

President's Report

April 2019

Wow! It is hard to believe that graduation is less than four weeks away. As most would attest, we are certainly “running through the tape” and determined to have successful conclusions to both the academic and fiscal years! Our students and faculty are busy finishing up the academic year with finals on the horizon and graduation soon to follow. Fiscally, the College will end the year in solid shape with dollars available to re-invest in our strategic and capital initiatives.

I mentioned previously at the Committee Meeting of the Whole that I was pleased to receive a recommendation from the shared governance system that requires students to complete a Start Smart or First Year Experience course. The recommendation states that all new degree-seeking students with fewer than 12 hours of college credit earned after completing high school be required to participate in this type of experience within their first two semesters at Harper. We have no doubt that this requirement will increase student persistence, completion and success. We should continue to make impressive gains in our graduation rates because of this solid start for our students. Certainly our 33% graduation rate will soon be surpassed as our various initiatives build more student momentum and completion.

We are so pleased that, for the fourth consecutive year, a Harper leader will become an Aspen Fellow. Dr. Claudia Mercado, Assistant Provost for Enrollment Services, has been selected for the next cohort. As you may recall, Dr. Mark Mrozinski participated in the first group, Dr. Jennifer Berne in the second and this year Brian Knetl and Michelé Smith are finishing this intensive and engaging immersion into community college leadership focusing on student success outcomes. Congratulations, Claudia.

This week the Board of Trustees will consider two unique recommendations at the Board meeting. First, we are recommending that the learning prairie that is used for many science classes be named in honor of the late Professor Craig Stettner. Craig was a dedicated and generous faculty member who was well regarded by students, staff and faculty. He will be missed, but this naming provides the opportunity for those of us who knew him to remember him fondly and in a very meaningful way. Secondly, we are recommending Greg and Anna Brown be awarded honorary Harper degrees. These two individuals have given their time, talents and treasure to the College in support of the Promise Scholarship Program. This is a wonderful way to acknowledge their dedication and connection to Harper.

There is a lot happening on campus, as you will see below.

Student Success

- The official IPEDS three-year graduation rate for first time in college, full-time students was recently released for the cohort that began in fall 2015. Approximately 33% of those students earned a credential within three years, which represents a record high and an almost four-percentage increase from the previous fall 2014 cohort.
- Nine Harper students attended the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Conference in New York City. WHCM was nominated in the following categories: Best On-Air Personality, Best Specialty Show, Best Morning Show, Best Poster, Best Event Promo, and Best Sports Play-by-Play. Student Keith "Maurice" Harris was named the Best College Radio On-Air Personality in the nation. While our sports entry did not win, it was singled out at the awards show for being the first ever entry for play-by-play of E-Sports, a growing field in college athletics.
- The Harper Hawks wrestling team won the 2019 NJCAA Non-Scholarship National Championship. Coach Dan Loprieno was named Coach of the Year. Michial Foy and Tristan Guaman achieved All-American recognition.
- Harper College has been selected by the NJCAA Championship Events Committee, with the approval of the Board of Regents, to host the 2020 NJCAA DIII Men's and Women's Cross Country Championship on November 14, 2020.
- Harper's Honors Program hosted the annual gathering of Honors Program students from across the state. Participating schools included the College of DuPage, Eastern Illinois University, Elmhurst College, Governors State University, Heartland Community College, Northeastern Illinois University, Southern Illinois University, and the University of Illinois, Chicago. The event included presentations on a wide range of topics: images of Muslims in the media, the efficacy of standardized testing, the importance of literature in the classroom, the #MeToo movement, controversies around "safe spaces" in colleges/universities, the use of "dangerous words" (pertaining to race and gender), and much more.
- Harper Hawks Speech & Debate competed at the Illinois Intercollegiate Forensics Association Tournament and took home the title of 2019 State Debate Champions. The students won state champion, semi-finalist, quarter-finalist, and 2nd place through 6th place in categories such as impromptu speaking, extemporaneous speaking, informative speaking, parliamentary debate, public debate, speech to entertain, dramatic and duo interpretation. Harper also took home a title at the Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament.
- Harper Hawks Speech & Debate Team finished fourth in debate sweepstakes and sixth in speech sweepstakes at nationals. The Hawks took home gold in two of the 13 speaking events, boasting national champions in impromptu speaking and debate. Nine of Harper's 36 events made it to final rounds. The coaching staff are not only proud of the team's competitive accomplishment, but also of their development as strong communicators, writers, critical thinkers, researchers, problem-solvers and leaders.
- Admissions Outreach hosted the Spring Open House, with partnership across the college, welcoming more than 900 students and family members in Building A. This served as an opportunity for prospective high school students and families to engage with faculty about academic programs and learn about possible career options, and support services on campus. Specialized breakout sessions gave students the opportunity to have unique experiences for their personal interests at Harper.

- Sponsored by the Academic Advising Street Team “Popcorn for your Plan” took place on April 9 outside of the One Stop Lab in Building A. This event was designed to get students interacting with Degree Works to ensure a successful plan to completion or “Flight Path” is underway.
- One Million Degrees (OMD) at Harper hosted its annual “It’s Who You Know” Speed Networking event at The Garlands in Barrington. From dressing professionally to selling themselves through their elevator pitch, this event provided 36 OMD scholars with the opportunity to put into practice the professional skills they have learned throughout their time in the program.
- Access and Disability Services (ADS) recently partnered with Shireen Hafeez, the founder of DeafKidsCode, to provide DeafKidsCode workshops for 75 deaf and hard of hearing high school students in Illinois and Minnesota. The DeafKidsCode workshop offers hands-on STEM activities for the students with a goal of creating interest in STEM as a career option.

Facilities Management

- 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 June 30, 2019.
- The scope of work for the Building A, Room A364 Remodeling, Academic Advising project includes minor remodeling of A364 to accommodate the space needs for the Student Development Division. Construction is substantially complete.
- The scope of work for the 2018 Winter projects includes Building H project room and Entrepreneurship Center remodeling, Building L artwork display lighting, Building Y Data Center temporary air conditioning power tie-in to fire suppression system, Room X264 lighting modifications and Building Y online testing lab remodeling and electrical lab improvements. Construction is substantially complete with the exception of Building Y Data Center, which will be substantially completed by May 31, 2019.
- The scope of work for the Utility Sub-Metering Project Phase I includes installation of a domestic water booster pump at Building D and utility metering devices within Buildings L, R, and Z. Construction is substantially complete.
- The scope of work for the Avante’ Chiller Project includes rebuilding two chillers serving Buildings X, Y, and Z. Construction is substantially complete.
- The scope of work for Building R, Fly Tower Roofing, includes the replacement of the roofing system and the installation rigging for window washing equipment. Construction is underway and scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2019.

Information Technology

- Banner system upgrades and improvements included the upgrade of Banner 9 Student Self-Service modules that in addition to providing new features also provides a modern look and feel to student self-service pages such as class roster, view grades and student profile.

- The latest Banner SIS financial aid patch was installed. The patch was necessary to correct Pell errors. The Banner SIS procedures were modified to remind CE instructors about midterm and final grade requirements.
- Updates were made to the Banner SIS export list that is sent to Spectrum software used in the fitness center. The new updated export includes faculty and staff that are enrolled in credit courses.
- Modifications were made to Degree Works to provide the Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) with view access to the student plan and registered courses. The view access will assist the OSFA with processing SAP and SOAP appeals.

Finance and Administrative Services

- After a request for proposal process in July 2015, the College entered into a three-year vending services agreement with Sodexo America, LLC, to provide cold beverages, hot beverages and snacks on campus. The agreement provided for up to four additional one-year renewal options. Based on their service and competitive commissions, the College is exercising its second annual option to renew the agreement from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020. The agreement provides for a minimum annual guaranteed vending commission payment of \$117,000. Last year Sodexo partnered with Farmer's Fridge to provide salads, sandwiches and snacks made fresh daily through three of their automated "smart fridges" located on campus.

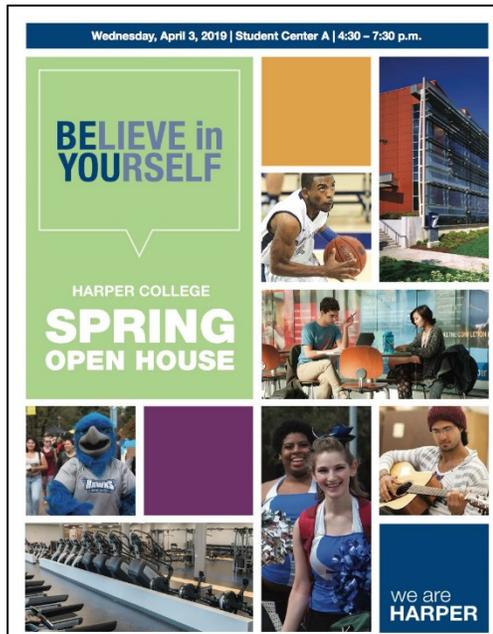
Advancement

- Employees celebrated the excellent work happening at Harper College during this year's "We Are Harper" Employee Giving Campaign from March 11-22. This year, 50.2% of Harper College employees elected to make a donation in support of students. Because Harper employees gave, students will have access to educational opportunities and colleagues will receive much-needed funds for innovative projects through Resource for Excellence grants.
- The 31st Annual Harper College Educational Foundation Golf Open will take place on June 10, 2019, at the prestigious Inverness Golf Club. This year's event honors Dr. Kenneth Ender's 10 years of exemplary leadership as president of Harper College. The Golf Open supports the Research for Excellence fund, which helps fulfill the promise of a brighter tomorrow by supporting student scholarships and providing seed funding for emerging programs at Harper College.
- Harper College is now accepting nominations for the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Awards, including the new award for Outstanding Recent Alumni. Nominees may self-nominate or be nominated by someone else. Please visit harpercollege.edu/alumni and click on Nominate Distinguished Alumni for the award criteria, nominating instructions and applications. The deadline is 5 p.m. on May 17, 2019. For questions or additional information contact 847.925.6701, alumni@harpercollege.edu or harpercollege.edu/alumni.
- Thirty-seven alumni and students signed up for the inaugural Harper College Alumni Virtual Mentoring Program. The program, which launched on March 1, gives students and recent alumni a chance to connect with a virtual alumni mentor. Six Harper College Distinguished Alumni matched with a student or alumni in this inaugural program. Mentoring **is taking place** virtually – via email, phone, or web chat. The mentee has the opportunity to seek career guidance, ask questions, and learn from their mentor's success.

- The HOPE Giving Circle hosted “Women at the Table,” a panel-style breakfast event in March. Nearly 50 women attended the event that featured women in public service including State Senator Cristina Castro, State Representative Michelle Mussman, Barrington Village President Karen Darch, and Alva Kreutzer, Immediate Past President District 214 Board of Education. Panelists discussed leadership successes and issues facing today’s women in leadership positions.
- Eric Pan is the newest member of the Foundation Board. Eric is the area president at Arthur J. Gallagher. He leads a team of Chicago-based commercial brokers with niche expertise in higher education, public entity, K-12 schools, religious, non-profit, and insurance pools. Arthur J. Gallagher is located in Rolling Meadows.
- The Major Gifts Committee hosted a prospective donor event at the Barrington White House on March 1. The event was geared to the next generation of prospects from the Barrington community. More than 50 guests attended. Kim Scanlan, a 220 graduate and 2011 Harper alumnus from the Fashion Design program, spoke about her Harper experiences and how they prepared her for her career in fashion design.
- Harper College Alumni program partnered with Zurich North America to host a Stand Up and Be Counted event at Zurich’s headquarters on April 3. Nearly 50 alumni and current apprentices attended the event. The Stand Up and Be Counted initiative celebrates Harper alumni in the workforce and area employers that have hired Harper alumni. In addition, the apprenticeship program was celebrated at the event.
- Scholarship Day was attended by more than 150 students on March 20. Admissions and Financial Aid partnered with the Educational Foundation to create a moment on campus that drew attention to the new scholarship cycle. Brochures on scholarships were handed out, questions were answered, and specific scholarships were suggested. The event drew new students on to campus. High school students that are transferring in the fall attended, as well.
- A record 235 scholarship donors, donors of \$1,000 and above, and scholarship recipients attended the 5th Annual Realizing Dreams Brunch at Arlington Park. Rickey Nance was the student speaker. As an adult student, Rickey told his story about returning to school for an HVAC Certificate. His ACE (Advancing Community Economics) Grant from Rotary International paid for all his tuition, fees and books. Foundation Board Member Emeritus Kathy Gilmer shared her perspective on the importance of being a donor. Emcee Jeff Sronkoski closed the program by welcoming the scholarship recipients to stay engaged as Harper alumni by signing up for the Alumni Network on the Harper website and following Harper alumni on LinkedIn.

Marketing Services

- Marketing Services created the landing page, digital and social media campaigns, direct mail and program, along with helping to promote summer classes during the spring high school open house on April 3. Along with highlighting the evening's events, the program also introduced students and parents to Harper's Areas of Interest. The campaign generated 972 RSVPs for the event.



- On March 14, New York Magazine/HuffPost Contributor Yashar Ali started a meme on Twitter about community colleges. He challenged people who went to a community college to say where they attended and what they are doing today. Here is what Harper students and alumni shared: <http://bit.ly/2U9Mr63>.
- Harper College recently received recognition in 2019 Educational Advertising Awards in the following categories:
 - Gold, Presidential Search Brochure, Category: Brochure
 - Gold, We Are Harper All-District Post Card, Category: Direct Mail

Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- On March 1, 2019, more than 70 faculty and staff joined Harper's Achieving the Dream (ATD) coaches at the annual Strategic Plan Summit. The summit brought together the Strategic Planning and Accountability Committee, Strategic Plan Goal Team members, Title III leadership, as well as faculty and administrative leaders. Attendees reviewed results of the Institutional Capacities Assessment Tool and participated in a Capacity Café, led by ATD coaches that engaged individuals in discussion of Harper's strengths, areas for improvement, and actions to be taken as related to the ATD capacities.
- Julie Ellefson, Chemistry, and Darlene Schlenbecker, Executive Director of Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness, presented two sessions at the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Conference in early April 2019. During the first session, they were joined by Harper's Peer

Review Team Chair, Brad Piazza, to discuss the importance of developing collegial relationships between review team, HLC liaison and the College. During the second presentation, they provided an overview of Harper's accreditation processes, focusing on compelling evidence and campus engagement.

- Darlene Schlenbecker also served on a featured panel during the HLC Conference. Darlene represented community colleges in discussing how leaders move their institutions through major change goals in the session titled "Lessons Learned About Systemic Approaches to Major Institutional Change Initiatives."
- Faon Grandinetti, Associate Director, Outcomes Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness, also presented at the HLC Conference. The presentation was a collaboration with assessment experts from Northern Michigan University and Adler University, titled "Engaging our Institutions in Student Learning Assessment."
- Julie Ellefson and Faon Grandinetti were joined by Rich Johnson, English, to present at the Illinois Community College Assessment Fair and the Community College Conference on Learning Assessment, both held in February 2019. Their presentations focused on Harper's successful general education assessment model.

Promise

- Approximately 480 high school seniors have taken the next step to remain Promise eligible by attending a Promise preview session – a mandatory orientation session for Promise Scholars. Sessions were offered throughout March and April and consisted of three components: how to remain eligible senior year, what steps to take to transition to Harper in the fall and how to remain eligible for the scholarship while at Harper.

Workforce Solutions

- After completing the Massage Therapy Program at Harper College, Ramon Mascarenas opened PalmLeaf Massage Clinic in 2014. He has grown from a one-person shop to employing four additional therapists. The support he received at the Illinois SBDC at Harper College has been instrumental to his success. "The advisors at the Illinois SBDC at Harper College give great advice in areas such as accounting, human resources, creating company policies and strategic goals. The SBDC staff helps me refine ideas and redirect my efforts as needed." Ramon meets regularly with the advisors at Harper's ISBDC.
- The JPRC hosted the annual Student Aide Appreciation lunch on April 24. There were 81 RSVPs with 66 students attending. Dr. Marwick presented the Student Employee of the Year award to Kavina Crummel from the Child Learning Center.
- Maria Vital received an Associate degree from Harper College last year, and had an internship with Wintrust Bank, which she obtained as the result of the JPRC's Banking Day Job Fair. She was just accepted into the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals (CBYX) which is a fellowship funded by the German Bundestag and U.S. Department of State, that annually provides 75 American and 75 German young professionals, between the ages of 18½–24, the opportunity to spend one year in each other's countries, studying, interning, and living with hosts on a cultural immersion program.

- The Assistant Secretary of Education, Scott Stump, invited Dr. Rebecca Lake, Dean of Workforce and Economic Development, to record a short video for a new video library being created by the U.S. Department of Education. The library will be available on www.cte.ed.gov and is being created for state leaders to use during internal staff planning meetings and during external stakeholder engagement session. These short, conversation starter videos will focus on a variety of flexibilities and innovations allowable under Perkins V. Dr. Lake's segment focused on best practices for apprenticeships and community colleges.

Diversity and Inclusion

- Cristian Martinez, Diverse Faculty Fellow, Biology, in collaboration with Community Relations engaged students and families in a science demonstration with the help of his very own boa constrictor, Rosy, at Tarkington STEAM Night at Tarkington Elementary School, one of Harper's Ambassador Schools.



- Employee Resource Groups (ERGs)
 - LAND (Learning Abilities and Not Disabilities) members met on April 15 to do a book discussion on *The Coddling of the American Mind* and discussed the impact of freedom of speech and the “safe space” on the current generation of students and employees in higher education. LAND will also be co-managing the Autism Awareness booth along with Access and Disability Services on April 24 in the Rotunda.
 - SAFE hosted a SafeZone workshop for employees on April 11 for approximately 20 employees. Due to demand, a second workshop was added on May 2. A SAFEzone is a confidential place (or person) where all people can bring their authentic selves and feel safe, welcomed, and included. The SAFEzone Training at Harper College 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 for themselves.



mentees and mentors shared their positive experiences developing supportive relationships with other employees of different racial and ethnic backgrounds. An annual event, the DREAM Mentoring program has supported 43 diverse faculty and staff since its inception in 2008.

- The Office of Diversity and Inclusion will be hosting a D & I Celebration on April 23 to honor the many people who have supported diversity and inclusion since 2014. In a short ceremony, Pearl Ratuil, Special Assistant to the President for Diversity and Inclusion, will recognize the participants in the following programs: Diverse Faculty Fellows, D & I Dialogues – Part I and 2 completers, Employee Resource Groups (ERGs), and Social Justice Leadership Certificate Program. Dr. Kenya Ayers, President of NECSS and the Chair of the President’s Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion, will be offering closing remarks.

Community and Legislative Relations

- Harper’s Health Careers participated in the 2019 Health Care Career Night hosted by Good Shepherd Hospital. The event attracted 350 attendees discussing 74 different clinical and non-clinical jobs and specialties at the 45 booths hosted by hospital departments, colleges and universities and local organizations. Attendees included high school and adult students interested in health services careers.
- On February 13, Community Relations, Take 5 and the Student Experience Goal Team partnered on the first annual Restock the Classroom. The event was a huge success. Volunteers packed and delivered 70 bags of school supplies to 32 schools across five districts. Harper faculty, staff, students and community partners including Assurance donated thousands of crayons, pencils, markers, pens and glue sticks.

Each year, approximately 94% of teachers spend an average of \$400 of their own money on classroom supplies. Thanks to your donations, Harper was able to help teachers “Restock the Classroom.” Thank you to everyone who donated and volunteered.



- On March 12, community relations representatives from seven community colleges kicked off the new community relations consortium. The group was created in partnership with College of DuPage to create an opportunity for community relations professionals to exchange ideas and identify opportunities for collaboration and partnership. The group consists of 13 community colleges and plans to meet quarterly.

Legislative Affairs

- State: Executive Director of Communications Jeff Julian and Associate Dean of Students Gabe Lara accompanied Student Trustee Lavleen Mal and Student Government Association members Alex Valladares (president), Hafsa Hussaini and Lydia Schiller (vice president) to Springfield for Student Advocacy Day on April 9. They met with legislators representing Harper's district to discuss the importance of community college education and advocate for essential funding. Governor Pritzker's graduated income tax plan has cleared its first hurdle, passing the Senate Executive Committee on a partisan roll call. Final action by the Senate is expected when the chamber reconvenes from its two-week spring break. If approved by the legislature, the constitutional amendment would be placed on the November 2020 ballot. No final action has been taken on several notable issues including clean energy jobs, FOID card revisions, sports betting, pension reforms and recreational cannabis; those issues remain under discussion. Five weeks remain in the spring session until the scheduled adjournment on May 31.
- Federal: Provost Judy Marwick attended a roundtable discussion led by Senator Tammy Duckworth on April 5 at Elgin Community College to discuss the Higher Education Act and community college priorities.
- The April 2 local consolidated election brought three newly elected mayors to Harper's district including Tom Dailly, Schaumburg; Joe Gallo, Rolling Meadows; and Eleanor Sweet McDonnell, North Barrington. In addition, Trustees Greg Dowell, Herb Johnson and Walt Mundt were each re-elected to Harper's Board of Trustees; Dowell and Johnson will serve six-year terms and Mundt a four-year term.
- State Representative Mark Walker visited the campus on March 4 to meet with Dr. Ender and tour facilities including Health Careers labs and the Advanced Manufacturing Lab. State Senator Ann Gillespie also visited the campus on March 11 to meet with Dr. Ender and tour labs in Health Careers and Career and Technical Programs.

Media Relations

- *Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Ed and Community College Daily* included Dr. Proctor's appointment in their news roundups.
- The *Daily Herald's* Soapbox column included mention of Dr. Proctor having big shoes to fill with Dr. Ender's departure.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about the HOPE Giving Circle's recent panel exploring how women in public service are reshaping leadership.
- Dr. Ender appeared on *WGN Radio's* CEO Spotlight segment on The Opening Bell.
- The *Daily Herald* quoted Dr. Ender in an article about Governor J.B. Pritzker's budget address.

- *Illinois Banker* magazine ran an article about First Bank of Highland Park's partnership with Harper's banking apprenticeship program and featured apprentice Leo Mora.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article on Harper student Diego Cruz, who spoke at the President's All Campus Meeting.
- In the *Chronicle of Higher Education's* Teaching column, Instructor Crystal Peirce shared her approach to helping students apply what they learn in their classroom to their lives beyond it.
- *Daily Herald* columnist Burt Constable wrote about 22-year-old Harper student Ally Hembd, who is taking one class each semester as she battles stage four chronic kidney disease and awaits a transplant.
- *Campus Technology* ran an article about how savvy institutions will embrace different models of innovation and pointed out Harper's apprenticeships as an example of how community colleges need to draw on employers to help map out competencies.
- *Politico's* Morning Education column highlighted a new report at Education Design Lab that reflects on experimenting with innovation at more than 100 institutions, including Harper and its apprenticeship programs.
- *Insurance News Net* ran Harper's article about the recent Stand Up and Be Counted event to recognize the college's partnership with Zurich North America.
- A *Daily Herald* article about newly elected and re-elected Palatine officials included a quote from Councilman Scott Lamerand, who said, "We house an incredible asset in Harper College that we should use to attract more development to our area."
- *College Media Network* ran an article about the band Ember Oceans; all four of the band members attended Harper so they could live together and work on their music.
- The *Daily Herald* Leadership Team took its photo in the Wojcik lobby.
- The *Daily Herald* ran photos of the Students Fight Back event.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a digest about the tuition increase.
- The *Daily Herald's* Through the Film Magnifier column included photos from 1971 when Harper students were first able to register by phone.
- *Daily Herald* columnist Burt Constable wrote about a Harper student named Ahmad, who fled his home in West Africa to seek asylum in the United States. Ahmad is living in the Viator House of Hospitality, run by the Clerics of St. Viator, still waiting for his plea to be heard by U.S. authorities.
- The *Daily Herald* sports section ran an article about the Harper men's wrestling team winning the national championship.

Internal Communication

- In preparation for the first full cohort of Promise Scholars who will come to Harper in the fall of 2019, stories that update the faculty/staff about Promise have been shared. Promise scholars

who are already on campus have been highlighted. Other facts such as the more than 100,000 volunteer hours already completed by the high school students enrolled in Promise, the number of students enrolled in the program – including the fact that 95% of the current in-district freshman class enrolled in the program – and the full-time Promise Scholarship Manager who has been hired to help shepherd the program have been communicated. These stories are also being shared through the Promise Impact Report as well as traditional and social media.

	A Head Start for Harper's First Promise Scholars																		
	Beyond Theory: Harper Promise Already Making a Difference in the Community																		
	Meet Sean Warren-Crouch: Promise Scholarship Program Manager																		
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Promise by the Numbers

Student Communication

- In collaboration with the Center for Student Involvement and Marketing Services, student participation in the student trustee and student government elections was successfully increased. The number of candidates more than doubled and the number of students voting increased by more than 300% over the previous year. To create this awareness and interest, profiles of both the current student trustee and SGA vice president and information about the application and election period were written. Finally, the candidate statements and photos were repurposed for a story on the Harper Instagram channel. This story reached more than 500 students and shared the candidates, their platforms and the election dates.

President's Priorities Update

1. Advocates for Students and Educational Plan

- Eighty-three percent of students from the fall 2018 Title III cohort (new, first time in college, degree-seeking) had a personalized, electronic plan created to guide them

beyond their first semester. This represents a 13% increase over the prior year and well exceeds the 75% target identified in the current Operational Plan.

- Results from the November 2018 email nudge campaign to encourage students on academic caution and warning to finish the semester “strong” and to stay focused on their goals are showing positive results. This nudge was sent on behalf of a student’s assigned advisor and resulted in a 53% open rate. Overall, among all the academic caution/warning students who were sent this positive and encouraging email, there was a 4.75 percentage lift in fall-to-spring persistence as compared to what was initially predicted.
- In the second year of case management advising, fall-to-spring persistence rates continue to be strong for new, degree-seeking students who meet with an advisor and create a personalized, electronic plan during their first semester. For both the fall 2017 and fall 2018 cohorts, 94% of these students persisted from fall to spring in contrast to a 69% fall-to-spring retention rate for similar students who neither met with their advisor, nor created a personalized educational plan.

2. First Year Seminar

- The Start Smart Recommendation has made its way through the Shared Governance system. The requirement was approved by Dr. Ender, and beginning fall 2019, all new degree-seeking students with fewer than 12 hours of college credit earned after completing high school will be required to participate in a Start Smart experience within their first two semesters at Harper College.

3. Buildings F, M and Canning Center

- Building F Renovations – Complete.
- Building M Renovations and Addition – 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 March 31, 2019, there is \$18,280,760.16 raised for the Promise Scholarship Fund with 745 donors contributing.

5. Improve Distance Education Offerings

- Identify opportunities to increase summer online offerings by December 2018.
 - Helped by a series of marketing communications, the number of enrollments in online courses increased by 7% (+267 seats) for the spring 2019 semester as compared to the spring 2018 semester.

- An additional 19 distance format sections have been added to the summer 2019 schedule. This includes 12 sections of 11 courses that are part of a targeted marketing campaign to potential reverse transfer and current students.
- As part of the college's recommendation as it relates to Start Smart classes, FYS101 (Focus on College Learning) will be offered in both an online and blended format during the summer 2019 semester. Students who place into 1 or developmental courses should especially benefit from the mentoring and resources available in order to prepare for success in English and Math courses.
- 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 ongoing for the 2018-19 academic year. Twenty-two courses (69 sections) are being reviewed this year, which will constitute approximately 16% 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.
 - The Teaching Online Successfully course series is continuing to run for the spring 2019 and summer 2019 semesters. To date, 33 new online instructors have been trained.

Cathy, Shaun and I were so touched by the beautiful campus farewell celebration. The naming of the outdoor pavilion is such a meaningful and profound tribute to our service and philanthropy to the College. Shaun was a little embarrassed, but very pleased with his birthday greetings and that everyone in the amphitheater sang Happy Birthday to him! The food trucks were a great way to gather with students and colleagues to enjoy a delicious lunch and celebrate our ten years together. Many thanks to Kristyn Meyer and her able committee for planning and executing an event that we will always remember.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Ken