



PRESIDENT'S *REPORT*

July/August 2020

Dear Harper College Community:

It has been a very busy summer in what has already been an extraordinary year. I am pleased to report that our in-person, on-campus spring make-up labs were successfully completed this summer. This could not have happened without the hard work and collaboration of our faculty and staff. In particular, I want to recognize the members of our Modalities Committee and the COVID-19 Response Team for their leadership. I also want to thank our Facilities Management and Campus Police teams that have kept our campus clean and safe throughout the pandemic. This was no easy lift, but we did what was necessary to ensure our students continued on their paths to completion.

As we get ready for the kick-off of our fall 2020 semester, we will be looking to our faculty and staff to lead the charge as we teach and learn both remotely and on campus. Simultaneously, we will continue to support our students, employees and their families as they manage the realities of living through this pandemic. While I expect this to be a challenging year for all of us, I also believe we will rise to the occasion by uplifting our students and one another, serving as a beacon of hope as education so often does for those in our community who need us the most.

This month we received excellent news from Governor J.B. Pritzker that the state of Illinois was finally releasing the \$42 million in funding for the Canning Center. For two decades, the college has been pursuing the funding for this project so we can modernize and consolidate our student support services, with the ultimate goal of accelerating the achievement of educational and career goals while removing barriers for our students. We are grateful to the Governor as well as our state legislators who kept this funding request front and center until it was ultimately released this month as part of the Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan. I want to thank everyone at Harper College who has worked on this legislative priority over the years.

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I am happy to share with you that the college continues its focus on improving the ways we educate, train and support our community in addressing diversity, equity and inclusion through several important initiatives. We have identified a space on campus to revive the center for multicultural learning and infuse a new vision to address current and future needs. We will also be convening a Social Justice Task Force to address diversity, equity and inclusion in courses, pedagogies, faculty hires and classroom policies, and we will be creating a plan to reduce the equity gaps for African American, Latinx and Pell students in partnership with the Aspen Institute and Partnership for College Completion's Illinois Equity in Attainment (ILEA) cohort. These are just a few of the projects connected to our focus on DEI, which will also be enhanced by our FY2021-2024 Strategic Plan launching this fall.

Whether it's through our Strategic Plan teams, our Shared Governance Committees, or other campus initiatives, there will be plenty of opportunities to get involved and align to our strategic plan in the important work of supporting our students and our communities. I look forward to working with you to accomplish our goals.

Student Success

- Dr. Janosik joined Jeff Julian, Drs. Proctor, Smith and Mercado to discuss enhancing the college's partnership with Zurich and will continue to explore expanding other partnerships in the region. DePaul University will offer an MS in Management in the University Center beginning January 2021.
- Dr. Janosik welcomed five new full-time faculty members to Harper. In addition, two returning and two new Diverse Faculty Fellows will join the college community.
- The Modalities Committee, (formerly "Fall Modalities"), re-convened in July and established a regular meeting schedule and a timetable by which to finalize the Spring 2021 schedule. Faculty have been encouraged to explore alternative delivery methods, including using enhanced software and designing some synchronous course offerings.
- Hawks Care is working to expand resources and services available to students. In addition, Harper Wellness Manager Beth Ripperger recently received data from the National College Health Assessment survey, which will be used to identify potential new wellness opportunities for Harper students. Harper was one of four community colleges and among the 106 colleges and universities that participated in this national collegiate survey.
- The Academy for Teaching Excellence will offer new strategies for remote learning during the fall Orientation Week. Dean Bates and Dr. Janosik will review the consultant's report on distance learning and develop additional plans to strengthen the college's course offerings and modes of delivery.
- Rachel Kandefer, a graphic arts student, was granted the PGSF Scholarship from the Print and Graphics Scholarship Foundation. Rachel earned this scholarship through her focus, hard work, and the desire to work in the industry.
- Over the summer, adjunct faculty member Louis Martinez published a textbook with Kendall Hunt entitled, "The Violent Brain: The Study of Neurocriminology."
- New academic programs for 2020-21 include a drone certificate and music technology.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- The DEI Book club "From Equity Talk to Equity Walk" met throughout the month of July, with close to 100 employees in attendance, to help consider how we can improve equitable opportunities for employees and students.
- Senior leadership participated in their first Equity Institute as part of the Illinois Equity in Attainment and Aspen Institute to discuss closing equity gaps for African American, Latinx and Pell students.
- DEI consultants provided their findings and recommendations for opportunities to improve DEI efforts at Harper including improving campus climate, diverse hires, and developing a framework for diversity and inclusion professional development.

- Several LAND members attended the RespectAbility summit that celebrated the 30 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). LAND is an employee resource group open to faculty, administrators and staff who identify as having a disability and/or those who require accommodations at Harper for access.

Finance and Administrative Services

Facilities Management

- The scope of work for the development of the Campus Master Plan will capture the spirit and character of the college while addressing the complexities of evolving enrollment and educational programs. The principal goal of the Master Plan is to guide the future development of the campus in a planned and orderly manner to achieve the objectives of the Strategic Plan, the College Mission Statement, and Vision Statement while expressing the Core Values. DLR Group has begun the facilities assessment and will be meeting with the steering committee to start the master planning process.
- The scope of work for the Building X Classrooms and Building Y Office Remodeling Project will include remodeling of classrooms X228B, X228C and X228D in Building X and remodeling of the Math and Science Office in Building Y to support current and future program and departmental needs. Construction in Building X classroom is substantially complete and work continues in Building Y.
- Harper College participates in an energy curtailment program to support the electrical grid during times of high demand. During the June 24 test of the college's curtailment procedures, Facilities Management met 100% of its energy reduction target. The college is eligible for payments based on performance throughout the curtailment season. This program concludes in May 2021 at which time final payout numbers will be provided for our performance.

Information Technology

- Information Technology deployed Cisco Wi-Fi phones for the OneStop Center and for Access and Disability Services. With these new phones, both departments are able to receive and place phone calls to students from their remote work locations and appear as if the calls are being received and placed from campus.

Advancement, Marketing and Communications

Advancement

- Scholarship Reading Night was moved to a virtual format this year. Twenty-two perspective donors and recent alumni were emailed scholarship applications for the Kimball Hill Homes Scholarship for Working Students. After watching a video presentation about Educational Foundation scholarships, each participant reviewed and scored the scholarship applications. A follow-up email was sent to the participants announcing who received the scholarship based on the scores they submitted.
- The Alumni Program distributed the first ever "New Alumni" direct mail piece to all 2020 graduates in July. The mailing included a congratulations card to Harper's newest alumni with information on how to stay connected to Harper College through Harper's Alumni Program and highlighted sign-up for the Harper Connect Platform, Job Placement Resource Center, alumni events and programming. The direct mail also included a gift from the alumni program.

- Over \$103,000 in donations were secured for the Harper Student Emergency Relief Fund. These donations, combined with funds from the Foundation and the college, have provided \$303,000 in emergency funding to 690 Harper students.

Marketing Services

- Report for Harper commercials streaming May-June 2020 on over the top (OTT) platforms (Amazon FireTV, ROKU, Chromecast, PlayStation, XBOX, Sling, etc.) Results: 309,673 Impressions, Reaching 76,662 households in our district. Exceeded commercial viewing completion benchmark with a 96.9% video completion rate (VCR). Each household viewed the ad an average of four times. Cost per view is \$0.04. These results were amplified because we also included Facebook/Instagram and YouTube video advertising campaign adding another 1.1 million impressions/views with average cost per commercial of \$0.01 and \$0.03 cents. With this overall success, we will continue this media mix with additional tweaks.
- July 2020 Web analytics. Though pageviews to harpercollege.edu were down slightly in July compared to the previous year, views of key enrollment pages, including pages tied to specific marketing campaigns showed increases. Of the top-10 most visited pages for the month, pageviews to the Get Started page increased by 127% compared to July 2019 (27,894 pageviews in July 2020 vs. 12,289 pageviews in July 2019). The adult landing page generated 17,190 pageviews in July 2020, a 331% increase over July 2019. Pageviews to the financial aid (8.6%) and registration (5.4%) web pages also increased.
- Published first Community Spotlight piece titled “Harper Faculty on the Remote Learning Essentials” on social.

Community Relations

- Every summer Community Relations partners with Partners for Our Communities to support their summer ICompete program. Campers from Community Consolidated School District 15 visit campus and participate in interactive activities. The campers couldn't visit campus this summer, but more than 50 young students were still able to participate in fun and educational activities created by Harper faculty and staff. Students ages 6–12 years old received supplies and instructions for activities including making backpack charms, plantable pots, grassy heads and a bridge building challenge. The students also participated in a health and wellness activity. Junior high students from District 15 also participated in similar activities. A very big thank you to the Make Shop, Sustainability, Engineering and Campus Recreation.
- In August, Dr. Proctor served as the keynote speaker for the Schaumburg Business Association's Good Morning Schaumburg. More than 30 people, including many alumni, attended the virtual event. Dr. Proctor discussed the current state-of-the-college, challenges today's students are facing, and how Harper is positioning itself for the future. Attendees also participated in breakout sessions to learn more about Harper's business resources including the services in Workforce Solutions, Continuing Professional Education and the Illinois Small Business Development Center.

Media Relations

- *Community College Daily* ran an article on a Center for American Progress panel discussion featuring Dr. Proctor on how community colleges are leading the way to support disadvantaged students during the COVID-19 pandemic, the resulting economic crisis, and equity and inclusion issues. The article highlighted Harper's contact tracing program and how Harper has supported students who were ineligible for CARES Act funding.



- The *Community College Journal* ran an article about transitioning college presidents and how, although they have different reasons for moving, their interim goals are similar. Dr. Proctor was among the presidents featured.
- The *Chicago Tribune* published an article on how recent college graduates are receiving extra job search support. It highlighted Harper's new virtual career counseling programs designed to provide guidance and connect students with area companies. Kathleen Canfield and Megan Dallianis were quoted in the article.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article on how Harper nursing alumni are working on the frontlines of the pandemic and how Harper's program helped to prepare them.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a guest editorial co-authored by Vice Chair Bill Kelley about how community colleges have responded to the COVID-19 crisis and the role they will play in the post-pandemic economic recovery.
- The *American Association of Community Colleges* published an article on Harper's Social Justice Leadership Certificate program, which is based on the social justice theory that better trained employees can help foster a more diverse, equitable and inclusive campus community.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article on the recent Supreme Court ruling supporting DACA. It featured a number of suburban Dreamers including Harper graduate Carlos Robles.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article on the state's announcement that it will release funds for the construction of the Canning Center and other community college projects. NBC-5 Chicago and Fox 32 also ran segments on the announcement.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article on Harper distributing CARES Act funding and the impact on Harper students.
- *INSIGHT Into Diversity* ran an article on its first Inspiring Affinity Group Award, which recognizes groups that have made a significant impact on their members, campuses and communities. The DREAM employee resource group's mentoring program was one of the programs to receive this inaugural award.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article highlighting the new Harper College student group that helps Dreamers through advocacy, referrals for legal services and community education.
- *Unique Venues* magazine posted an article that acknowledged Harper's efforts to donate personal protective equipment, disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer to local hospitals.
- The *Daily Herald* mentioned Harper College's Small Business Development Center as a resource for business owners and managers to navigate assistance programs.
- The *Arlington Heights Post* ran an article on Nelson Gord, Harper's new baseball coach.

Strategic Alliances and Innovation

Grants Office

- In July, the Educational Foundation received \$230,000 in grant funding from The Aspen Institute for the College's Frontier Set grant program. This is fifth year funding focused on accelerating student success outcomes at Harper.



- In July, the college received two grant awards from ICCB for the Adult Education and Perkins V programs. Funding in the amount of \$768,091 will support career and technical education and \$493,583 is provided to support Adult Education programs.
- The college also received CARES Act grant funding from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) in the amount of \$15,000 for the Illinois Small Business Development Center to expand services available to regional small business.
- Additionally, the Grants Office has been busy requesting and processing grant period extensions and no-cost extensions for FY20 ICCB, IBHE, and DCEO grants.

Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- The FY2020 Accountability Report was completed and posted on the Harper website. This report summarizes the college's efforts related to the Presidential Priorities, Institutional Effectiveness Measures, Strategic Plan, and Operational Plan. Updates were also made to the publicly available Institutional Effectiveness Measures dashboard to reflect progress that was made toward targets during FY2020.
- The Office of Institutional Research has improved data accessibility with the development of additional Power BI dashboards in response to the high demand of information that is critical for decision-making. The Diversity Scorecard dashboard includes data for three years, and the Promise Program dashboard is used to track student progress. Additional dashboards were created in response to specific needs such as the Building Access dashboard to support the Covid-19 Response Team and the Case Managers dashboard to help advisors support students.
- The Outcomes Assessment/Institutional Effectiveness Office has prepared a summary report of the Employee Call Campaign results for college leadership. Overall, employees expressed appreciation for the work Harper College has done to help them transition during this time and many shared that they have been adjusting well. Some shared that they miss face-to-face interaction with their colleagues on campus but are adapting to this new work format. Those making and receiving the calls appreciated the opportunity to connect with colleagues.

Workforce Solutions

- The Small Business Development Center held a seminar entitled, "Intro to Search Engine Optimization." The program was offered at no charge to small businesses in the region. These seminars have been well enrolled since the beginning of the pandemic and have been a lifeline for small businesses, many on the brink of closing.
- Zurich North America held a Welcome Week for its new Harper apprentice hires this August. Several staff from the Harper apprenticeship team were invited to present on various topics relating to apprenticeships.

Ann Grenevitch from the Office of Apprenticeships took part in a panel discussing time management for students and apprenticeships. That panel presented to both the Schaumburg apprentices as well as the New York apprentices with their training partner, Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC). BMCC is Zurich's partner for its New York apprentices. Harper is working closely with BMCC to ensure consistency in delivery and to train them on Harper apprenticeship practices.

- The InZone Program is wrapping up its summer online program the second week of August. While this summer has presented challenges for all of us, we are happy to report the program ran close to 70 classes with over 175 individuals experiencing our classes in a remote setting. Popular classes were those focused around coding, cooking and sign language.

Promise Program

- Seven hundred and twenty-one students at Harper College this fall are Promise Scholars:
 - Two hundred and thirty-eight Promise Scholars persisted into their second year at Harper.
 - Additionally, 101 students from the original cohort who lost their Promise eligibility after their first or second semester are still enrolled at Harper.
 - Three early high school graduates will be entering their second semester at Harper.
 - Four hundred and eighty new Promise Scholars will begin this fall.