

President's Report

September 2018

The fall semester is in full swing! A month into classes finds the campus busy and settling into the routine of daily campus life. Even though we are a little off in enrollment, there is a buzz in the hallways and across the campus.

There is so much energy in the new Foglia Foundation Health and Recreational Center. Within the first two weeks of the semester, more than 1,600 students had activated memberships. The description of “the loneliest” building on campus is certainly no longer accurate. We anticipate memberships growing and usage to be extensive. The swim program is packed and the Palatine Park District is managing it well. Northwest Community Healthcare is building a patient base and many of our students have already been served. This is so rewarding for all of us involved in this complex and rewarding project.

We were very heartened by the number of individuals who attended the dedication of the Foglia Foundation Health and Recreation Center. More than 300 were in attendance. Stakeholders and employees from each of the institutions, many elected officials, former Board members, and a host of others joined us to celebrate the dedication. Kudos to Laura Brown's staff for organizing and executing the day. We certainly demonstrated that public institutions can leverage resources to do extraordinary things. The future will demand more of these types of arrangements and partnerships.

Next month we will welcome more than 200 professionals from all over the country who will attend our conference on developing apprenticeship programs. With a generous investment from the Joyce Foundation, we are able to host this conference without charging a registration fee. With support from the Department of Labor and AACC, this conference has been broadly advertised. Dr. Rebecca Lake and her staff are leading this event and have done an exceptional job. We hope many Board members can stop in and attend a portion of the conference.

We were so proud to receive notice recently that the College had received distinction for the work we are doing in assessment. The Board packet this month contains a copy of the letter notifying us of the award. Without a doubt, the excellence we are achieving in assessment went a long way in helping us make the case for re-accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission. Darlene Schlenbecker and her staff have done a great job leading the College in the assessment area. Kudos to them!

As I said earlier, the campus is busy. See below for campus highlights.

Student Success

- Tony Espinoza was named the Athlete of the Week by the U.S. Track and Field/Cross Country Coaches Association for NCAA and NJCSS athletes. Tony is the NJCSS Division 3 recipient of the award.
- Harper College is one of nine institutions chosen for the 2018-2019 cohort of the OpenStax Open Educational Resources (OER) Institutional Partnership Program. Selected from among 31 applicants, we will begin working with experts at OpenStax to develop an institution-specific strategic plan to encourage the use of OER on Harper's campus to reduce the cost of course materials for students. The institutions who participated in the 2016-17 program increased student use of OER on their campuses by 150% in one year.
- One Million Degrees (OMD) is rapidly approaching this year's target of serving 140 students. Currently, there are 67 scholars from the second and third year cohorts who will be continuing in the program this year. The OMD team has been actively onboarding new students into the program, and has reached a total of 55 new scholars. In the pipeline, there is an additional eight potential new scholars, which puts OMD at 93% of our goal of serving 140 students. Recruitment efforts and onboarding of new OMD students will close October 1.
- Now in its fifth year, Project TAP (Transition Autism Program) is designed to be a one-year support for new students transferring from high school to college. The data has proven that students with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnosis who have participated in Project TAP throughout their college experience have higher GPAs, as well as higher completion rates. Last spring, we had 10 students graduate with an AA or AS degree. All of these graduates will be transferring to a four-year university to complete their bachelor's degree.
- Graphic Arts Technologies adjunct instructor Thomas Loch was recognized by the Graphic Communications Education Association with the Hartman/Dennis Service to Education Award at their 2018 Annual Conference. This award is given to an educator who has devoted many years of service to the Graphic Communications Education Association, and in addition, is nationally recognized through contributions and accomplishments in graphic arts teaching, research and/or service.
- Jennifer Bell, Kathryn Powell and Jane Suarez del Real were asked to develop a model ESL curriculum aligned with College and Career Standards to be shared in the State of Illinois. Out of 81 programs state-wide, Harper AED and World Relief were selected for this important work.

Facilities Management

- Amy Bandman, Campus Sustainability Manager, will be presenting at the upcoming Midwest Region of APPA: Leadership in Educational Facilities (MAPPA) conference in October 2018. The presentation is entitled "A Mosaic of Maps: Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to advance sustainability and facilitate campus collaborations." This project is a partnership between Facilities Management and the Geography Department to develop a series of interactive maps to address both sustainability and facilities-related issues. The project blended GIS and spatial analysis technology with drone imagery, provided the first complete campus tree inventory and serves as the base for future sustainability and facilities projects.
- The scope of work for Parking Lot 1 reconstruction is to address settlement issues, storm water management requirements, and vehicular and pedestrian traffic flow improvements. The parking lot pavement is complete. Landscaping is scheduled to be complete by September 30, 2018.

- The scope of work for the 2018 Summer Improvement Projects includes Building B entrance improvements, Building C classroom upgrades, Building P exterior stair replacement, Building P exterior envelope improvements, and Building Z faculty offices. Building Z faculty offices and Building C classroom upgrades are complete. Work at Buildings B and P continues and is scheduled to be complete in November 2018.
- 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. The tunnel and steam line work is complete. The fiber section between Buildings A and M and the copper portions of the communications cabling work are complete. The remaining fiber sections are scheduled to be complete by the end of October 2018.
- 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. The project is substantially complete.
- 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. Boiler burners and the deaerator are substantially complete. The remaining work is scheduled to be complete by the end of October 2018.

Information Technology

- The new Banner 9 Student System Registration module was made available to students, faculty, and staff in August. The new registration module provides students with an updated interface and schedule view, making it easier for them to develop a course schedule. The upgrade required modifications to the payment commitment custom application, new integration with the Civitas Schedule Planner module, and new integration with Degree Works, the degree planning application.
- Several activities and initiatives were completed in preparation for the start of the fall semester. New software was installed for the Dental Hygiene program. Technology in the Math Lab was moved from Building D to Building F due to the Math Lab relocation. The workstations in the Building I labs were refreshed. The installation of technology in the new Health and Recreation Center was completed, which included installing six podium lecterns and 43 workstations in the classrooms.
- Follett ConnectOnce has been installed and configured with Blackboard and included courses are now available to instructors. A representative from McGraw-Hill was on campus the first week of classes to assist faculty with material integrations in Blackboard for students.

Finance and Administrative Services

- Dr. Ron Ally and Roger Spayer were interviewed and contributed their comments to an article on "Employee Resource Groups (ERGs)" in the July/August edition of *Business Officer Magazine*, a National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) publication, written by Margo Vanover Porter. The article, "*Employee resource groups give staff members from underrepresented groups a sense of belonging and engagement on campus*" highlights the perspectives and experiences of four colleges and universities with ERGs. In addition to Harper College, Columbus State University, MIT and Princeton University are featured.

Advancement

- The Foundation's Scholarship Committee interviewed 13 candidates for the Rotary Club of Schaumburg/Hoffman Estates Fishing Well Scholarship. This scholarship supports adult students enrolled in career programs with \$35,000 in annual scholarship awards. All 13 candidates were chosen to receive a portion of the scholarship allocation.
- The Foundation received an unmodified audit for the 2017-18 fiscal year.
- During the 2017-18 fiscal year, the Foundation awarded more than \$1M in scholarships, grants and awards to 514 students from 195 scholarship funds and programs.
- The Alumni Program hosted a table at the outdoor movie night hosted by the Harper College Student Activities Board on September 7, 2018. More than 15 alumni stopped by the table to share their contact information with the alumni program. Future partnerships with Student Activities and the Alumni Program are planned for this upcoming year.
- The Foundation Board of Directors welcomed three new board members: Scot Pepper, Executive Vice President of Operations for Pepper Construction Company; Brenda Knox, Founder and President of Financial Elements, Inc., and Ella Liberman, AVP & Assistant General Counsel for Zurich American Insurance Company.

Grants

- The Foundation was awarded a \$45,000 grant from Motorola Solutions Foundation to support the Motorola Solutions Foundation Award for Excellence in Engineering Pathways scholarships.
- The Foundation was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Gene Haas Foundation to support scholarships for students in the Advanced Manufacturing program.
- The Foundation received a charitable grant of \$8,600 from the Valmark Financial Group for the Harper College Promise program.

Marketing Services

- Marketing Services utilizes many modalities to reach and communicate to new prospects and current students from target marketing mini campaigns, to social media, to Geofencing communities or areas. The following are the impact and results of two of the most recent targeted campaigns.

August 2018 Social Media Highlights:

- Total Impressions: **870K**
- Total Engagements: **3,064**
- Link Clicks: **3,016**
- Total Followers Gained: **2,230**

- Top Facebook Post: Governor Rauner visit article (92 reactions, 5 comments, 3,335 reach)
- Top Tweet: Outreach to Argosy University students post (8,990 reach, 3 responses, 44 clicks, 3 retweets)
- Top Instagram Posts:
 - That #Friday Feeling post of student in Harper hoodie (99 likes, 22 profile visits, 746 reach)

- Northwest Community Healthcare Outpatient Care Center opening (93 likes, 717 reach, 9 profile visits)
- Top LinkedIn Post: Governor Rauner visit article: (8,437 impressions, 364 clicks, 95 likes)

Fall 2018 High School Open House Promotion

- Promotion launched early September for the October 18 Fall Open House. This includes:
 - Geofencing and remarketing advertising campaign focused on the residences of in-district high school seniors.
 - Paid and non-paid social media across YouTube, Facebook and Instagram.
 - Reflejos print and mobile campaign. Also included is a bilingual Q&A editorial.
 - Face-to-face promo via bilingual flyer distribution.
 - Parent/counselor promotion via email and direct mail.
 - Direct mail postcard mailing to all seniors.
 - Harper website promotion.

Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- The National Institute recognized Harper as a 2018 Excellence in Assessment designee for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA). Through the Excellence in Assessment program, NILOA sets the bar for higher education learning assessment and improvement nationwide. Harper is one of only five institutions recognized this year and the only community college in this year's cohort. Harper received the designation based on its strong work in general education assessment and improvement, its use of research and best practices, and its inclusion of a wide variety of stakeholders. This fall, the Learning Assessment Committee will review feedback provided by NILOA in order to determine additional steps for improving Harper's work in learning assessment.
- The FY2019 College Plan has been published and reviewed with the Board. This comprehensive document serves as a one-stop resource for information on the planning activities of the College including the Presidential Priorities, Budget and Capital Plan, 2016-2019 Strategic Plan, and FY2019 Operational Plan.

Workforce Solutions

- Harper's Small Business Development Center helped launch another business! Ceata Lash was a graphic designer for Harper College from 2004-2014 and used the lessons she learned from the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Harper to create her business PuffCuff. Having recently won the Sally Beauty President's Innovation Award, Ceata thanked the Illinois SBDC personally for teaching her the lessons she needed to create and grow her business to where it is today. PuffCuff is on track to do \$1 million in sales by the end of 2018 and just landed a distribution deal with Sally Beauty Supply.
- United Kingdom's (UK) High Value Manufacturing Catapult (<https://hvm.catapult.org.uk/>) visited Harper College to speak with Dr. Rebecca Lake, Dr. Mary Beth Ottinger, and faculty member Aaron Kolb on August 6. Six members from the UK attended. The purpose of their visit was to understand how U.S. industrial organizations approach teaching and workforce development in advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies.
- Dr. Lake was invited as a subject matter expert by the New Jersey's Governor's Office and New America for a technical assistance workshop on August 23. The workshop was developed in collaboration with the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, the state Department of Labor and

Workforce Development, and New America, and provided an opportunity to both strengthen existing work-based learning opportunities at New Jersey colleges as well design new approaches, with particular focus on emerging opportunities for support at both the federal and state level.

Diversity and Inclusion

- For the second year in a row, Harper College has been awarded the 2018 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. As a recipient of the annual HEED Award — a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion — Harper will be featured, along with 95 other recipients, in the November 2018 issue of *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine.
- Cristian Martinez, Ph.D., began his first semester as a Diverse Faculty Fellow in the Math and Science Division. Cristian comes to Harper from the University of Illinois at Chicago where he completed a Ph.D. in Biology specializing in entomology (he's really great with insects). His team of faculty mentors include Anthony Miniuk, Biology, and Mukila Maitha, Geography, as well as Dean Kathy Bruce and Stephanie Whalen, Chair of the Academy for Teaching Excellence.
- The Social Justice Leadership Certificate program inaugurated this year with the first cohort of faculty and staff describing their experiences attending the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity, which was held in May 2018; as well as preliminary ideas for their final projects. The Social Justice Leadership Certificate is a yearlong professional development program to cultivate employee capacity to support Harper's diversity and inclusion initiatives.
- The Diversity Scorecard launched this semester as a dynamic online dashboard through Harper's employee portal. The scorecard is an accountability instrument that allows the employees to see the College's progress in the hiring and retention of diverse employees as well as other factors such as professional development in diversity.

Legislative Affairs

- Governor Bruce Rauner visited Harper College in August to sign legislation aimed at giving community colleges and four-year institutions the tools they need to better serve students with financial aid plans, an expanded application of credit transfers and increased student counseling. Rauner signed HB 5020, which revises MAP grants to give priority access for existing recipients. Currently, MAP grants are administered on a one-year basis and students are not guaranteed one the next year. Rauner also signed SB 2354, which makes it easier for students to transfer credits from one Illinois school to another – including reverse transfer credits from four-year colleges and universities to community colleges.
- The General Assembly remains adjourned until the November Veto Session, which runs November 15-18 and November 27-29. Helene Miller Walsh, the wife of conservative radio host and former Republican Congressman Joe Walsh, was selected to fill the vacancy of Representative Nick Sauer. Walsh will face Libertyville teacher Mary Edly-Allen in the November election for the 51st House District, which includes parts of Barrington.
- Several local and state elected officials came to campus for the Foglia Foundation Health and Recreation Center dedication on September 10 including State Representative Tom Morrison, State Representative David Harris, State Senator Laura Murphy, State Senator Cristina Castro, Palatine Mayor Jim Schwantz and Barrington Village President Karen Darch.

Media Relations

- The *Daily Herald* ran a front-page article about the new Foglia Foundation Health and Recreation Center.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Harper placing a referendum question on the November ballot.
- *Journal and Topics* newspaper also ran an article about the referendum. WBBM 780 radio mentioned the bond measure in its news recap.
- Harper student Elissa Schimmel, a Promise Scholar who graduated from Barrington High School a year early, was quoted in a Reuters column about college affordability. The column has run in outlets including U.S. News and World Report.
- While most Chicago-area media outlets focused on the off-topic question-and-answer session that took place following Governor Rauner's signing of two higher education bills, his visit was covered by ABC, CLTV, WGN, WGN 720 radio, Capital Fax, *Daily Herald*, *Chicago Tribune* and *Chicago Sun-Times*. The Illinois Community College Trustees Association distributed the *Daily Herald* article to its listserv.
- The *Chicago Tribune* ran an article about a fashion show fundraiser featuring local designers. At the reception, Harper student and "up-and-coming designer" Jennifer Hanna was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about the Education and Work Center in Hanover Park starting to offer select credit classes focused on manufacturing and business.
- The *Chronicle of Higher Education* mentioned Harper being named one of five colleges and universities – and the only community college – named as 2018 Excellence in Assessment Designees.
- Harper has been mentioned in various publications about its partnership with OpenStax to increase the use of free textbooks.
- Harper's Transition Autism Program was lauded in the Exceptional Parent blog.
- AZCentral.com, part of the USA Today network, mentioned Harper in an article about Arizona community colleges eliminating their football programs.
- The *Daily Herald* sports section ran a digest about the Harper women's volleyball team going 3-1 at the Waubensee invite.

Community Relations

- On August 10, Harper College participated in the Better Together Back to School event sponsored by Partners for our Community. Families from school districts 15 and 211 received backpacks and school supplies. Various community organizations participated in the resource fair. Information about Harper Promise Scholarship, Adult Education and community events was distributed along with fun Harper prizes.

- Over the last month, the Communications team has been conducting internal and external presentations to inform the community on Harper's Campus Master Plan and the referendum that will be on the November 6 ballot. Harper Ambassadors have conducted more than 16 presentations for faculty, staff, students and business leaders. District residents have received an informational postcard and may also find information at harpercollege.edu/strongfuture. Presentations will continue throughout September and October.

Student Communication

- Less than one-year after launching the MyHarper Portal, the overwhelming majority of students report they can easily find the information they need; 87.6% of CCSSE respondents agreed or strongly agreed that, "the information I need is easy to find in the MyHarper portal." A team continues working to enhance the portal and will be collecting additional student feedback this academic year.

President's Priorities Update

1. Advocates for Students and Educational Plan

- The second year of the case management approach to advising is underway; 60% of tuition-bearing, credit students were assigned an advisor/counselor at the beginning of fall 2018, which represents a 23% increase from the beginning of fall 2017. Spring to fall retention was higher for case managed students with 64.7% fall registration compared to 49.7% fall registration for non-case managed students.
- The Center for New Students served 2,700 students at New Student Orientation this summer. Approximately 70% of students who attended New Student Orientation met with an academic advisor from their declared Area of Interest team. Academic advisors in Student Development are generalists, but are organized into Area of Interest teams, one factor used in assigning students to their academic advisor.

2. First Year Seminar

- Nearly 1,200 students are enrolled in a First Year Seminar or another Start Smart offering for the fall 2018 semester. Additional offerings are planned for the spring 2019 semester and enrollment in the program are expected to exceed last year's total.

3. Buildings F, M and Canning Center

- **Building F Renovations** – The Building F renovation is complete.
- **Building M Renovations and Addition** – The project is substantially complete and the building is open.
- **Canning Center** – Appropriation of the funding for the Canning Center project was approved by the State of Illinois. The Capital Development Board (CDB) requested authorization to proceed with the required 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.

4. Promise Program Funding

- Year-to-date Harper Promise Scholarship is at \$12,591,098.00 with 685 donors.

5. Improve Distance Education Offerings

- Identify opportunities to increase summer online offerings by December 2018.

The application has been updated to include an option for students to express interest in taking online/blended courses. Approximately 1,000 students selected this option in the Fall 2018 semester. The Distance Learning Manager in the Academy is working with Marketing on a communication plan to target these recent applicants. This summer, a communication plan will be developed to target potential reverse transfer students. Additionally, work has begun to develop online Start Smart offerings. Conversations will occur this semester with the Integrative Learning Committee before making the decision to offer these in Summer 2019.

- Continue to implement the course design review process for 15% of total online course sections by June 2019.

The Distance Course Design Review (CDR) process is underway for the 2018-19 Academic Year. Twenty courses (72 sections) are planned to be reviewed this year which will constitute approximately 17% of distance format sections. These courses include the remaining 0-15 courses and AAS in Business Administration courses that have not yet been reviewed.

- Train at least 20 new online instructors by June 2019.

Teaching Online Successfully courses are running during the Fall 2018 semester and will be offered during the Spring and Summer 2019 semesters. To date, 29 faculty members are registered for a Teaching Online Successfully course, of which 19 are new to teaching distance education. These numbers reflect registrants, not completers. Upon completion, they will become eligible to teach in a distance format.

This is the time of year I visit with all of the student athletes participating in fall sports. My message is simple: Finish. Finish the game, the match, the degree. If you don't quit you will not be beaten...you may lose, however, you will not be beaten. A simple message and one that extends to life in every meaningful way. I am thinking about this a lot lately and plan on "running through the tape." I am looking forward to next nine months.

Ken