

President's Report

October 2018

As I arrived this morning to prepare the President's Report, an autumn chill was in the air. No doubt, our Facilities staff are readying the plows and salt for another battle with a true Chicago winter. So much occurs on our campus "behind the scenes" to assure that our Harper community is safe, sound and secure. In this month's report, in the campus news section, you will read about the unheralded work of our staff as they provide continuous support to the maintenance and development of the campus. Join me in saluting all they do "behind to scenes" to maintain an environment conducive to teaching and learning.

The entire College community has been involved in providing information to our District residents and partners about the forthcoming capital bond referendum question that will be on the November 6 ballot. Special thanks to all students, faculty and staff who have been involved with informational seminars, get-out-the-vote campaigns, and preparing and distributing informational literature. The referendum question was developed with a great deal of input from the community. That input identified clear priorities, which include critical infrastructure improvements for the next decade. November 6 will be an extremely important and pivotal day for the College as our community determines the outcome of the proposed capital program.

Earlier this semester we launched our sixth cohort of the Harper Leadership Institute. We continue to see high interest in the program. In fact, 19 individuals have already been identified for the seventh cohort. Dr. Michael Bates currently leads this program and he has done a wonderful job assuring the program remains relevant and respected by our employees. This will be his last year leading the program and Sue Contarino from our Information Technology Division will lead it next year. She is currently assisting Mike, as he transitions out of the role. This provides her the opportunity to prepare for next year.

Last Friday, the College hosted the annual Diversity Symposium, which focused on our growing Latinx community. This event has steadily grown in importance to us as our diversity and inclusion agenda has, in turn, evolved and grown. Our shared governance Diversity and Inclusion Committee leads this effort and is assisted by Dr. Pearl Ratunil, Special Assistant to the President for Diversity and Inclusion. Thanks to all for presenting an excellent program for the campus community.

As we approach mid-term of the semester, we are an extremely busy institution. See below for highlights of the last 30 days.

Student Success

- Harper students were invited to Northrop Grumman to celebrate Manufacturing Day on Monday, October 1. During this visit, students heard a speaker discuss the importance of technical training and the vast career opportunities available, and toured the facility. Harper College has been working with Northrop Grumman for the last three years in a partnership to give students an academic experiential learning opportunities. To date, more than 20 current students or graduates are working as Northrop Grumman employees.
- The Health and Recreation Center's professional staff successfully recruited, hired and trained 45 student employees. Over the course of the current school year, they plan to add about 15 more positions. Student employees work between 10-20 hours per week depending on their availability and school load.
- During the first 40 days of operation, the Health and Recreation Center checked in more than 16,000 users—73% were students.
- Hospitality students cooked and served at the Holy Family Fall Festival on September 22. Several local restaurants participated including a special appearance by Iron Chef America Judge Chef Mario Rizzotti. The money raised from the Fall Festival supports those in need.
- This summer Admissions Outreach began holding interactive web seminars aimed to help students make key decisions in their enrollment process. These recorded sessions use interactive technology to provide consistent information on-demand while giving students a chance to ask important questions through chat rooms that have traditionally been answered in live on-campus sessions. Geared toward the adult population, these pilot online seminars provided a general overview of Harper, a deeper dive into our academic programs and gave encouraging stories of student success to keep potential students engaged.
- More than 1,400 students responded to the 2018 New Student Orientation Survey this summer; 98.8% strongly agreed or agreed that they felt welcomed at Orientation.
- Communication Services for the Deaf (CSD) partnered with Harper in hosting an event on October 18. CSD is a nonprofit organization that provides a multitude of programs and services for the deaf community so CSD wants to educate our local community on what they do. This great partnership opportunity allows us to bring resources to our students and the community.
- The Engage for Change event occurred on October 2. This is a partnership with several high school deaf programs and the National Deaf Center. Deaf community members, parents of deaf children, and professionals from high schools, vocational rehab, college disability services, and community organizations serving people with disabilities attended the event to discuss how to improve the outcomes of deaf students once they graduate from high school.
- The Building Energy System Technology (B.E.S.T.) Lab ribbon cutting ceremony took place on September 28. This event was well attended by industry professionals, many of whom donated equipment for this state-of-the-industry lab.

Facilities Management

- The scope of work for the reconstruction of Parking Lot 1 includes reconstruction to address settlement issues, storm water management requirements, and vehicular and pedestrian traffic flow improvements. The project is substantially complete.

- The scope of work for the 2018 Summer Improvements 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 C classroom upgrades and Building Z faculty offices 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.
- 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. Replacement of the boiler burners and the deaerator is substantially complete. The remaining work is scheduled to be complete in November 2018.
- The scope of work for the Building W Renovation includes the remodeling of Room W202 into two collaborative meeting rooms to support conference center services. The project is substantially complete.
- The scope of work for the Building D Mass Communication Lab and Math Classroom Buildout project includes building out D102A to create a computer lab and a studio space for the Mass Communication Program and a classroom for the Math Department. This construction will commence on October 22, 2018.

Information Technology

- The student systems had several improvements and upgrades. A new view for Promise students is displayed on the Promise student's homepage of the Student Portal, which displays the student's Promise Scholarship requirement status. Single Sign on (SSO) for the Student Test History application was configured and installed. The SSO feature allows students, faculty, and staff to directly access the Test History application from the student portal without having to enter their log in credentials. Several financial aid patches were installed to prepare for the 2017/2018 Fiscal Operation Report and Application to Participate (FISAP) report submittal. The 2017/2018 Gainful Employment report package was updated in preparation of the federally required October submission.
- The team completed several enhancements to classrooms and student lab space. In support of the new Building Environmental Systems Training (B.E.S.T.) Lab, 16 laptops were configured with specialized software to be used in the Building Automation Systems (BAS) classes. New Dental Hygiene software was installed on all of the workstations in the Dental Hygiene labs and clinic. Geographic Information System (GIS), the software used by the Geography Department, was upgraded with new geographic information and functionality. The Extron firmware was updated on the podium workstations in all 280+ classrooms to provide a fix to the power reset problem that was being experienced. Installation of technology in the Exhibition Space in the David K. Hill Family Library was completed. This technology allows presenters to use their own device or a Harper provided device.

Finance and Administrative Services

- HarperStore completed the implementation of their ConnectOnce and Follett Discover programs that will allow the use of Discover Adopt and Discover Access. Discover Adopt provides simplified tools for managing the course materials adoption process, enhanced search functions, and the ability to include non-textbook media with a course. The program supports the use of affordable course material alternatives such as Open Educational Resources (OER) and Inclusive Access (course materials charged as a course fee). Discover Access provides a way for students to view and access their course materials when they log into Blackboard and provides access to digital course materials and Inclusive Access materials by the first day of classes.

Advancement

- The HOPE Giving Circle hosted a fall social event, a wine and chocolate pairing, on Friday, October 12, at the Wojcik Conference Center. Thirty-five registered for the event, which is hosted in partnership with Harper College Continuing Education. Women learned about pairing wines and chocolates as well as the mission of the HOPE Giving Circle. Student scholarship recipients and their HOPE mentors were also announced at the event.
- The HOPE Giving Circle will host “Shop and Sip” on Wednesday, November 28, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. This members only event will partner with Studio V, Harper College’s student boutique shop, to allow for a private pre-holiday shopping experience.
- Alumni and friends are invited to participate in the second Alumni and Friends Virtual 5K event running now through November 1. Registrants pay \$25 and can run anytime, anywhere at their own pace. Participants receive a t-shirt and awards will be given in specific categories and can complete the race at the newly opened Foglia Foundation Health and Recreation Center (Building M). Print and bring the 5K bib and photo ID to the registration desk and receive up to four complimentary passes for the month of October.
- The 2018 Distinguished Alumni Reception will take place on Wednesday, October 30, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The honorees include:
 - Victoria Atkinson, Associate Dean, Student Development, Harper College
 - Jim Gallo, CEO, Specialty Finishing Group
 - Donald Grant, Major, US Army (Retired)
 - John O'Halloran, ComEd Manager, Retired
 - Jordan Sadoff, CEO, Restore Hair Restoration
- More than 100 Donor Sponsored Scholarship recipients are registered for a Scholarship Orientation the week of October 15. Students will learn about the Educational Foundation and the donors that created their scholarship.
- The Harper Professional Advisors Speaker Series hosted an Economic Outlook and Update event with Carl Tannenbaum, Chief Economist for The Northern Trust on Tuesday, October 9. More than 135 people registered for the event.

- Laura Brown, Donna Harwood, Kristyn Meyer and Heather Zoldak presented five sessions at the CASE Community College for Advancement Conference held October 3-5 in California. At the HOPE Women's Giving Circle presentation, Harper College alumni and inaugural HOPE scholarship recipient Kayla Karbowski and Harper Retiree and HOPE member Linda Kolbusz-Kosan joined Laura Brown for a panel discussion.



- The Foundation partnered with the Career and Technical Programs Division and HVAC/R program to dedicate the B.E.S.T. lab on Friday, September 28. Daikin was honored for its donations to the program. More than 40 HVAC/R leaders attended the ceremony.
- On November 27, the Harper College Educational Foundation will participate in Giving Tuesday, a nationwide initiative emphasizing the importance of philanthropy in our community. Harnessing the power of social media, Giving Tuesday is a time to spread the word about the good work happening at Harper College. Throughout the month of November we will share stories about the impact of gifts and recognize those making a difference.
- This year's annual donor recognition event features Stephen Sondheim's *Follies*. The Educational Foundation is recognizing guests from the past year who have contributed \$100 or more to the Foundation on opening night Friday, November 9. Donors will enjoy a private reception prior to the show. The evening features remarks from Dr. Ender, Foundation Board President Bill Kesler, and Director Kevin Long. Special thanks to this year's sponsors: the Beaubien Family, Brenda Knox, CFP® - Financial Elements, Inc., Linda J. Lang, Carol & Paul Pankros, and Mary Jo Willis and beverage sponsor Armanetti's Rolling Meadows.
- On September 17, the Harper College Educational Foundation hosted 126 golfers at the Inverness Golf Club. The annual event raised more than \$150,000 in support of Harper College student scholarships and emerging educational initiatives. An additional 23 community members attended the Golf Open Awards Dinner featuring a live auction and remarks from Dr. Ender, scholarship recipient Judith Blaylock, and volunteer members of this year's Foundation Golf Committee. Thirty-two Harper College employees and retirees volunteered during the event, sharing their time with guests and making it a special day for the attendees. The 31st Annual Golf Open will take place on Monday, June 10, 2019, at the Inverness Golf Club.

Grants

- The College, through the Foundation, was awarded a one-year, \$80,000 competitive grant through the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Susan Harwood Training Grant Program. Harper College was selected as one of only three organizations nationally to participate in the Susan Harwood Capacity Building Pilot Program. This grant provides funding to conduct a needs assessment to assess its organizational capabilities, priorities, and needs to formulate and test program objectives that lead to the design and development of a new capacity-building plan for a full-scale occupational safety and health-training program. As a result, the College's Continuing Education department will deliver a four-hour Safety and Health Hazards Awareness Training pilot course at no cost to workers and employers.

- The College was awarded a one-year, \$225,000 grant to support the Education and Work Center (EWC) in Hanover Park. The EWC is jointly operated by Harper College and Elgin Community College (ECC) and offers classes in English as a Second Language (ESL), adult basic education (reading, math, and writing), and GED courses in English and Spanish. The Illinois workNet Center, run by Chicago-Cook Workforce Partnership, operates a satellite site in the center and provides career resources, workshops, job training assistance, and volunteer and job opportunities. Harper also provides an Introduction to Manufacturing and Safety class and ECC offers classes in Business Communication, Customer Service Solutions, Database Applications, Spreadsheet Applications, and Word Processing Applications.
- The College received \$400,000, its fifth and final year of grant funding, for the Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This is a five-year, \$2,000,000 grant that supports building technology and professional capacity to achieve Harper College's student completion agenda.

Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- The shared governance Learning Assessment Committee shared results of the spring 2018 general education assessment in critical thinking. More than 700 student artifacts were assessed. Results indicated that students performed better when using evidence to develop arguments than when making decisions or evaluating outcomes. This year, the Learning Assessment Committee will develop an improvement plan based on these results and implement a large-scale general education assessment in communication.
- On September 21, the Learning Assessment Committee, Outcomes Assessment Office, and the Academy for Teaching Excellence held the 10th Annual Assessment Conference and Share Fair. Nearly 90 employees attended the event, including a keynote address and workshop from Dr. Saundra McGuire, author of *Teach Students How to Learn*. The conference also highlighted the work of the first cohort of the Learning Assessment Community of Practice, as well as presentations from a variety of Harper faculty and staff.

Workforce Solutions

- Continuing Education and the Foundation were awarded the Susan Harwood Grant Capacity Building Pilot Program grant for \$80,000. This will allow CE to offer a four-hour Safety and Health Hazards Awareness training course to 25 workers and employers. The targeted audience will be small businesses and those with limited-English proficiency, low-literacy and others including deaf and hard-of-hearing workers.
- The Job Placement Resource Center initiated the Student Employee Excellence Development (SEED) program for student aides with an information breakfast on October 2. Student Aides as well as their supervisors were invited to learn about professional development opportunities and to register for the programs.
- Harper's apprenticeship program with Zurich North America has been awarded the 2018 Illinois Council of Community College Administrators (ICCCA) Innovation Award. Harper and Zurich have received national recognition for this partnership focusing on nontraditional apprenticeships in professional careers. The award will be presented at their annual conference in East Peoria on November 16.

- The Harper College Apprenticeship Program, led by Rebecca Lake, hosted a highly successful conference to share its apprenticeship practices with other community colleges. The conference was sponsored by the Joyce Foundation and hosted 175 participants from more than 30 states. The conference showcased Harper's work in building traditional and nontraditional apprenticeships in partnership with employers.

Diversity and Inclusion

- The Diversity Symposium, Harper's annual diversity and inclusion event, was held on Friday, October 12 at the Wojcik Conference Center. The event highlighted the inauguration of Harper's Latinx Student Success Initiative with a presentation from Assistant Provost Claudia Mercado, EdD, and a keynote by Michael Benitez, PhD, a nationally acclaimed activist-scholar, practitioner, and educator, with extensive experience in diversity issues in higher education. He is known for his down-to-earth, insightful commentary and critical perspectives on social and cultural issues.
- D & I Dialogue sessions continue for the third year with Part 1 of a two-part series offered on October 10. Since its inception, the dialogues have impacted more than 378 employees and of those, 144 employees have participated in seven hours of training in bias awareness and inclusive behaviors.

Community Relations

- Since the August Board Meeting when the Board of Trustees voted to place a referendum on the November ballot, the Communications team has been conducting internal and external information sessions. The presentations provide an update on Harper's Campus Master Plan. Over the last two months, more than 30 information sessions have been conducted.
- Community Engagement with district elementary and middle schools is in full swing. Over the past three weeks, we have hosted more than 600 students for tours. The Chemistry Club and the Harper Mobile Unit participated in Lincoln Elementary's STEAM Night on October 4. School tours will continue through the beginning of December with an estimated 1,600 students visiting campus this semester.

Legislative Affairs

- The State of Illinois finally released \$225,000 in funding for the Education and Work Center in Hanover Park. The money was originally appropriated in the 2017 budget and again in the 2018 budget, but the funds were not released until recently. State Senator Cristina Castro, Representative Fred Crespo, and Mayor Rodney Craig were instrumental in securing the release.
- Last month, Illinois Comptroller Susan Mendoza issued a report detailing the impacts that the unprecedented two-year state budget impasse had. The damage to higher education was significant. For example:
 - During the impasse, public universities and community colleges enrolled 72,196 fewer students, cut 7,490 jobs, and the state lost roughly \$948.7 million in generated economic output.
 - The Monetary Award Program (MAP) experienced a decrease in funding from \$364.1 million to \$169.8 million, a 53.36% cut. The number of MAP grants awarded continues to lag pre-impasse levels to this day.

- Official legislative activities have been quiet otherwise as the November 6 gubernatorial election nears. The General Assembly remains adjourned until the November Veto Session, which runs from November 15-18 and November 27-29.

Media Relations

- The *Daily Herald* ran a Letter to the Editor by Motorola Solutions CEO Greg Brown, who wrote how Harper's referendum will help the College's work to better train skilled workers and support innovation.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Dr. Ender speaking about Leading Through Innovation at the Schaumburg Business Association's Good Morning Schaumburg event. He called on business leaders to help him carry on the work of preparing students to be college and career ready. The *Business Ledger* also ran the story.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about students embracing the new University Center. Students pointed to the convenience of being at Harper and the ability to continue working as they work to complete a bachelor's degree.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a digest about Harper's upcoming economic update and outlook event featuring Northern Trust Chief Economist Carl Tannenbaum.
- *HR Dive* ran a feature on apprenticeship programs as a new talent recruitment strategy and Harper's partnership with Zurich.
- *Illinois Real Estate Journal* ran an article about the new Foglia Foundation Health and Recreation Center opening. Cannon Design also ran an article.
- A *Daily Herald* article about the Village of Palatine honoring firefighters killed on the job 72 years ago quoted adjunct fire science faculty Scott Uhrich and how he brought about a dozen students with him to the ceremony.
- Daikin put out a press release about its donation of equipment to the new B.E.S.T. Laboratory that was picked up by various trade publications including *Mechanical Hub* and *Renewable Energy World*.
- Northwestern University ran a story about Harper alum Kristen Scotti, a gifted scientist who has conducted experiments for NASA.
- Tooling U-SME, which works with the manufacturing community, ran a blog post by Rebecca Lake about the role of community colleges as sponsors of apprenticeship programs to help fill the skills gap.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Districts 211, 214 and 220 partnering with St. Viator High School and Harper for the 10th annual Directions College and Career Fair, which highlights post-high school options for parents of students with special needs.
- Assistant Provost Claudia Mercado wrote a powerful blog post for NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education about a call to action to support Latinx/a/o students.

- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about German cosmetics company Faber-Castell opening its first U.S. manufacturing plant in Elgin. The Illinois Department of Commerce said partners including the Illinois Manufacturers Association and Harper helped solidify the deal.

Internal Communication

- “We Are Harper” is the communication theme for this academic year. Specifically, the value and relevance of Harper, as our community’s College, is about the people we serve and the people who serve here.
- A series of videos was developed in support of the “We Are Harper” theme. The first video premiered at the fall 2018 President’s All Campus Meeting. It focused on faculty and staff stories from across the campus and was ranked as one of the top three elements of the fall 2018 President’s All Campus Meeting. We are continuing to tell the “We Are Harper” story by highlighting individual stories throughout the semester. Below is one example.

“We Are Harper” All Campus
<https://youtu.be/SnVDEz39Tp0>



President’s Priorities Update

1. Advocates for Students and Educational Plan

Students who meet with their advisor during their first semester experience a 20-23% increase in critical student success metrics as compared to students who did not meet with their assigned advisor. These metrics include fall to spring persistence, fall-to-fall persistence, and the percent of developmental students who attain college-level status within one year.

2. First Year Seminar

- The nearly 1,200 students currently enrolled in an FYS course or other Start Smart option are continuing to get college and career guidance within their Area of Interest. A recommendation to require degree-seeking students to participate in a Start Smart option beginning fall 2019 is currently being processed through the shared governance system of the College.

3. Buildings F, M and Canning Center

- **Building F Renovations** – The project is complete.
- **Building M Renovations and Addition** – The project is substantially complete.
- **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

- \$12,608,917.11 was raised for the Promise Scholarship from 697 donors as of September 30, 2018.

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, five new online instructors have been trained. Thirteen new online instructors are anticipated to receive training during the fall semester.

Very late last week we were notified by the federal Department of Education that Secretary Betsy DeVos would like to visit the College. She wishes to see firsthand the work we are doing in apprenticeships and to visit with students and staff about the new federal student financial aid app. Through the app, students can fill out the FAFSA application. The visit will take place on Thursday, October 18 from noon to 1:30 pm. We will learn details on Monday, October 15, and will mobilize our resources accordingly. It is always a great honor to welcome officials to our campus who wish to learn about our programs. This opportunity is a tribute to all the great work the College is doing to position Harper as a 21st century community college...and as always, “we make no little plans.”

Happy fall!

Ken