

President's Report

November 2018

The fall semester is flying by! As this report is being written, it appears as if winter has arrived! The Facilities staff has prepared the plows and salt trucks this week in anticipation of the full effects of winter. Over the next several months, these employees will be the unsung heroes of the College keeping us safe and warm so our work goes uninterrupted. I wish to provide a shout-out to all of them.

As the fall semester has moved past mid-terms, we have seen an uptick in enrollment. As of Friday, November 9, we are 1% down in FTE as compared to fall 2017. We believe enrollment would be at least even, if not up a bit, if we had maintained all of our dual credit offerings with District 214. We are monitoring those enrollments carefully and will continue to seek a remedy to bring those students back to Harper College.

This fall also brought the eighth consecutive National Championship for our Men's Cross Country team; the Women's Cross Country team earned their third National Championship. This is truly a remarkable achievement. Coach Jim Macnider continues to do an excellent job identifying and developing outstanding runners. These young men and women are exceptional runners and students alike. Congratulations to the teams and the coaches. We will celebrate their successes at this month's Board meeting.

We also celebrate our recent successful bond referendum. Our community supported the referendum with more than 61% voting yes to the College's request to raise \$180 million dollars in support of capital projects. This is the largest referendum in the College's history, as well as the largest affirmative vote. We thank the voters for their confidence. We also wish to thank all of those at Harper College and in the Harper community who volunteered to work toward passage of this bond authorization. Kudos to past board members Laurie Stone, Rita Canning and Dick Hoffman for their efforts in leading the community campaign. Their ongoing commitment to Harper College is just outstanding!

The campus community has had an active month. See those highlights below.

Student Success

- Harper students Misbah Baig, Rachael Temple, Taylor Kreiss, Jessi Gessner, Michael Sisko, Tony Espinoza, Jacob Melgosa, Jeff Glatz, and Jack Casey were named to the 2018 National Junior College Athletic Association All American Team for Cross Country.
- Misbah Baig was named National Junior College Athletic Association Athlete of the Year for the Central Region in Women's Cross Country.

- Jim Macnider was named National Junior College Athletic Association Cross Country Men's and Women's Coach of the Year.
- Our Title III Grant population (new, first time in college, degree-seeking students) experienced their highest fall-to-fall persistence rate since tracking began in 2013. Of those students who began in fall 2017, 72% persisted into fall 2018, which represents a six-percentage point increase from the 2013 baseline year.
- The Student Government Association was able to encourage 128 students to finalize registration applications to vote in the November 6 General Election. SGA students registered fellow students from Cook, Lake, Kane, and McHenry counties and additionally were able to register more than 20 students for Vote by Mail ballots.
- The Student Development Street Team held their second fall semester event on October 31 entitled *Don't Be Scared of Your Future*. The event, which attracted 130 currently enrolled students, was designed to help students learn new and additional information regarding Areas of Interest (AOIs).
- The Admissions Outreach team held a series of events this fall, including the Fall Open House. This event was held on Thursday, October 18, and allowed parents and students to meet instructors and coordinators within each academic Area of Interest. The Open House was a resounding success with 516 future Harper students and more than 1,000 guests in attendance.
- U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos visited Harper on Thursday, October 18, to explore our multifaceted apprenticeship program and advanced manufacturing lab, as well as solicit student feedback on a new financial aid app.
- Paula Akialis, HIT Program Coordinator and Instructor, published a learning module "Understanding Health and Healthcare Disparities of LGBT Persons" on the peer-reviewed, national online platform of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). The learning module maps to learning outcomes provided by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM). It is available to Health Information Management faculty in CAHIIM-accredited associate, baccalaureate and masters level programs.

Facilities Management

- The scope of work for the 2018 Summer Improvement Projects includes Building B entrance improvements, Building C classroom upgrades and Building P exterior envelope improvements. In addition, the Building Z faculty offices are complete. Work at Building P exterior stair continues and is scheduled to be complete in November 2018.
- The Building B Tunnel 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. Replacement of the boiler burners and the deaerator is substantially complete. The remaining work is scheduled to be complete in December 2018.
- The scope of work for the Building D Mass Communication Lab and Math Classroom Build-out includes the build-out of D102A in Building D to create a computer lab and a studio space for the

Mass Communication Program and a classroom for the Math Department. Construction has begun and is scheduled to be complete in December 2018.

Information Technology

- Several upgrades and improvements were made to the Harper Student Systems during the month of October. The Student System registration module was upgraded to Banner 9, the most current level. The upgrade of the registration module included the custom payment commitment code. Several other Banner 9 modules were updated to resolve defects in the Banner Financial Aid module. Harper's Starfish Early Alert System was updated in order to allow advisors and counselors to filter caseloads on Promise students or to filter on "reason for leaving" for those students who have left Harper.
- Amy Kaminski and Sue Contarino presented at the Special Interest Group on University and College Computing Services Conference in Orlando in October. Their presentation focused on how the Harper IT Division has incorporated a Culture of Care into the organization, providing a high level of care and service to students, faculty, and staff.

Advancement

- More than 80 scholarship recipients attended a Fall Scholarship Orientation. Scholarship orientations are given twice a year to brief recipients on the background of their scholarships. Scholarship recipients are also invited to join the Scholarship Ambassador program to further engage in opportunities. Scholarship Ambassadors have served as tour guides to first-generation college students that are currently enrolled in elementary school. Foundation Board members Bill Kesler and Nancy Castle presented on why Harper students are a philanthropic priority. Shannon Hynes, Director of Alumni Relations, also presented on the benefits and opportunity of being a Harper alum.
- Rotary International awarded The Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates Rotary Club a Global Grant with the Harper College Educational Foundation as a partner. The Global Grant is titled "Advancing Community Economics (ACE)." The primary goal of ACE is to strengthen the quality of the local workforce, especially in the areas of healthcare, manufacturing, maintenance technology and food service management. ACE will select adult students 24 years and older referred from partnering social service agencies and Harper College. ACE will award \$72,000 total over the next four semesters to cover the cost of tuition, books and associated fees for qualifying students.
- The 2018 Distinguished Alumni Reception took place on Tuesday, October 30. Nearly 150 guests gathered to recognize five outstanding alumni for leadership in their careers and community. This year's class included:

- Dr. Victoria Atkinson
Dean, Student Development, Harper College
- Jim Gallo
CEO, Specialty Finishing Group
- Donald Grant
Major, US Army, Retired
- John O'Halloran
Loyal Harper College Volunteer and ComEd
Manager, Retired
- Jordan Sadoff
CEO, Restore Hair

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



- The Distinguished Alumni Scholarship Fund provides students with needed support and recognition, inspiration to begin an education at Harper College, and encouragement to stay through completion. After graduation, the recipients of this scholarship will become the next generation of Distinguished Alumni, change makers, innovators and global citizens. At the event in October, Susana Reza was announced as the 2018-2019 Distinguished Alumni Scholarship Recipient. Susana has completed the CNA program and received her Associates in Applied Science in Dietetics at Harper. She is now currently pursuing a Nursing degree. She balances her studies along with parenting her four-year-old son and working. Her dream is to become a pediatric nurse and with the support of the Distinguished Alumni Scholarship, she can continue to pursue that dream!
- The HOPE Giving Circle hosted Women in the Room, a wine and chocolate pairing event, on Friday, October 12, on Harper's campus. About 35 HOPE members, prospective members and friends of the HOPE Giving Circle attended the social event where they enjoyed a wine and chocolate class hosted by Harper College Continuing Education program and learned more about the HOPE Giving Circle. Scholarship students and their HOPE Giving Circle mentors were announced at this fall event.
- The Polly Paine Classroom (I127) was dedicated on Thursday, November 8. The classroom was dedicated in honor of a gift made by Jody Paine to create the Polly's Kids scholarship in honor of her Aunt Polly. Polly's Kids was started for the 2018-19 academic year for two students to send their child (ages 3-5) to Harper's Early Childhood Laboratory School. The scholarship amount is up to \$11,200 annually per child. The recipient of the scholarship must be a Harper College student who is pursuing a certificate or degree. In addition, students must have maintained a 3.0 GPA, be a single parent and have financial need.
- On Friday, November 9, the Harper College Educational Foundation hosted its annual Donor Appreciation Theatre Event, presented by BMO Harris Bank, in conjunction with opening night of the Harper Ensemble Theatre Company's production of *Follies*. The Foundation recognized guests from the past year who have contributed \$100 or more. The reception was made possible through the generous support of our sponsors—The Beaubien Family, Brenda Knox, CFP® - Financial Elements, Inc., Linda J. Lang, Carol & Paul Pankros, and Mary Jo Willis, as well as our beverage sponsor Armanetti's Rolling Meadows.
- The Educational Foundation received a \$2,000 grant from Northwest Community Healthcare to support the ongoing financial needs of the Hawks Care Food Pantry.
- The Educational Foundation received approval to redirect grant funding provided by the AT&T Foundation to scholarships for health careers. The \$10,309.87 will be used to fund scholarships for students meeting specific criteria in the Radiologic Technology program, Dental Hygiene program and Nursing program.

Marketing Services

- In its first week, the University Center Spring Campaign generated 83 RSVPs for a November 12 information session. Campaign elements include:
 - Postcard to recent Harper graduates and prospects interested in UC programs.



- Boosted (paid) video post on Facebook and Instagram to promote a November 12 Information Session targeting the prerequisite populations above and an in-district audience that has little to no college and is interested in higher education. Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXLWVcDvWPw&feature=youtu.be>
- Digital campaign with Northern Illinois and Roosevelt Universities that will launch in December and includes search, online display, Facebook and Instagram ads targeting adults in-district interested in higher education and program-specific current student populations.
- Giving Tuesday “Believe 2.0”: Harper College will again feature the song “Believe,” written by digital content specialist Kevin Prchal, in its Giving Tuesday campaign. This year, musicians and performers are invited to record and share their own versions of the song. Submissions so far include one from former VOICE contestant Todd Kessler. Giving Tuesday is Tuesday, November 27.



 - Believe video gallery: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQxP7wlsY_T4CWdWpTfoL22ifn4d90eV
 - #GivingTuesdayHarper page: <https://www.harpercollege.edu/foundation/about/giving-tuesday.php>

Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- Harper College was well represented at the 2018 Assessment Institute in Indianapolis on October 22-23. Faculty and staff presented at several sessions, which included topics such as Harper’s general education assessment model, the College’s experience with the Excellence in Assessment designation, tips for leading meaningful assessment conversations, and the assessment of Harper’s Global Learning Outcomes. Joining Faon Grandinetti, Associate Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Outcomes Assessment, were the following faculty: Patty Bruner, Graphic Arts; Julie Ellefson, Chemistry; Kathi Hock, Dental Hygiene; Rich Johnson, English; and Nellie Khalil, Biology.
- The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) was administered to a random sample of students in spring 2018. Harper has administered the CCSSE every three years since 2006. CCSSE inquires about institutional practices and student behaviors that are highly correlated with student learning and retention. The CCSSE results provide Harper with data on student perceptions about their experiences at Harper College, both in the classroom and related to services and activities outside of the classroom. Harper uses these data to improve student engagement and provide optimal opportunities for positive student experiences at the College.

Workforce Solutions

- More than 200 member schools in North America have banded together in the LERN online program to cooperatively offer online classes to their students. Our Continuing Education program’s 440 registrations last year are the most registrations among LERN schools for the second year running. Darby Lanpher, CE Instructor Support Specialist, manages all aspects of the program. Interestingly, 76% of the students enrolled in our noncredit online classes only take online classes. This indicates that we are cultivating a new market segment for Continuing Education classes.

- Kathleen Canfield, Director of the Job Placement Resources Center, presented at the National Student Employment (NSEA) Conference in October. Her session was on creating training programs for student aide supervisors.
- The Job Placement Resources Center held a kick-off breakfast for student aides and their supervisors to introduce the Student Employee Excellence Development (SEED) program. This program will provide professional development workshops for student aides throughout the year.

Diversity and Inclusion

- Cristian Martinez, this year's Diverse Faculty Fellow in Biology, has been busy with presentations at local schools. He did demonstrations on entomology to fifth graders at Frost Elementary School (October 26) and Ridge Elementary School (November 9). On November 12, he spoke about his experiences as a veteran during a Veterans Day school visit to Higgins Education Center. Finally, his recent attendance at the Illinois Association of Community College Biologist conference on October 12-13 led to him winning a raffle for a \$400 scholarship for one of his students.
- Harper's Employee Resource Groups (ERG) organize and plan a number of diversity and inclusion events and workshops, and November is a busy month. An ERG is a group of employees, from various employment groups, who assist the College in creating an environment and culture that is welcoming and supportive of all employees but particularly those individuals who are members of historically underrepresented populations.
 - LAND (Learning about Abilities, Not Disabilities) partnered with Access and Disability Services to host a "Cornerstone for Success" presentation by the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater wheelchair basketball team on October 25. UW-Whitewater team talked about their disabilities and the successful lives they lead on the court and off the court. The team gave the audience an opportunity to participate in a wheelchair basketball scrimmage.
 - Another employee resource group called SAFE (Staff, Administrators, and Faculty for Equality at Harper) is conducting a training called SafeZone on November 16. The Safe Zone Training aims to increase the awareness, knowledge and skills for individuals to address the challenges that exist when one wants to advocate for their LGBTQIA+, inclusive of gender identity and gender expression, peers, family members, friends, coworkers and themselves
 - DREAM (Diverse Relationships Engaged in Affirming Multiculturalism) conducts a mentoring program that assists professionals with becoming acclimated and connected to the vision and the mission of Harper College and the students we serve. Six pairs of mentor and mentee partners have been selected for the academic year. As part of the mentoring program, they will experience two professional development workshops during November covering a variety of topics including Shared Governance Title IX and One Million Degrees.

Communications

- The National Council of Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) recognized Harper College with two Medallion awards at its District 3 conference in Toledo, OH. Harper received a gold Medallion in the category of Special Event or Fundraising Campaign for the 50th Anniversary

Celebration as well as a silver Medallion in the Excellence in Writing category for an article on Brayan Aguirre, a DACA student, written by Kim Pohl.

- Kim Pohl and Jeff Julian traveled to Toledo for the NCMPR District 3 professional development conference and presented a session on crisis communications entitled “Being Prepared: Tips and Ideas to Refresh Your Crisis Communications Plans.” Jeff also volunteers as Assistant Director of NCMPR District 3, which comprises two-year college PR and marketing professionals from Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan and the Canadian province of Ontario.

Community Relations

- Over the past two and a half months, the Communications team has conducted more than 55 internal and external information sessions about the referendum. Information sessions updated community leaders, Harper students and Harper faculty/staff about the College’s campus master plan. A very big thank you to everyone that helped with the presentations and distribution of materials.
- Amie Granger, Community Relations Manager, is a member of multiple community committees and boards. Recently, she was invited to join the District 15 Committee for Educational Excellence (DACEE). DACEE consists of multiple community organizations in Palatine, Rolling Meadows and Inverness. The focus of the committee is to share ideas and opinions to help D15 better understand the community’s expectations. Amie also serves on the board of the GOA Regional Business Association and the steering committee of United Palatine Coalition.
- Harper has been well represented at various school and community events throughout the fall. On October 10, Amie Granger conducted a career exploration activity with the 5th grade class at Frost Elementary (D59) in Mount Prospect. Craig Stettner attended the Jane Addams Elementary (D15) Literacy Night in Palatine on October 25. Students are reading *Charlotte’s Web* and had the opportunity to get a close-up look at some of Craig’s eight-legged friends. The Mobile Unit and Chemistry Club also attended the Palatine Public Library STEAM Event on Saturday, November 3. More than 400 people attended the inaugural event.

Legislative Affairs

- U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos visited Harper on October 18 to learn about the College’s apprenticeship program and hear directly from students and financial aid staff about their experience using the new myStudentAid app. After a roundtable discussion, Secretary DeVos toured the manufacturing lab and learned about Harper’s partnerships with local employers.
- The Gubernatorial Election held Tuesday, November 6, included voters approving Harper College’s referendum with approximately 61 percent of the vote. More than 106,000 voters cast “yes” ballots. The election also brought several notable changes to the College’s federal and state delegation of elected officials. Please note that these are unofficial election results as mail-in ballots are still being counted in some races.

Federal

6th Congressional District
Sean Casten (D) defeated Congressman Peter Roskam (R)*

8th Congressional District
Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (D)* defeated J.D. Diganvker (R)

9th Congressional District
Jan Schakowsky (D)* defeated John Elleson (R)

10th Congressional District
Brad Schneider (D)* defeated Doug Bennett (R)

State

26th State Senate District
Senator Dan McConchie (R)* defeated Tom Georges (D)

27th State Senate District
Ann Gillespie (D) defeated Senator Tom Rooney (R)*

29th State Senate District
Senator Julie Morrison (D)* defeated Barrett Davie (R)

44th State Representative District
Rep. Fred Crespo (D)* defeated Katy Dolan Baumer (R)

51st State Representative District
Rep. Helene Miller Walsh (R)* v. Mary Edly-Allen (D)
Please note: Edly-Allen leads Miller Walsh by three votes but ballot counting continues.

52nd State Representative District
Rep. David McSweeney (R)* reelected (ran unopposed).

53rd State Representative District
Mark Walker (D) defeated Eddie Corrigan (R)

54th State Representative District
Rep. Tom Morrison (R)* defeated Maggie Trevor (D)

55th State Representative District
Rep. Mary Moylan (D)* defeated Marilyn Smolenski (R)

56th State Representative District
Rep. Michelle Mussman (D)* defeated Jillian Bernas (R)

57th State Representative District
Rep. Jonathan Carroll (D)* reelected (ran unopposed).

59th State Representative District
Daniel Didech (D) defeated Carol Feldman (R)

**Denotes incumbent.*

- The Illinois House and Senate will reconvene for Veto Session on November 13-15 and November 27-29.

Media Relations

- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about the Harper referendum passing by an overwhelming margin.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos' visit. *Politico* referenced the article in its national Morning Education column, and the *Chicago Sun-Times* mentioned the visit in an article about the Chicago Teachers Union protesting another stop of hers downtown. *WGN*, *Fox 32*, *CLTV* and *NPR's All Things Considered* mentioned the visit during their broadcasts.
- The *Daily Herald Editorial Board* gave Harper's referendum a positive endorsement, writing that Harper has developed into a jewel of the Northwest suburbs that is a proud and innovative institution of higher education and workforce retraining, an active partner and a careful steward of taxpayer dollars. The plan's priorities, according to the endorsement, are needed improvements, well thought out and responsibly planned. The paper mentioned the endorsement in several endorsement summary lists. The *Illinois Community College Trustees Association* also distributed the endorsement article to its listserv.
- *Community College Daily* mentioned Harper's referendum and its three priorities in an article about races to watch.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a digest on Harper hosting the 18th annual Latino Summit.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Harper working to tackle the skills gap through initiatives such as apprenticeships, advisory committees and partnerships with area businesses.
- *CIO Review* published an article about Harper's cybersecurity apprenticeship program.
- A *Chicago Tribune* article highlighted bigger referenda in the area including Harper's, focusing on the university center partnerships.
- In a funding roundup article, *Community College Daily* mentioned Harper being selected to receive a \$15,000 Delphi Award for its comprehensive efforts to revamp the adjunct faculty evaluation process.
- The *Journal and Topics* ran an article about Harper the Village of Palatine approving an intergovernmental agreement to extend the existing bike path to the west side of campus.
- *Legat Architects* put together a [video](#) on the renovation of the David K. Hill Family Library.
- In an *Elgin Courier-News* article about Harting USA expanding its Elgin headquarters, Leslie Munger, deputy governor and acting director of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, said the company's commitment to become involved in the community has already been seen in its work with Harper.
- The *Business Ledger* ran an article about the success of Michael O'Connor, owner of the Schaumburg company Innovative Components. It highlights his company's partnership with Harper's apprenticeship program.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article in its Neighbor section about Harper's upcoming production of "Follies."

- The *Daily Herald* ran a sports article about Harper's cross-country teams competing for national titles.

President's Priorities Update

1. Advocates for Students and Educational Plan

- Advisors have been busy reaching out to students and responding to Starfish early alert flags raised by faculty. As of mid-October, there has been a 13 percent increase in the number of faculty-raised flags compared to the same period last fall semester, as well as a 26-percentage point increase in the number of flags that have already been cleared by advisors.
- New mechanisms were developed within Starfish to support advisors in the management of their assigned students. Advisors are now able to filter their caseload on students' academic Area of Interest in addition to filtering based on whether a student has a documented Leaving Harper note. In addition, a new counselor referral flag was created to support referring students who need additional support to our counseling faculty.

2. First Year Seminar

- We continue to move the Start Smart Requirement Recommendation through shared governance. We have been recruiting faculty to teach Start Smart as well as increasing the number of embedded Start Smart offerings. The Start Smart Work Group continues to discuss the implementation process, should the recommendation be approved.
- During the fall semester, students from nine First Year Seminar and Smart Start classes are participating in the Game of Life activity presented by the Office of Student Financial Assistance staff. This activity provides them with a practical experience about the realities of preparing a budget and managing their finances.

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

- As of September 30, the total raised for Promise is \$12,608,917.11 with 697 donors.

5. Improve Distance Education Offerings

- Identify opportunities to increase summer online offerings by December 2018.
 - All fall 2017, spring 2018, and fall 2018 applicants who applied but did not enroll are being included in a Marketing campaign that promotes online course opportunities.

- A marketing campaign is being developed to promote historically popular summer courses among potential reverse transfer students.
- FYS101 – Focus on College Learning will be offered in online and blended formats during the summer 2019 semester. Outreach with each high school district is being planned to raise awareness of this opportunity among recent high school graduates. This course is particularly relevant for students who are interested in working during the summer to retest in ALEKS in order to place into higher-level developmental or college-level math.
- 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 being 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.

As we head into the Thanksgiving holiday, I wish to take a moment to thank all of those whose service and leadership on behalf of the College enables us to be the remarkable institution we are. Students, faculty, staff and community members all have a hand in assuring that Harper is a viable institution serving the citizens of District 512. Leadership on behalf of the College is shared among many. I feel so blessed to be a part of that community of people. Thanks to all for making Harper the remarkable institution that it is.

Enjoy the holiday and be thankful for your family and friends this Thanksgiving. Have a wonderful holiday weekend.

Ken