



PRESIDENT'S *REPORT*

June 2021

Dear Harper College Community:

As we turn our attention to warm summer days, relaxing vacations and most importantly time with family and friends, we are also excited to celebrate Illinois entering Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois plan as the state's COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed. Each day, we continue to see dramatic improvement in the state's data related to the virus and with that a clearer path to our new normal. It is wonderful to see students, staff and faculty returning to campus in greater numbers while we ramp up our in-person programs and services and continue the best practices online that we developed and refined over the past 15 months.

A major part of the state's Phase 5 implementation as well as our returning to campus safely has been testing and vaccination. I'm proud to report that we will continue to offer voluntary, free COVID-19 testing through SHIELD Illinois throughout the fall semester, which was key in helping our spring athletic teams stay healthy as they returned to the competition fields. In addition to our May vaccination clinic with Cook County Department of Public Health, we will offer two more vaccine clinics, one in partnership with the White House and CVS on June 29 and a second clinic with the Cook County Department of Public Health on July 14. Because of these clinics and our other efforts aimed at helping our community learn about and access COVID-19 vaccines, we were honored to join President Biden's [COVID-19 College Vaccine Challenge](#). Colleges participating in the initiative are asked to take key actions to get their campus communities vaccinated: engaging and organizing their college communities and ensuring students, faculty and staff have access to the vaccine. We are committed to this Challenge and supporting the Harper College community as we continue our returning and rebuilding efforts on campus while supporting our district's families and businesses on the road to recovery.

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On the same day that we celebrated graduation both virtually and in person during our photo event at the pavilion, our Harper Hawks Men's Soccer Team won the NJCAA Region IV/ Midwest District Championship on our field. This impressive team, led by Coach Andre Watson, was ranked fifth in the nation. Jason Rivas (Wheeling), who scored the only goal in the championship game, was named Tournament MVP, and Coach Watson was named NJCAA Region IV DIII Men's Soccer Coach of the Year. It was a highlight to receive a championship medallion from Athletic Director Doug Spiwak while also celebrating with team members who rushed over from the winning celebration to cross the stage in cap and gown and take a picture with their family members. This is what higher education is all about!

For those of you back on campus teaching summer classes or supporting students as they prepare for fall, I am so glad to see your faces as I walk around our beautiful campus buildings and grounds. And while there is so much to do throughout our district and the Chicagoland area, don't forget about the wonderful opportunities right here at Harper, such as the Outdoor Pavilion Free Concert Series, which runs Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. through July 29. I hope you can make this musical treat a part of your plans as you rest, relax and recharge this summer.

COVID-19 Response Team (CRT) Update

- CRT Return to Campus Decisions
 - Subway and coffee station open as of May 24. Will continue to expand options as population increases.
 - Athletics - all fall sports will resume.
 - Bookstore resumes operating hours on July 6.
- CRT approved discontinuing screening stations on May 24.
- CRT approved moving forward with the following recommendation: Students who have been identified as potential close contact exposure but have been vaccinated and are asymptomatic, are not required to quarantine and may attend classes if they can provide a vaccination record (medical records will not be maintained by Harper).
- An employee town hall was held May 25 following a campus wide announcement about the college adapting its phased return to campus plans. A list of FAQs with more than 35 related questions from faculty and staff were developed and highlighted on HIP.

Student Success

Student Engagement

- At the annual Student Involvement Celebration of Excellence, Student Involvement awarded approximately \$9,000 to celebrate the accomplishments of the over 35 active clubs and organizations of the past year. Each group will receive a \$250 bonus to be used for programming in FY22.
- Student Involvement hosted their annual Student Service Awards to recognize and award outstanding student leaders. This year, 30 students were nominated by their club and organization advisors to receive a \$175 award.

Student Development

- Advisors' continued use of the Starfish system in support of case managed advising was evidenced by assessing their activity at the conclusion of the Spring 2021 semester. Advisors issued over 70,000 pieces of communication to their assigned caseloads representing a 22% increase as compared to Spring 2020. These communication notes included messages related to welcoming students to the semester, encouraging their development of a personalized academic plan, checking in with them at mid-term, reminding them about future term registration and encouraging their successful completion of the semester. In addition to these communication touchpoints, advisors almost doubled the number of Kudos or positive encouragement messages sent to their students in Spring 2021 totaling over 2,300. [Source: *Starfish System Extract*].

Center for New Students & Orientation

- The Fall 2021 new student onboarding and orientation program is underway. So far this summer, 408 students have completed the New Student Orientation program which is comparable to last year. To complement the online orientation presentation and new student advising experience, students are also

able to participate in virtual and in-person New Student Welcome Sessions that provide an interactive opportunity for students to engage with continuing students and academic advisors and focus on success strategies, time management, and learning how to navigate Harper technology. The in-person option includes a campus tour customized by students' Area of Interest. Additional elements of the New Student Orientation and Onboarding experience include a Blackboard resource shell that uses discussion boards for new students to connect with each other and continuing students, and a virtual scavenger hunt to engage with Harper resources online.

Enrollment Services

- The One Stop processed 6,218 inbound contacts in May, which was slightly up from last year. This includes 3,968 phone calls, 1,727 emails, 493 live chats, and 29 in-person visits. The Enrollment Services team started seeing students in person on May 24 by appointments and walk-ins. While chat and email were down from last year, we saw a 101% increase in phone volume from May of last year. The One Stop conducted call campaigns, including reminding students of payment dates and contacting students-at-large for summer enrollment. We made 3,124 calls and reached 32.2% of students during the campaigns in May.

Interdisciplinary Programs

- The Harper College Phi Phi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa was honored at the Regional Phi Theta Kappa conference. Leia Ladios, Dominique Yuvienco, and Safa Saied presented in one of only three Educational Forums. Leia Ladios also won an Outstanding Member Award. Dominique Yuvienco received a Spirit Award and Geneva Bell received a Leader of Distinction Award. Additionally, Avni Singh and Beraly Bautista won Officer awards.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- The Offices of DEI and International Education have selected the fourth cohort of the Social Justice Leadership Certificate, which kicked off the program with attendance at the National Council of Race and Ethnicity (NCORE) virtual conference.
- The Office of DEI has successfully completed a year-long partnership between the Employee Resource Groups and the Chief of Police, collaborating on improvements to campus safety and improved campus culture.
- Allyship of White Anti-Racists for Equity (AWARE) has completed the first cohort and is now seeking a second cohort. AWARE assists employees who are committed to anti-racist work at Harper College.
- Members of the SAFE ERG will be attending the VIDA X Annual Conference for Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth in June. The event is being put on by community partners: the Kenneth Young Center, Pinta Pride, and HRC Illinois.

Finance and Administrative Services

- DLR Group is in the process of completing prioritizing, refining concepts, finalizing budgets for the Master Plan. They presented to the Board of Trustees in June for review and comment.

- The scope of work for the Center for Multicultural Learning Project will include the remodeling of room D281 at Building D into a community room, lounge, kitchenette, conference room, work area and other support spaces. Construction continues and remains on schedule to be completed in July 2021.
- The scope of work for the Dental Hygiene Simulation Lab Project will include the remodeling of room X143 at Building X into a Dental Hygiene Simulation Lab for the Dental Hygiene Program. Construction has begun and is on schedule to be completed in July 2021.
- The scope of work for Phase I of the HVAC Upgrade Projects in Buildings R, W, X, Y, and Z will include replacement of the supply and return air fan systems in Building X. Construction is substantially complete and the building HVAC systems are operational.

Information Technology

- Several enhancements were made to the Oracle Fusion environment: two new features were added to the Professional Development Aggregation feature, the Tuition Waiver feature received an added dynamic array of recipients on the configuration file, and HR was provided access to the “Manage Profile Content Section Access.”
- Four ADA-compliant Kiosk Desktops for OneStop were installed in various locations on campus. The kiosks provide students the ability to reach the OneStop via chat messaging.

Advancement, Marketing and Communications

Advancement

- Alumni Relations welcomed graduates as new alumni at the graduation photo event on May 22. The Alumni Relations Department hosted a table at the graduation photo opportunity event on campus which followed the virtual graduation ceremony. Staff invited grads to sign up for the alumni network, offered an alumni gift and encouraged the new alumni to stay connected with Harper College. Nearly 240 graduates visited the table and signed up.
- In June, the Harper College Educational Foundation hosted its 32nd annual Golf Outing at Inverness Golf Club. Though a hot rainy day, 90 golfers and 23 Harper College volunteers braved the weather to raise funds for students. Thanks to their generosity, the Foundation raised \$163,000 to support student scholarships and emerging educational initiatives at Harper. New this year was the “Sponsor A Student” program, in which donors were invited to make a gift in support of students’ education. Twenty-three donors committed to 28 sponsorships, a much-needed boost for students in need.
- The Harper Professional Advisors Committee Speaker Series hosted a Mid-Year Economic Update Webinar with Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist of Northern Trust, in June. Over 100 people registered for the event.

Community Relations

- As a member of the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce, Harper was included in chamber’s career options brochure. The brochure was created to promote jobs in the career and technical areas. Member organizations included information about current job opportunities for graduating seniors and the public. Information about Harper’s Manufacturing and Construction Area of Interest was included in the brochure. The chamber distributed the brochure at the Wheeling High School graduation and other events.



- Community Relations is excited to sponsor the Schaumburg Boomers Back to School Night on August 8. The first 1,000 students in attendance will receive a Harper backpack with school supplies. Harper representatives will also have a booth to share information about programs and services. Specially priced tickets will be available for Harper faculty/staff, students and alumni. All are invited to come out to show your Harper pride and enjoy the game. A special Harper guest will also be throwing out the first pitch. <https://www.boomersbaseball.com/schedule/main/2021/08-08-2021/>
- This summer Community Relations is supporting our community partner golf outings through in-kind donations. Harper prize bags including Harper swag, complimentary thirty-day Health and Recreation Center membership and guest passes will be raffled off at the Greater O'Hare Association, Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce and Barrington Area Chamber of Commerce golf outings. Harper items are also included in the golfer goody bags.

Marketing Services

- Fall Enrollment Marketing Campaign Overview
 - Postcards: First of two all-district postcards arrived in homes on June 1. The second will arrive in homes on June 28.
 - OTT (streaming)/Social media campaign launched June 1: Target audiences: young adults age 17-18, parents of high school/college-age students, adults 18-34 with no college degree. Non-skippable ads are designed to reach Cord-Cutters and Cord-Nevers.
 - Ads will appear on numerous platforms, including Discovery, AMC, ESPN, TubiTV most major broadcast and cable networks, etc. Platforms include XBOX, Amazon Fire, Roku, Chromecast, PlayStation, AppleTV, Crackle, etc. Social media campaign includes targeted Instagram and Facebook.
 - The expanded campaign launches July 1 running through August and includes broadcast TV news, social media (Snap, FB, Insta), OTT, Spotify, email, and geofencing.
- May Social Media Highlights
 - Between graduation content throughout the month, Vaccination Day on campus, soccer team championship, contributing to higher ed initiatives like #AllInForEarlyEd and #IHigherEdMatters, and so much more, social media numbers in May totaled 1,010,130 Impressions (number of times our posts were seen), 36,074 total engagements (likes, comments, shares), 6,165 link clicks, 373 new followers across channels.

Media Relations

- *University Business* ran a sponsored Q&A article with Dr. Proctor highlighting Harper's efforts to remove barriers to student success. Dr. Proctor discussed her vision for Harper, how the college has prioritized equity of access to education, the role community colleges will play in the post-pandemic economic recovery, and other topics.
- *Fox 32 Chicago*, *WGN* and the *Daily Herald* promoted the vaccination clinic held at Harper College in partnership with Cook County.
- *Yahoo! Finance* and other outlets ran a PRNewswire release about two Harper Paralegal Studies students receiving the Honorable Timothy C. Evans Scholarship at the Northwest Suburban Bar Association's annual meeting. The release also noted that Dr. Proctor spoke at the meeting to celebrate the scholarship recipients.

- *MSN* and *24/7 Wall St.* highlighted Harper as one of the best community colleges in the country, drawing on Niche's 2021 rankings.
- The *Daily Herald* reported on Harper's hiring of Dr. Tamara Johnson as the college's new vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion, with information about her previous work and a quote from Dr. Proctor.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article on how local colleges are continuing to disburse federal COVID-19 relief funds, highlighting Harper's direct aid to students regardless of citizenship or immigration status.
- The *Daily Herald* spoke to Dr. Proctor for an article honoring the one-year anniversary of George Floyd's death. The article discussed Harper's diversity, with Dr. Proctor quoted about Harper's ongoing commitments to DEI and honoring the humanity of the college's constituents.
- *Best Value Schools* rated Harper College as the fifth best trade school in Chicago in 2021.

Legislative Affairs

- The state concluded its legislative session over Memorial Day weekend with the exception of a few items of business, including energy legislation, that will bring legislators back to Springfield in June. Of note from this session:
 - Approval of the FY22 budget of \$42B, including level funding (FY21) for community colleges
 - Approval of the FY22 capital budget and reappropriation authorization for the Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan, which includes the Canning Center funding and other Harper projects
 - Funding for MAP grants increased to \$28M
 - \$27M for community colleges from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) to overcome barriers created by the pandemic and support student learning renewal
 - \$25M to the community college system to support rapid expansion of the early childhood workforce and implementation of an Early Childhood Education Consortium
- Harper advocacy efforts influenced the outcome of several bills including:
 - Dr. Proctor co-led the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents' charge for a community college bachelor's degree in early childhood education, appointing faculty member Kathy Nikolai to the coalition working group, securing house sponsor Rep. Fred Crespo and participating in numerous meetings with Senate sponsor Sen. Cristina Pacione-Zayas with Senate President Don Harmon and other college presidents. While the CCB bill did not pass, we were able to advance the conversation around CCBs in Illinois and help address the needs of the incumbent early childhood workforce by streamlining, coordinating and improving the accessibility to degree completion pathways through [HB 2878](#) (Stuart /Pacione-Zayas). This bill represents a negotiated agreement creating the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Act and requires the Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board to create and establish the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity.
 - Harper College faculty assisted Senator Gillespie by reviewing drafts and providing feedback and input on [HB 219](#) (Carroll/Gillespie), which requires the Illinois State Board of Education to adopt rules to phase out the use of time outs, isolated time outs, and physical restraint in all public schools and nonpublic special education facilities by the 2022-2023 school year.
 - Harper College Board Chair Pat Stack authored a letter on behalf of the Board of Trustees opposing [HB3145](#) (West/Stadelman), which would have changed the election process for community college trustees from at-large into ward systems. This bill did not pass.
- Dr. Proctor welcomed state Representative Martin McLaughlin, R-52, to campus recently to discuss higher education priorities and tour the health careers and advanced manufacturing labs. Rep. McLaughlin was

elected in November 2020 and represents part of the Harper district that includes Barrington. Dr. Proctor will also welcome Rep. Tom Morrison, R-54, to campus for a meeting and tour later this month.

- The college submitted a congressionally directed spending request, also sometimes referred to as the earmark process, to Senator Duckworth's office to support the Leveraging Technology for Education, Credentials, and Hiring (LTECH) initiative. LTECH will help meet local demand for a skilled workforce by developing sector strategies to address the needs of employers and workers by providing credentials and skills for the emerging career fields of software engineering, cloud computing, cybersecurity, automation/robotics, and additive manufacturing.

Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness

- The Office of Institutional Research has developed several Power BI dashboards to facilitate better understanding for the campus community about student outcomes at Harper and beyond utilizing three Power BI interactive reports. The *Credentials Dashboard* is an interactive report with details on credentials awarded and the students who earned them. The *Employment Wage Outcomes* report provides information about students' employment and educational behaviors after leaving Harper College (with or without a credential). The *Follow Up Survey* report provides self-reported information about the current employment and educational status of Harper graduates along with their satisfaction with the college.
- Collection of artifacts for the FY2021 General Education Outcomes Assessment projects has been completed. In spring 2021 a full-scale assessment of the Quantitative Reasoning outcome and a follow-up assessment of the Critical Thinking outcome were conducted. Faculty from a wide variety of disciplines whose courses address one or both outcomes participated in the assessment project. More than 1,000 student artifacts were collected for each of these assessment projects. Artifacts will be scored, and results analyzed during the summer. Results will be shared in early fall with areas for improvement identified.
- The Strategic Goal Teams are working towards accomplishing their FY2021 target measures. During this first year of the plan, 12 measures will come due. In addition to the items addressed through these measures, the teams have brought initiative proposals forward to the Strategic Planning and Accountability Committee and Executive Cabinet for support and funding. In May, two proposals were approved, both focused on increasing student success with one addressing high impact practices in First Year Seminar courses and one focused on infusing inclusive pedagogy in the classroom. The Strategic Plan Dashboard development is complete, awaiting year-end progress data. The Dashboard will be shared with the Board during the Accountability Report presentation this summer.

Strategic Alliances and Innovation

Grants Office

- In May 2021, Harper College received a grant award from the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) for \$83,156 in supplemental funding for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Grant (GEER). These funds will allow Harper to continue to provide services, supports, and programs to mitigate barriers to enrollment and completion for underrepresented, first-generation, and low-income students who were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In May, Harper received a \$11,078,775 grant from the U.S. Department of Education as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and supplemental to the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) grant. This funding is to defray institutional expenses associated with coronavirus, including lost revenue,

technology costs associated with a transition to distance education, faculty and staff trainings, and payroll and to make additional emergency financial grants to students. With these funds, institutions are also required to implement evidence-based practices to monitor and suppress coronavirus in accordance with public health guidelines and conduct direct outreach to financial aid applicants about the opportunity to receive a financial aid adjustment due to recent unemployment of a family member or other circumstances.

- Thus far, \$2,462,400 has been awarded to 3,078 students from CRRSAA (HEERF II) funds.
- The Educational Foundation received a grant of \$2,400 in May from the Illinois Community College Scholarship Foundation to support three academic scholarships for students in health careers programs.

Workforce Solutions

- Harper Business Solutions continues its ongoing efforts to support new training options for the business community, those in career transition, and a return to training for those businesses whose training pathways were affected by the pandemic.
 - New one-on-one leadership development training as new business with Nation Pizza and Foods
 - New business/Pathway kick off training for The Edlong Corporation
 - Returning business with Universal Metro Asian Services
- Community Education's InZone program returned to campus for in-person instruction on June 14. The first week of camp will see over 100 students taking part in a wide variety of classes for ages 6-14. This year's program will offer nine weeks of camp through August 13. Established COVID procedures will be followed to ensure a safe and rewarding experience as we welcome our InZone campers back to campus.
- The Apprenticeship program had 15 apprentices graduate with AAS degrees in advanced manufacturing technology. Two other apprentice students earned certificates in electrical maintenance and maintenance mechanic II.

Promise

- After the Spring 2021 semester:
 - One hundred and forty Promise Scholars earned a credential and completed the Harper Promise Program.
 - Two hundred and thirty-eight additional Promise Scholars met their Harper Semester 2 eligibility criteria and are eligible to enroll in the Fall 2021 semester.
- The Harper Promise high school class of 2021 is currently enrolling for the Fall 2021 semester.