



## PRESIDENT'S *REPORT*

March/April 2022

Dear Harper College Community:

I am pleased to highlight our stellar work over the last two months. In March, we had a plethora of activities for the college community to honor Women's History Month including celebrating women leaders who are veterans, artists and entrepreneurs. I'm glad we are fulfilling our responsibility to highlight achievements across disciplines and identities, and to normalize that women can excel in STEM, in business, in being entrepreneurs and more. The Daily Herald featured Harper College as part of its cover story on International Women's Day. I was delighted to shed light on a hidden figure, Dr. Katherine Johnson, who as an African-American mathematician helped calculate the path for John Glenn to become the first American to orbit the Earth. As an institution of higher education, we must facilitate opportunities with intentionality to cultivate aspirations for our students to reach their full potential. We know it can take some time for these actions to bring about real change as evidenced in the recent confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown-Jackson to be the first African-American female Supreme Court Justice. We recognize and celebrate this milestone and source of inspiration for young girls from all backgrounds to pursue their dreams wherever they may lead. For indeed, we all benefit when everyone is thriving.

We are quickly reaching the conclusion of our spring semester and all of the activity that accompanies the end of the school year. Faculty and students are working diligently to complete coursework and those students who are eligible to graduate are preparing for that momentous milestone. I am particularly excited as it will be my first time presiding over an in-person commencement ceremony at Harper. We are pleased to have U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth as our commencement speaker. She is no stranger to Harper College and has been an incredible supporter of ours and higher education in general most notably through her sponsoring of the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) legislation.

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Enrollment continues to be a challenge. As of March 21, our total FTE (CE and credit) spring enrollment was down 7.2% and our headcount was down 5.7% from last spring. Summer 2022 is also off to a slow start. I have asked the team to continue to explore all options on the table for retaining our current students and reaching our prospective students.

We know that our ties to the community are important to the work we do inside and outside of the classroom. I want to highlight three activities that occurred recently that speak to the college as a leader, a convener and a partner.

I was pleased to be the honorary chair of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Classic hosted by the Rotary Club of Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates. The Rotary Club of Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates and Harper College have a unique relationship built on providing opportunities for adult students through the Fishing Well and the ACE scholarships. Both scholarships are for adult students (24 and older) studying skills to enter the workforce at

a higher wage. At the event, I sat with two ACE grant alumni-- Amy Hochberg and Stephanie Wallace--who have secured fantastic jobs as registered nurses. These scholarships made the difference in ensuring they completed their nursing education.

This month, the college hosted the Partners for Our Communities Carnivale Celebration of Cultures. The Wojcik Conference Center was transformed with colorful banners and displays from various cultures while guests enjoyed performances by School District 15 student groups and guest performers from Northwestern University. Harper faculty and students participated in the cultural parade, and Fashion Studies, the Office of International Studies, International Studies Club, the Cultural Center and Adult Educational Development also hosted displays. Partners for Our Communities is a valuable collaborator and provides a critical link to our adult, immigrant and underserved students as we create pathways to a better life through higher education.

Last but certainly not least, we hosted a Transportation Summit bringing members of the college, business leaders, transportation representatives and staff members from the offices of elected officials from the local to national level to identify transportation solutions for our students. While you'll read more about this meeting and the solutions we've identified later in the report, I also want to highlight a meeting I had with the new Pace Executive Director Melinda Metzger. During our conversation, Director Metzger shared with me that Pace will be piloting a new route from the college to the Northwest Transportation Center in Schaumburg restoring much-needed bus service to Harper. This pilot will begin in August. Additionally, Pace and Harper are working on a program to provide driver training, which is an area of critical need for Pace.

## Student Success

### Enrollment Services

- The Outreach team is working diligently to recruit students for summer and fall 2022. The following have been completed since January to aid in these efforts:
  - Five Destination Harper virtual sessions
  - Two PASO virtual sessions
  - Three Adult Learner virtual info sessions
  - Three Fast Track virtual info sessions
  - Various email, call, and text campaigns
  - In-person and virtual student appointments, including 700 application reviews
  - 1,000+ total student touchpoints
- Last month, Outreach hosted an on-campus Latino Summit for 100+ high school students. Students participated in interactive sessions and toured the campus. This was the first large group hosted by Outreach since spring 2020.

### Student Engagement

- Student Engagement coordinated a student check-in, Community Pulse: Crisis in Ukraine, regarding the crisis in Ukraine in the Building A Student Center and virtually last month. Students connected with Harper counselors, staff, and other students to discuss the current events in Ukraine. Students looking to advocate and support humanitarian efforts were connected to Student Activities Board which is currently hosting a month-long fundraiser to raise \$10,000 for the non-profit organization, Project Hope.
- Fresh Check Day took place last month. Approximately 150 students and employees participated in the event. According to the post-survey, 62.79% of students who participated in the event mentioned that they felt much more aware of the warning signs of suicide, 72.09% felt much more aware of the mental health resources available to them, and 53.49% of students mentioned that they were much more comfortable talking about mental health and suicide after participating in the event.

### Interdisciplinary Programs

- In February, five Harper honors students presented work at the Honors Council of the Illinois Region Student Symposium.
  - Marion Bensing presented on a florescent green protein and its medical potential.
  - Yulia Hurtsul presented on the poetry of Anne Sexton.
  - Varshitha Akella presented on prostitution and human trafficking in Chicago.
  - Taiah Guess presented on the plague of missing and murdered women of color in Chicago.
  - Jaspreet Kaur presented on the rise of the working class in Dracula.
- Last month, the Phi Phi Chapter at Harper welcomed 126 new members at an Induction Ceremony attended by approximately 80 people. Chapter officers Marion Bensing, Safa Saied, Dana Khatib, Emily Alvia, and Faith Laldinpui spoke on the four hallmarks of Phi Theta Kappa.

### Student Development

- Student Affairs and Institutional Research partnered to develop a Power BI tool to assess the impact of the new Buddy System Program, which is designed to support students in building connections with each other and the campus to support their retention. The new Power BI tool allows the leaders of the program to



assess various student success metrics such as credits earned, GPA and next-term persistence. Users can disaggregate the data along several student dimensions including first generation status, age, race/ethnicity, market segment, military status, and Pell eligibility. The reporting tool has highlighted that Black, Latinx and White students who participated in the Buddy System Program in fall 2021 had persistence rates 11-15 percentage points higher than non-participating students.

- To celebrate Autism Acceptance Month this April, Access, and Disability Services (ADS) facilitated several student-led and created projects. Approximately 20 Transition Autism Program students and ADS Success Club members created educational displays and one-of-a-kind artwork inside the library and on the bookstore windows. The students also hand-colored posters, personally distributed them to Harper staff and faculty, and asked them to post on their office doors as an act of allyship. The intent of all projects was to center autistic students' voices and focus on the actions we can take as a community to embrace autism acceptance versus just autism awareness.

#### Office of International Education

- Harper College was well-represented at the 2022 annual conference of Community Colleges for International Development (CCID). Harper is a Board member college of CCID: Dr. Avis Proctor, who is treasurer of the organization, and Richard Johnson, who is the SIO Council chair, both sit on the Executive Council. Led by Dr. Proctor, the Harper team included faculty, staff, and administrators. The Harper team gave four presentations and participated in numerous other sessions. In a sweep of the annual awards ceremony, Professor Mukila Maitha received the Faculty Innovation in Global Education Award and Richard Johnson was presented the Werner Kubsch Award for Outstanding Achievement in International Education.
- With the official announcement of Harper's 100,000 Strong in the Americas 2021 Innovation Fund Grant award, the GLOVE project (Global Learning through Online Virtual Exchange) has launched a series of virtual meetings between Harper and Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica (UNA) faculty. Beginning this month, seven Harper classes (including ESL, ENG, and German), representing approximately 100 students, will interact with UNA students enrolled as English majors. In the fall, Harper will host six UNA students and two faculty on a grant-funded educational and cultural field excursion. In a reciprocal visit funded through the grant, six Harper students will be selected through an application process to travel to Costa Rica in the spring of 2023.

#### Career and Technical Programs

- The Northwest Suburban Bar Association (NWSBA) has agreed to fund two paralegal studies student scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each. Each scholarship will be titled the "Honorable Timothy C. Evans Scholarship for Paralegal Studies sponsored by the NWSBA." The Honorable Timothy C. Evans, Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, is scheduled to award these scholarships at the NWSBA Judge's Night next month, at Café La Cave.
- There is a newly formed Paralegal Studies Association (PSA) student club at Harper College led by paralegal student, Jess Land, and Monica Shirley, Paralegal Studies adjunct faculty and coordinator for student diversity initiatives, will serve as the advisor. The PSA held their first meeting last month with a practicing paralegal, Mauriel Henry, as their first guest speaker.
- The Harper College Law Enforcement and Justice (LEJ) Program hosted its first annual Law Enforcement Career fair earlier this month. This exciting event was hosted to create opportunities for attendees to network with more than 30 law enforcement agencies from the northwest suburbs of Chicago. More than



100 individuals attended this event. Attendees learned more about a policing career from talking with the different law enforcement officers, as well as discussing potential employment opportunities with the various agency representatives.

- Pearson Vue and other academic and workforce testing services are now available at the Learning and Career Center in Prospect Heights, restoring important testing opportunities to students and the community that were phased out of the Harper Professional Center in 2019. Since its February launch, over 150 testers have sat for the HSE and for credentials in lines of work as diverse as CNA, firefighting, pharmacology, teaching, and IT. Testing is offered every Monday and Wednesday, with additional vendors being added progressively, including Certiport, Castle and eventually community proctoring for colleges nationwide with remote students. The space is also strengthening the partnership and student pipeline of the adjacent American Jobs Center (AJC) since the Career and Technical Programs Division won a ICCB grant for Equitable Career Readiness that includes free TABE testing for job seekers engaged with AJC training and employment services and seeks to close small skills gaps that make the difference in qualifying for workforce training dollars for Harper and other programs. Special acknowledgment to Lori Skala, Joe Scrima, Martha Karavitis, LCC staff and many professionals in the IT and Facilities departments for launching this transformative testing service.

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

- In March, we launched a Study Café within the Cultural Center, which is open every Tuesday from 4:30-6:30 p.m., providing a safe space for students to connect with each other and study. Snacks and beverages are provided.
- Last month, in celebration of Women’s History Month, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Student Engagement, Wellness Services and the Office of International Education collaborated to celebrate International Women’s Day by traveling around India through dance with Bollywood Groove.
- Our office also sponsored “Which Way Home” with Patricia Perez to celebrate Women’s history month. This program involved sharing the journey of Patricia Perez as a Latinx artist and how she infuses culture, tradition, and history into her oil paintings. She also premiered her new art series that illustrates the immigration journey of children from Mexico.
- In partnership with Latinos Unidos and Admissions, we hosted a Latinx Summit, providing tours through the Cultural Center and a presentation led by Esmeralda Guerrero Lopez, which included well over 100 participants.
- Cesar Chavez Day of Action was held in the Cultural Center last month in partnership with Latinos Unidos. This program afforded students an opportunity to learn about Cesar Chavez and engage in different civic activities. Students also made cards for children at St. Jude’s Hospital and volunteered at Feed My Starving Children.
- DEI and HR launched a new all-employee, DEI online training for Harper employees on Professional Development Day.
- We had a successful Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) event with Emma Saito Lincoln for the Our History is American History discussion earlier this month. This was a co-curricular program done in partnership with Andrew Wilson, English faculty, and supported by Kathleen Reynolds, ESL/Linguistics professor, both of whom brought their classes. We had 66 students, faculty, staff, and community members in attendance. This program highlighted the impact and importance of co-curricular programming, as well as the need to highlight more about Asian history and experiences on campus.



- The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion provided food and beverages for Trans (T)ea Time in partnership with Pride Club. Trans (T)ea Time was launched in celebration of International Day of Trans Visibility, to create a space for Harper Trans community members to collectively gather in a safe space for social connection. Dr. Rob Hill and Dr. Andrew Anastasia were pivotal in helping this event occur. Thirteen students, faculty and staff attended.
- The cultural center hosted the Black Student Union (BSU) Family Feud event earlier this month. This was a social club event designed for BSU members to continue to connect with one another. A total of 16 students attended, as well as BSU co-advisors DuBoi McCarty and Aisha Robinson.
- Pride Club Slam Poetry was hosted by the Cultural Center earlier this month. This event was created by Pride Club to encourage healthy competition through the sharing of poetry written by Pride Club members and allies. The event included 11 students in attendance. Dr. Andrew Anastasia and Dr. Ranjani Murali served as judges of the competition.
- This month, DEI will host two training workshops as part of our “Diversity, Equity and inclusion in Action” series. The first session will help faculty and staff understand and unlearn unconscious bias. The second session will focus on how to apply equity in professional and personal practice. To date, 28 faculty/staff have registered for the first session and 26 faculty/staff are signed up for the second session.

#### SJLC (Social Justice League Certificate) Program

- Dr. Monica Boyd-Layne, assistant professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Adler University, facilitated a workshop entitled “Social Justice: Beyond Theory,” for the SJLC cohort. By grounding the workshop in her own experience and knowledge, Dr. Boyd-Layne enriched the curriculum of the SJLC program and re-energized the cohort in the important work they are doing on campus.

#### Employee Resource Groups

- The Police in collaboration with the three ERGs are piloting a Police Ride-A-Long Program. Karega Cooper was the first employee to participate, and other ERG leadership members are planning to schedule a ride-a-long as well. After the pilot rides are completed, the hope is to offer this opportunity to a wider segment of the Harper community.
- SAFE sponsored a trip to the Stonewall Exhibit at the Illinois Holocaust Museum in February. Several members, along with their families, attended to learn the historical impact of Stonewall and engage in an opportunity to connect more with members of the ERG.

### Finance and Administrative Services

#### *Facilities*

- The scope of work for the Building Y Y211 Data Center Upgrade Project will include redundant power, cooling, and emergency power off systems for the Building Y data center. Construction has begun and is scheduled to be completed in June 2022
- The scope of work for the emergency shower and eye wash station plumbing upgrades at Building Z will include plumbing work required to replace the existing temperature mixing valves in ten labs. Construction is substantially complete.



## Information Technology

- Updated the Financial Aid module in the Banner Student Information System (SIS) to apply the latest regulatory enhancements.
- Prepared the Banner SIS and Degree Works degree planning software for the summer term.

## Advancement, Marketing and Communications

### Advancement

- The HOPE Giving Circle, Harper's women's affinity program, held the annual Women at the Table Panel Discussion this month. The event features a panel of women in media who discussed women's leadership in the industry. Nearly 60 guests attended the event. The HOPE Giving Circle has raised over \$250,000 in support of female students pursuing their education at Harper and beyond. HOPE offers scholarships, mentoring and development opportunities for the student recipients.
- The Harper Educational Foundation is now accepting nominations for the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Awards, including the award for Outstanding Recent Alumni. The Outstanding Recent Alumni Award honors alumni who have attended Harper within the last 10 years. Learn more about the Distinguished Alumni Awards including criteria, nominating instructions and applications by visiting [harpercollege.edu/distinguishedalumni](http://harpercollege.edu/distinguishedalumni). Nominations are due the beginning of next month. Please save the date for the Distinguished Alumni awards ceremony on October 20, 2022.
- Realizing Dreams is being held on campus later this month. Scholarship donors and donors \$1,000 and above are invited, along with scholarship recipients. Remarks from Dr. Proctor and scholarship recipient Kelly Jackson will start the program, and then donors and scholarship recipients will break into small groups to have conversations about giving to and receiving scholarships.
- The Harper College Educational Foundation is piloting its Corporate Virtual Mentoring program this spring. Eighteen mentors from Clearwater Capital Partners, Motorola Solutions and Vistex attended an orientation session to learn more about the program and mentoring. Those who sign up will virtually mentor Harper scholarship recipients between now and July.

### Community Relations

- Last month, Community Relations hosted its first campus tour in two years. The girls club from Eisenhower Junior High in Hoffman Estates visited the nursing simulation hospital and the Makerspace. The 20 students also discussed their career aspirations, learned about developing a pathway to college and met with current Harper students to discuss what it's like to be in college.
- Harper was proud to sponsor the 43rd Annual Classic hosted by the Rotary Club of Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates. This year, Dr. Proctor served as honorary chair of the event. Harper has been a member of the club for more than five years. The club is responsible for supporting more than 125 students with their Fishing Well and ACE Grant. The scholarships are for adult students 24 and older that are studying skills to enter the workforce at a higher wage. The club also supports a \$6,000 transfer scholarship every year for a Harper student.

- Last month, Amie Granger and Heather Zoldak attended the Rotary Club of Palatine Awards Dinner to accept a \$2,500 Rotary grant to support Harper Hawks Care. Amie and Heather are both Rotarians and represent Harper in the Rotary Club of Elk Grove Village and Rotary Club of Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates. A mission of Rotary is to support organizations within their community. Harper is a member of four rotaries within the district.

### Marketing Services

- Harper College was recognized in the 37th Annual Educational Advertising Awards receiving 10 awards. This year, more than 2,000 entries were received from over 1,000 colleges, universities, and secondary schools from all 50 states and several foreign countries. Judges for the Educational Advertising Awards consisted of a national panel of higher education marketers, advertising creative directors, marketing, and advertising professionals. Harper earned awards in the following categories:
  - Gold - Direct Mail This Is Your Time Postcard
  - Gold - Brochure Inspire: Build a Better Tomorrow
  - Gold - Website Refresh Community Education Website
  - Gold - Podcasts Harper Talks: Alumni Podcast
  - Gold - Special Video Celebrating Our Community
  - Silver - Direct Mail Destination Harper Postcard
  - Silver - Special Event Materials Cultural Center Opening Week
  - Silver - Student Viewbook 2021-2022
  - Merit - Publication/External 2021 Fall Catalyst
  - Merit - Social Media Content “Today, I Learned...”
- Harper College is participating in Community College Month in a variety of ways during April. To launch the month, the college asked its Instagram followers to share how community college has changed their lives. Among the dozens of responses were, “it helped me to discover my own path as a student and as a person,” “(it) gave me the opportunity to restart my college journey without a lot of debt,” and “(it) taught me so much and helped me achieve things I never thought possible.”

### Media Relations

- Generous Harper donors, the Shida family, were featured in profiles in the *Daily Herald* and *Patch*, discussing their \$1 million gift to the college and highlighting the launch of the Harper College Educational Foundation’s Inspire Campaign.
- Dr. Stephanie Whalen, Harper professor and chair of the Academy of Teaching Excellence, was featured in an article that ran in *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* about how to work toward more equitable classrooms.
- The Harper Ensemble Theatre Company’s recent musical production of *Sense and Sensibility* was highlighted in the *Pioneer Press/Chicago Tribune*.
- The *Daily Herald* previewed Harper’s recent Women at the Table Breakfast event, moderated by Harper Director of Communications Kim Pohl, and featuring a panel that included Madhu Krishnamurthy, editor at the *Daily Herald*; Jeanne Sparrow, Emmy-winning TV and radio personality; and Lisa Stamos, publisher of Quintessential Media Group.
- Harper Distinguished Alumnus Dr. Christopher J. Schneider was profiled in the *Daily Herald* and *Patch* in advance of his lecture at Harper, connected to the new book he co-authored, *Defining Sexual Misconduct: Power, Media, and #MeToo*.



- A blog post by *New America*, a public policy think tank, highlighted Harper's success with student apprenticeships.
- Harper Radio's award winners from the Intercollegiate Broadcasting Systems 2022 Media Awards and the Broadcast Education Association's 2022 Festival of Media Arts Awards were celebrated in Chicago media blogger Robert Feder's column, as well as in the *Daily Herald* and *Patch*.
- In an editorial for *Community College Daily*, Achieving the Dream CEO Karen A. Stout highlighted Harper College's Adjunct Faculty Tier II program as an example of how colleges can support faculty as agents of change.
- Harper's upcoming InZone Summer Sports and Enrichment Camp was previewed in the *Daily Herald*, *Journal & Topics* and *Patch*.
- A Q&A with Harper student-employee Gabriela Rushing ran in the *Daily Herald* and *Patch* in advance of Harper's Women's Veterans Celebration.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a report about a gala hosted by the Rotary Club of Schaumburg/Hoffman Estates, highlighting how Dr. Proctor served as honorary chair.
- The American Philosophical Association announced on its blog that Harper Professor Brett Fulkerson-Smith was appointed to the APA's Teaching of Philosophy committee.

## Legislative Affairs

- We have been busy working at the state and national levels strengthening relationships with our federal elected officials. After the FY22 budget was passed in March, Congress announced a quick deadline for FY23 federal spending requests, also known as earmarks. We had less than two weeks to quickly put together two proposals to request funding--one to expand our apprenticeship program through Senator Duckworth and the second to invest in our newest area of focus, aviation, through Representative Krishnamoorthi.
- We were also monitoring, providing feedback and advocating during the fast-paced spring 2022 session of the Illinois General Assembly, which has adjourned after passing more than 400 bills. The General Assembly approved several key measures, including passing the FY23 operating and capital budgets, \$1.8 billion in targeted tax relief, a hospital and nursing home assessment, and a public safety package. The college, along with help from state Representative Fred Crespo and our lobbyists, was able to secure \$318,000 in funding for the Education and Work Center in the FY23 budget to account for funding it did not receive during FY21 in addition to its annual appropriation of \$318,000. This was a major victory and ensures we will be able to continue to serve our students in partnership with Elgin Community College. Other highlights for higher education from the FY23 budget include:
  - 5% supplemental funding for this year and 5% supplemental funding for next year
  - \$122 million for the Monetary Assistance Program (MAP)
  - \$25 million for Pipeline for the Advancement of the Healthcare (PATH) workforce program
  - \$500 million for college bridge programs
  - \$979 million reappropriation of capital projects
  - \$25 million for early childhood education

- In addition to the budget and safety/crime prevention bills, the following legislation related to higher education passed:
  - [HB1167 – EDUCATION TECH](#)
    - Summary: Requires paid administrative leave be provided for every employee of a public school district established under Article 10 or Article 34 of the School Code, public university, and public community college who meets the following criteria:
      - fully vaccinated or has received the required doses to become fully vaccinated within five weeks of the effective date of the Act.
      - required, or whose child is required, to be excluded from school because of a positive COVID-19 test result or close contact with a person who had a confirmed case of COVID-19.
      - has been required by the school or school district policy to be excluded from school district property due to COVID-19 symptoms.
    - Restoration of sick leave for every employee of a public school district, public university, and public community college who meets the following criteria:
      - fully vaccinated or has received the required doses to become fully vaccinated within five weeks of the effective date of the Act, and
      - who has previously used their sick time because they or their child were required to be excluded from school because of a positive COVID-19 test result or close contact with a person who had a confirmed case of COVID-19.
      - has been required by the school or school district policy to be excluded from school district property due to COVID-19 symptoms.
    - Maintains wage protections for all hourly school employees, including but not limited to, custodians, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, classroom assistants, or administrative staff. This protection applies for the entire 2021-22 school year, including any days that a school has already closed or switched to e-learning which caused the paraprofessional to go without pay or take their own earned paid time off.
    - Effective Date: Immediately.
  - [HB 4201 - HIGHER ED-BENEFITS NAVIGATOR](#)
    - Summary: Requires institutes of higher education to designate a benefits navigator with a detailed understanding of eligibility requirements and community support to help students apply for assistance. Requires participation in a statewide consortium with other public institutions of higher education to communicate benefits.
    - Effective Date: January 1, 2023
  - [HB 5175 - HIGHER ED-VET GRANT PROGRAM](#)
    - Summary: Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the board of a community college must classify a person as an in-district resident for tuition if they are on active duty or is entitled to veterans' education assistance.
    - Effective Date: Upon becoming law.
  - [HB 5506 - HIGHER ED-DUAL CREDIT-STANDARDS](#)
    - Summary: In partnerships between community colleges and school districts, allows a high school student who does not meet the community college districts' academic requirements to enroll in a dual credit course taught at a high school for high school credit. Requires school districts and community colleges to annually assess disaggregated data for dual credit course enrollments, completions, and postsecondary enrollment.
    - Effective Date: January 1, 2023
  - [SB 3032 - STUDENT DEBT ASSISTANCE ACT](#)
    - Summary: Prohibits higher education institutions from holding an unofficial transcript if a current or former student owes a debt. Prohibits an institution from charging a higher fee or providing less favorable treatment for an unofficial transcript if a student owes debt. Beginning in the

2022-2023 school years, requires institutions to provide a financial or physical hardship withdrawal process.

- Effective Date: Upon becoming law.
- [SB 3149 - HIGHER ED-CHILD CARE RESOURCES](#)
  - Summary: Requires information on the Child Care Assistance Program and federal dependent care allowance be included in information provided to students eligible for Monetary Award Program grants each year.
  - Effective Date: Upon becoming law.
- Legislators will now return home to hit the campaign trail in their new legislative districts. This will be the first election cycle in the newly drawn districts. All 177 seats in the General Assembly are up for election this year, as well as all six constitutional offices, all 17 congressional seats and one United States Senate seat. The primary election is June 28. The General Election is November 8.

## Strategic Alliances and Innovation

- The Strategic Alliances and Innovation area along with the Chief of Staff facilitated a meeting to discuss regional transportation challenges. Representatives from IDOT and PACE participated and offered their support to address challenges. In addition, staffers representing state and national legislators attended to lend their support. The outcomes were to pilot three options: bike sharing, ride share support for students, and a community vehicle program. Long-term solutions will be formulated via a task force that will work to leverage dollars that will become available via the bipartisan infrastructure law that was passed earlier this year.

### Grants Office

- In January 2022, the College's Office of International Education received \$25,000 from 100,000 Strong in the Americas to support a project entitled *Global Learning through Online Virtual Exchange: Transforming Teaching and Learning through Immersive International Education* in partnership with Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, Campus Sarapiquí.
- In March 2022, the Educational Foundation was awarded a grant of \$2,500 from the Rotary Club of Palatine to provide additional funding to the Hawks Care programs. Funding can be used to replenish the food pantry and to provide gas and grocery gift cards to students in need.
- In January 2022, Harper submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation Scholarships for STEM grant program requesting \$729,598. This grant would provide scholarships, co-curricular activities, and student support services to low-income students in Computer Science and Computer Information Systems programs.
- In February 2022, Harper submitted a grant proposal to the American Association of Community Colleges to be a part of its Artificial Intelligence Incubator Network (AIIN) supported by funding from Dell and Intel. This 18-month initiative will allow Harper to design and build a virtual or hybridized Artificial Intelligence Incubator Lab and benefit from best practices from the field of AI Incubation, including pathways to credit and non-credit bearing courses, certificates, and associate degree programs, strategies for identifying the program delivery style that will best suit Harper and its students, and ultimately, elevate, embed, and prioritize AI skills into more occupational areas. Instructors will attend train-the-trainer sessions to learn more about utilizing, delivering, and customizing the AI course content. While all applicants are invited to be a part of this network, selected colleges will receive \$40,000 to support the buildout of their AI Incubator Lab.

- In March 2022, an application was submitted to the Lumina Foundation for its Million Dollar Community College Challenge which will provide one community college with \$1 million to implement a project that supports brand building and the development of a comprehensive strategic marketing plan that focuses on adult learners. Nine other community colleges will be selected for \$100,000 awards. All awarded colleges will also receive technical assistance to develop actionable brand building and marketing strategies. Ten finalists will be selected in April 2022 and invited to proceed in the process.
- In April 2022, a grant application for \$40,000 was submitted to Motorola Solutions Foundation to support the Engineering Pathways and Award for Excellence scholarships. This grant would fund eight \$5,000 scholarships and can cover tuition, books, fees, and other course materials.
- The Grants Office is administering the student portion of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) grants from the U.S. Department of Education and managing the disbursement of \$19.4 million in emergency aid grants to students.
  - The emergency aid application for students enrolled in spring 2022 opened on January 3, 2022.
  - For the spring 2022 term, through April 8, 2022, \$6,689,980 emergency aid grants have been awarded to 3,187 students.

### Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness

- The Office of Outcomes Assessment worked with the Spirit of Cooperation and Communication Team, which is a sub-group of the Core Values Strategic Plan Goal Team, to conduct listening sessions with faculty and staff to gather employee perception of spirit of cooperation and collaboration. Six sessions occurred between fall 2021 and early spring 2022. A summary report was prepared for the team, and they presented these findings of the listening sessions as well as new strategies that could be incorporated in departments to increase collaboration and spirit of cooperation at the February Operations Council meeting.
- The Strategic Plan Leadership team met in March to share accomplishments of the Strategic Plan. The Student Success Goal Team provided an update on the Philosophy project that reduced equity gaps. The Distance Education Operations Team discussed opportunities with team leaders to ensure that the distance education work aligns with the work of the Strategic Goal Teams.

### Workforce Solutions

- Lori Turinsky, major accounts assistant, has won the 2nd place Contract Training Staff Award, an international award in continuing education, by the Learning Resources Network (LERN), the largest association in lifelong learning in the world. “The award recognizes a Contract Training staff member who has gone over and beyond the call of duty in 2021,” noted LERN Assistant Vice President Travette A. Webster.

#### *Promise*

- In a recent survey sent to Promise Scholars in their final semester, 92% indicated that they plan to transfer to another institution to continue their education, while 3% will remain at Harper pursuing a limited enrollment program, 2% will be starting their career, and 3% will be taking some time off from education.

## In Memoriam

- Harper College Full Professor Sean Noonan passed away the evening of April 7. Sean has been part of the Harper community for nearly two decades, joining Harper's Sociology Department in August 2002 and becoming a full professor in 2011. He also served as a faculty senator and a vice president of the Faculty Senate for six years.

Professor Dave Richmond offered these words about his dear friend: "Sean made us all better. He made his students better. He made the college better. He made the union better. And he made his friends better. His presence could dominate a room like no one else I've ever known, whether it was a classroom, a meeting room, or a board room. He also loved quiet contemplation and deep conversations with his friends. You can't replace someone like Sean Noonan. You just learn to go on trying to live up to the example he left for us. He will be missed."

Sean was deeply committed to his family, his students and his work as a union leader. He was a fierce advocate for the working class and never hesitated to stand up for what he believed was right. Prior to joining Harper, I first learned about Sean through his writings in the faculty newsletter and later met him in person and learned of his leadership across the state. While in Sean's presence, you knew he was a man of heartfelt principles and was dedicated to improving circumstances for many and for the college. The Harper community will certainly miss him.

Read Sean's [obituary](#).