Attorneys presented their cases to the Justices and provided Harper students with an opportunity to experience the justice system in action. Thank you to Dr. Wayne Johnson for coordinating this event.
- Harper College hosted the one-day Science Olympiad event. Science Olympiad is a non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science, and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education. Ten middle schools and 13 high schools participated with approximately 800 students in attendance.
- The Drama Lab windows in Building L won a silver award at the 33rd Annual Education Advertising Awards. There were over 2,250 entries from more than one thousand colleges, universities and secondary schools from all over the country. There were 207 silver awards given. Judges for the Educational Advertising Awards consisted of a national panel of higher education marketers, advertising creative directors, marketing and advertising professionals and the editorial board of Higher Education Marketing Report.
- Illinois Senate resolution 1411 was adopted March 14, 2018 at the State Capitol, declaring March 18-24 Dual Credit Week in Illinois to promote awareness of this valuable educational opportunity for high school students.

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 Fiscal Year 2018 for the Promise Program. As of January 31, 2018, the challenge grant has matched \$359,278 raised by the Foundation.

Information Technology

- The Student System's team completed six major projects for the Banner SIS system this past month. These projects ranged from configuring the SIS in order to conduct the student government election to updating the wording of the pre-populated email in Degreeworks, Harper's degree planning software.
- The Desktop Support and Project team installed technology for Building F so that it was functioning for the April 2 opening. This included installing more than 400 desktop computers, configuring and setting up 10 Smart Classrooms, and assisting 40 individuals with their technology moves. The team also upgraded six speech rooms with new hardware and software. This new configuration will allow the instructor to record students giving speeches, then "playback" the recording for feedback. Upgrades completed in the Dental Hygiene area included installation of 18 USB ports for the dental sensors on the dental workstations/chairs.
- More than 185 Windows servers were patched over the Reading Day break, bringing the systems to current levels. An updated Informacast was tested and rolled out, enabling the Harper College Police Department to send emergency notifications to employee desktop computers.

Facilities Management

- Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management, with the assistance of the Harper College Police Department, has completed 33 Safety Talks. The presentations review emergency procedures with staff, which include the topics of Fire Alarms and Evacuations Duties, Severe Weather Procedures, Ergonomics, Injury Reporting, Bomb Threats, and Active Shooter. At least six additional staff meetings have been scheduled for future dates. Currently, 336 employees have participated.
- The scope of work for the Building B Tunnel Project includes a shallow tunnel from Building B to Building U, steam lines to Building M, and communications cabling from Buildings M and U to Buildings A and Y. Construction continues and is scheduled to be complete by the end of May, 2018.
- 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. Installation of the equipment is complete and the control work continues, with completion scheduled by the end of May, 2018.
- The scope of work for the Building B Boiler Room project includes the replacement of two boiler burners, chemical treatment piping, water softener, deaerator and accompanying piping. The work for boiler one and the deaerator will be started in mid April. Boiler two and the remaining work is scheduled to be complete by the end of May, 2018.

Advancement

- The annual employee giving campaign “We Are Harper” kicked off on Monday, April 2. To date, more than 331 employees have made a gift or renewed their giving from last year. The campaign ends on April 13.
- The Foundation’s annual Realizing Dreams Donor Recognition Brunch will be held on Saturday, April 28, 2018 at Arlington Park. Now in its fourth year, the Realizing Dreams event gives donors the opportunity to meet students who have received donor-sponsored scholarships through the Foundation. The scholarship recipients who attend the event value the experience in meeting with their donors, and have expressed a greater interest in philanthropy.
- The HOPE Giving Circle hosted a Women at the Table Leadership breakfast and panel discussion on Friday, March 23 for nearly 50 women, including eight students from Harper College’s Human Services program. Keynote speaker, Diane Hill, and members of the panel shared their experience and insights on the topic of women and leadership and how women build leadership skills and leverage them for success in various settings. For the 2018-19 academic year, the HOPE Giving Circle will be awarding three \$10,000 scholarships.
- The 8th Annual Nursing Alumni Symposium will be held on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. This year’s Symposium theme is Leading the Future of Nursing: Past, Present and Future and will feature a panel discussion with Harper College Nursing Alumni.
- The Harper Professional Advisors Committee will be hosting a free seminar on Tuesday, May 1, titled the *Four Legal Documents Everyone Needs*. The seminar is open to community members, alumni, faculty, staff, and retirees, but registration is required through the Foundation’s website.
- On March 1, applications opened for the 173 individual scholarships funds awarded by the Harper College Educational Foundation. Over \$703,757 in scholarships and awards will be available for the 2018-19 academic year.

Communications

- In the March 15 issue of InsideHarper, the faculty/staff e-newsletter, we shared the story of Navin Cabrera, a dental hygiene student, who was dealing with some very challenging moments in his life. A combination of a difficult conversation and the awarding of an Educational Foundation scholarship helped Navin persevere. This story touched many of our faculty/staff – with readership exceeding goal by more than 2.3 times.

Last semester was not easy for Navin Cabrera, a dental hygiene student. His father and mother were dealing with several medical issues causing great stress in the family. Navin was falling asleep in class and his grades were suffering. His instructor Silky Sharma took notice and called him in for a heart-to-heart conversation. It was not an easy conversation, but a necessary one. If Navin was not absorbing the material, she could not allow him to work on patients and compromise their care, nor could she allow his peers to carry him along. Listening to Navin’s story, *continue reading...*

https://www.harpercollege.edu/stories/posts/navins_story.php



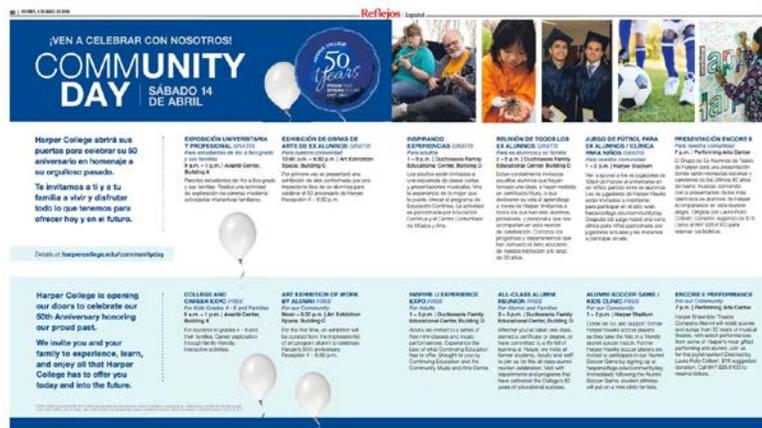
Navin Cabrera and his father

Student Communication

- As part of our framework for overall student communication and goal to increase personalization, there have been improvements to the student side of the MyHarper Portal. These improvements enhance the timely, personalized communication for student priority registration announcements. A student will now be able to view his or her personal priority registration date, rather than a general registration notice. The goal is to increase the targeted communication and transition from a very generalized or printed approach. Staff will monitor and measure the response rates with these changes.
- On Wednesday, April 18, Harper College will host its first officially licensed TED event, TEDxHarperCollege. The day will celebrate the College's 50th anniversary and is carrying the anniversary theme: Proud Past, Strong Future. The day features 14 live speakers, including alumni, faculty, staff, students and community members. TEDxHarperCollege promises to be a stimulating day of fast-paced presentations, discussions, entertainment and art that will spark new ideas and opportunities across all disciplines. Three, 90-minute sessions will take place to involve as many students as possible.

Marketing Services

- Harper College used a variety of Spanish-English and Polish-English communication channels to invite our community to the Spring High School Open House and Community Day. This included flyers, posters, social media and an advertisement in Reflejos (below). Community partners, including District 25 and Dryden Elementary School also shared Harper's bilingual information on their social media channels.



- Harper College marketing and communication projects were recognized with 15 awards in the annual Educational Advertising Awards completion. Projects and campaigns receiving recognition included:
 - New Resident Brochure (Direct Mail) Gold

- #TodayILearned (Social Media) Gold
- Believe in Yourself (Viewbook) Gold
- 50th Anniversary Website (Website) Gold
- 50th Anniversary Logo (Logo) Silver
- 50th Gala Invitation (Invitation) Silver
- Drama Lab Window Graphics (Special Graphics) Silver
- “Believe” Giving Tuesday Video (Special Video) Silver
- 50th Anniversary Logo Cookie (Imprinted Materials) Bronze
- Believe Yourself Fall Open House (Integrated Campaign) Bronze
- Harper College 50th Anniversary Communication (Campaign) Merit
- Realizing Dreams 2017 Book (Publications/External) Merit
- #GivingTuesday Social Media (Social Media) Merit
- 50th Anniversary Social Media (Social Media) Merit
- 50th Anniversary Video (Special Video) Merit

This year, more than 2,250 entries were received from more than 1,000 colleges, universities and secondary schools from all fifty states and several foreign countries. Judges consisted of a national panel of higher education marketers, advertising creative directors, marketing and advertising professionals and the editorial board of Higher Education Marketing Report.

Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- On March 5-6, the College hosted a peer review team who conducted the HLC Comprehensive Evaluation Site Visit. The review team held numerous meetings, allowing for the campus constituents to share their passion for Harper, while providing the review team with the information needed to confirm that Harper meets the criteria for accreditation. The College has received a draft feedback report, and the team’s preliminary recommendation is that Harper’s accreditation be reaffirmed. The report also states that Harper has met all of the criteria for accreditation as well as the Federal compliance requirements. Additionally, the team is recommending no follow-up reports or visits. Great news!
- The Institutional Effectiveness and Outcomes Assessment department engaged ten employees, all former Harper Leadership Institute participants, in an opportunity to become focus group facilitators. The department coordinated with a consultant to provide a half-day training to prepare these individuals to conduct a variety of focus groups. Over the course of the next 18 months, these facilitators will help the department expand its capacity to conduct focus groups with students, faculty and staff. As appropriate, focus groups and the resulting analyses will be used to make better informed decisions regarding College initiatives.
- The Office of Institutional Research has released the first longitudinal report about student outcomes after leaving Harper College. Two cohorts of students were selected for this initial study. Employment data from Illinois Department of Employment Securities and credential data from National Student Clearinghouse were merged with Harper student data to provide information about post-Harper outcomes. Overall, earning a Harper credential increased the likelihood for gaining stable employment and earning higher wages compared to those students who left Harper without a credential. In addition, students who left Harper with a credential were earning higher wages five years later than students who left without a credential.
- Faon Grandinetti, Associate Director of Outcomes Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness, was a Spotlight Panelist at the Illinois Community College Assessment Fair at Joliet Junior College on February 23, 2018. The panel included assessment experts from a variety of Illinois

community colleges and focused on the Assessment Fair theme: *Origins, Outcomes, and Overhauls: What Is Your Assessment Story and Identity?*

Workforce Solutions

- Dr. Rebecca Lake was chosen as the John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Awards recipient and received her award at the League for Innovation Conference March 19, 2018.
- On April 10, the Job Placement Resource Center (JPRC) sponsored the annual Student Employee Appreciation lunch. Students enjoyed lunch, games and prizes. The Student Employee of the Year, Heather O'Connel, who works in the Adult Educational Development Department, received her award from Dr. Ender.
- On April 11, the JPRC held a Summer Job Fair for Harper students. Fifteen employers attended this targeted job fair in Avanté with jobs in summer camps, park districts and retail.
- Representatives from The College Board came to the Harper Professional Center as part of their campus visit to prepare for David Coleman's commencement speech. They met with four Fast Track students who will graduate this year and one Fast Track faculty member to learn about their experiences at Harper College. The videotaped interviews will be included in the commencement speech.
- Harper College was represented at the Achieving the Dream – Pathways to Careers Conference in Stuart, Florida, in March 2018. The Harper College Team consisted of the following individuals: Carl Dittburner, Jennifer Berne, Diane Tarver, and Martha Karavitis–Hemmati. The conference challenged participants to re-think how students are preparing for success in the workforce. Strengthening workforce preparation requires most colleges to align career pathways and guided pathways. It also requires colleges to shift along two dimensions: moving from siloed non-credit and for-credit programs to integrated career pathways that prepare students for in-demand careers and continuing education, and deepening and expanding partnerships with business and industry to ensure pathways are responsive to local labor market needs.

Diversity and Inclusion

- The Free Speech debate was held on February 28 with two sessions offered. There was a total of 162 students, faculty and staff attending the lively competition-style debate on campus free speech issues.
- On March 12, an event titled *50 Years of Diversity & Inclusion at Harper College* took place at Wojcik Conference center from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. This daylong event included roundtable conversations, a resource fair and a Reflection Room, which featured a short film about Harper's history in diversity and inclusion. Fifty-nine people attended the resource fair and roundtable session on topics such as Access and Disability, Women's Issues, DACA, LGBTQ, and Latino/a students, while 100 participants came to the Reflection Room to view the video.
- A short 30-minute film was produced by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion in collaboration with Marketing Services titled *Fifty Years of Diversity and Inclusion at Harper College*, features interviews with current and former students, faculty and staff about their experiences expanding diversity and inclusion at Harper College since 1967. The voiceover for this film was done by Michelé Smith, former Special Assistant to the President for Diversity and Inclusion.

- The D & I Dialogue Workshops titled “Demonstrating Inclusion, Part 2” impacted 89 participants, while an additional 19 participants took part in the D & I Dialogues, Part 1 session. These workshops focus on developing bias awareness skills as well as inclusive behaviors in employees.
- Three Diverse Faculty Fellows, Monica Shirley (Paralegal), Brianne Mangione (Kinesiology), Bilal Hussein (Sociology) along with Pearl Ratunil, Special Assistant to the President, attended the Diversifying Faculty in Illinois Conference at Northern Illinois University on February 23-24 with Bilal Hussein speaking on a panel titled “Why I Became a College Professor.”
- On April 3, Pearl Ratunil presented the Diverse Faculty Fellows program to roughly 60 Directors of Graduate Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) to recruit diverse applicants and identify potential talent for this program. She has been invited to return and present to graduate students in the English Department as well as to diverse graduate students in a program sponsored by the Graduate College.

Community and Legislative Relations

- On Saturday, February 24, Community Relations sponsored the League of Women Voters Candidate Forum with the seven candidates for the 6th Congressional District. Tahman Bradley from WGN TV served as moderator. WGN and the *Daily Herald* were in attendance to interview the candidates and report on topics discussed. The event was live streamed on the League of Women Voters Facebook page. Over 130 people attended. The Palatine Area League of Women Voters also host voter registration opportunities on campus.
- On Saturday, April 14, the entire campus celebrates Harper’s 50th Anniversary with the community. Community Day is our way of saying “thank you” to the community for supporting Harper for the past 50 years. The day is filled with events including the College and Career Expo, All-Class Alumni Reunion, Inspire U Experience Expo, an Alumni Soccer Game, a kid’s soccer clinic, campus tours, an Exhibition of Work by Alumni, the Encore II alumni performance and the Annuitants/Retirees Reunion with Founding Faculty and Staff Celebration. A very big thank you to everyone that has worked tirelessly to ensure that Community Day is a success.
- Over the past month, Community Relations has participated in various community events as well as hosted school tours. Amie Granger hosted an information table at the Schaumburg Business Association’s Good Morning Schaumburg breakfast on March 13. On March 11, Jim Edstrom hosted a historical discussion about Harper at the Barrington Library through the Life Long Learning program and the Barrington Council on Aging. During the month of March, over 600 students from various Ambassador Schools have visited campus as part of the tour program.

Legislative

- Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) hosted the Student Advocacy Day on April 12. Harper College had an alliance of students and advisors who traveled down for the day. There were several planned activities for the students, as well as open times to connect with the local legislators. The Students met with Senators Laura Murphy and Christina Castro.
- The Illinois General Assembly returned to session this week after a three-week spring break. The House was in Session all five days while the Senate was in Session three days. Both chambers return to session on Tuesday, April 17.

- Roughly eight weeks remain in the spring legislative session which is scheduled to adjourn on May 31. Friday, April 10 was the deadline to pass substantive legislation out of committees in both chambers. However, deadline extensions are likely on some of the legislation that remains pending at the committee level.
- Governor Rauner outlined his legislative agenda for the remainder of the spring session. Rauner said that he wants the General Assembly to send him a full fiscal year's balanced budget that "lives within our means" without raising taxes. Rauner is asking the General Assembly to formally establish revenue estimates and is also calling on the General Assembly to approve pension reform, property tax relief through enacting mandate relief for local governments (including consolidation, restricting prevailing wage and addressing school mandates), enhance public safety, make infrastructure improvement and enact term limits.
- Rauner and the four legislative leaders met for the first time since February 14. Prior to the meeting, the Governor asked the four leaders to name legislators to negotiate the budget on their behalf, adopt revenue estimates and pass a full year budget with no tax increases.
- Governor Rauner signed legislation (SB1451) this week to create the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act to expand access to 5G networks.
- A House committee approved legislation, HB4100 /Kifowit, to create the Health Care Violence Prevention Act to address violence against nursing staff. The bill now heads to the full House for consideration.
- The Illinois Senate approved SJRCA4, which ratifies the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution, 36 years after the original deadline. The measure now moves to the House for consideration.
- Republicans in the House and Senate filed resolutions noting opposition to a graduated income tax. SR1590 /Connelly and HR975/Durkin are both pending in their respective chamber's Rules committee. Democratic Gubernatorial candidate J.B. Pritzker announced he supports a progressive income tax.
- Senator Syverson filed an amendment in the Illinois Senate SB 2573 (SCA 0002) to amend the Automatic Telephone Dialers Act. Specifically, the amendment redefines "recorded message" to mean any artificial or recorded communication that includes or introduces an advertisement or constitutes telemarketing without live voice interaction. The amendment prohibits an autodialer from providing inaccurate caller ID information.

2018 Key Session Dates:

- April 27: Third Reading Deadline for bills in first chamber, both chambers
- May 11: Senate Committee Deadline, House Bills
- May 18: House Committee Deadline, Senate Bills
- May 25: Third Reading Deadline for bills in second chamber, both chambers
- May 31: Adjournment

President's Priorities Update

1. First Year Seminar and Education Plan

- First Year Seminar courses and other Start Smart offerings are being aligned with the Areas of Interest beginning fall 2018. The offerings will include options to accommodate the various degree programs and educational plans of all first time in college students at Harper.
- More than 100 students are participating in six sections of Start Smart courses this spring semester.

2. Advocates for Students

- A team of academic advisors took a creative approach to reaching students and raising awareness about academic advising and the benefit of creating a degree plan. The “Street Team” advising group, in collaboration with the One Stop Center, set up shop outside the One Stop Center with a popcorn machine. Flyers were distributed around campus to draw students over where they would receive a one-on-one Degree Works plan, find out how to run a plan in MyHarper Student Portal, and make an appointment with their assigned advisor or counselor. Results were very positive: 20 appointments were booked and 94 students participated.
- Multiple quantitative and qualitative measures are being employed to assess the impact of the new case management model. The data is being analyzed and evaluated for the purpose of making improvements to the model where needed. Thus far, results from the case management model are very positive. During the Fall of 2017, 70% of students saw an advisor/counselor at least once. This is a 14% increase compared to the previous fall. Students who have an assigned advisor/counselor are successfully completing more courses, creating an educational plan, and persisting from fall to spring at higher rates this fall than last fall.

3. Buildings F, M and Canning Center

- **Building F Renovations** – The building is now open.
- **Building M Renovations and Addition** – The interior build-out of the Northwest Community Hospital space has begun. The erection of the steel for the elevated track is complete. The contractor is currently working on the elevated track slab, exterior panels, ceilings, doors, interior windows, lighting and HVAC controls throughout the building.
- **Canning Center** – The State of Illinois has approved the appropriation of the funding for the Canning Center project. 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 Program Funding \$10,570,531.57 with 624 unique donors (repeat donors are not included).

As I end this letter, I am preparing to travel to Poland and Germany on a 10-day trade mission with an Illinois delegation led by Governor Rauner. This trip will provide me an opportunity to visit with international companies that have a presence in our District, and others who are contemplating opening facilities here. I plan to boast about the many wonderful workforce programs we offer, in support of our businesses. While I am gone, the College will continue to run under the direction of the Executive Council.

Upon my return, I look forward to all the honorific events leading up to our most important celebratory occasion—graduation.

Happy 50th Anniversary Harper College! You are certainly a wonderful institution, made up of dedicated and talented faculty and staff. I am honored to be your President.

Ken