



PRESIDENT'S *REPORT*

May 2022

Dear Harper College Community:

Our first in-person commencement in nearly three years is this week, and I am delighted to welcome U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth as our commencement speaker. Sen. Duckworth continues to be a champion for higher education and Harper College students. I look forward to her remarks and the opportunity to award her an honorary degree from the college. In addition to celebrating our students, commencement also presents us the opportunity to honor our outstanding faculty for their work in the classroom. Dr. Richard Johnson has been selected as the 2022 Motorola Solutions Distinguished Faculty Award winner for his excellent work, especially for directing the Office of International Education for more than a decade. Dr. Johnson will lead the commencement procession on Saturday.

I was also delighted to be in New York City recently for the American Association of Community Colleges national conference where Tim Reiss was recognized as a 2022 New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar and Dr. Stephanie Whalen was recognized as one of three finalists for the Faculty Innovation Award for AACC's 2022 Awards of Excellence. Tim will continue to excel at his transfer institution and Dr. Whalen's commendable work with our Academy team and high school partners strengthens equitable teaching practices in the K-12 and postsecondary settings in our district.

Members of the Executive Cabinet and I also presented at AACC on our work leading the college's crisis response to COVID-19 sharing best practices with our peers. Lastly, I was honored to be appointed to the AACC Board of Directors where I will be serving with fellow presidents and helping to shape AACC's work to provide leadership and advocacy for our nation's community colleges.

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I am also pleased to report that Harper has been selected as one of 25 semifinalists across the nation for the 2023 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. This is a significant and new milestone for our institution which honors all the incredible efforts of our faculty and staff to serve and help our students achieve their dreams.

To proactively address transportation needs for our campus, we held a transportation summit last month for students, employees, community leaders and representatives from state and federal elected officials to highlight transportation challenges and gather input on viable solutions for our college community. Last week, I attended a Crain's event featuring Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, who provided an update on transportation strategies and funding opportunities within the new infrastructure law. I also met our state Senator Ram Villivalam who chairs the Senate Transportation Committee in our General Assembly. We're hoping to leverage these connections to bring about sustainable and innovative cost-effective transportation options for our students, employees and area partners beginning this summer.

In sum, this report contains several traditional and newly developed strategies aimed at improving outcomes for students. I am Harper Proud of our collective and diligent efforts to remove barriers and foster success for our students!



Student Success

Enrollment Services

- Admissions Outreach took “outreach” to a new level this month! Sarah Kirk and Imazul Garica visited the homes of four incoming Harper students in April. The visits celebrated students' decisions to attend Harper and enhanced their sense of pride in making a great choice for their future. Photos and video from the visits will be used in an upcoming advertising campaign on social media and through other channels.
- The event continued in April in the Quad with a yard-sign pick up where 16 families attended to pick up their sign and take a picture with the Harper Hawk!

Student Engagement

- Student Engagement and Student Activities Board hosted Student Appreciation Day in April. This is an annual event to celebrate Harper’s wonderful students as the semester comes to a close. This year’s event featured an inflatable obstacle course, pizza, caricature artist, photo booth, and the crowd favorite, a mechanical bull! Feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive with over 300 hundred students in attendance at the Student Center Lounge, building connections and having a good time!
- Finals Week Survival Kits were sent out to 250 students. The kits contained a variety of supplies including personalized notes from Harper employees, tea packets, on-campus resources, snacks, lip balm, coloring kits and more. This initiative was in collaboration with Harper Wellness, the Library, Hawks Care, and Campus Recreation.
- Late April, the Center for Student Veterans and Military Connected Students celebrated the graduation of military affiliated students at Harper College. With assistance from the Registrar’s Office and Student Engagement, we were able to identify and invite students to participate in the Red, White and Blue Chord Ceremony. The red, white and blue chords identify students at graduation who are student veterans or military connected. This semester we had five students participate in the ceremony which allowed them to be recognized and share in that experience with their families.

Interdisciplinary Programs

- Papers by Honors Program students Varshitha Akella and Taiah Guess were accepted to be shared at a roundtable as part of the National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference next fall in Dallas.
- Phi Theta Kappa student Marion Bensing was awarded the Boston University Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship – a renewable \$25,000 scholarship.

Student Development

- Student Affairs and Institutional Research partnered to create a persistence prediction analytics tool that is embedded into the Radar Report used by advisors to help manage their assigned caseload of students. Students are identified as having low, moderate, or high likelihoods of persistence to the next term. In addition to displaying a student’s persistence prediction, the dashboard provides supplemental information highlighting various momentum points that provide insight in explaining a student’s persistence likelihood. Need stratification is the first step toward scaling equitable care and the effective use of data analytics is critical to triage the needs of each student.

Office of International Education

- The Office of International Education is honored to announce that Dr. Richard Johnson and Professor Mukila Maitha have been awarded a grant award of \$163,444 from the U.S. Department of Education's Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program to fund a six-week professional development field seminar to Kenya and Uganda during the summer of 2023. Entitled "Teaching Africa Today: Environmental and Sustainability Issues in Kenya and Uganda through a Social Justice Lens," the program will prepare 12 educators and two Seminar leaders from post-secondary and K-12 educational institutions in Illinois to teach about global environmental and conservation issues through a social justice lens. The long-term impact of this project will extend beyond the educators to their students, institutions, and the wider community through a variety of programs and activities associated with the grant.

Career and Technical Programs

- Late March, Cook County Commissioner Scott Britton toured the North Suburban American Job Center (AJC) in Wheeling. The center comprises various partners, including Harper College, The Chicago-Cook Workforce Partnership (CCWP), Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), Illinois Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), and others. Funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the AJC partners provide job seekers career counseling, job search support, temporary income support, information about career training opportunities, and scholarships. Harper College supports the center's mission by providing clients opportunities to enroll in courses to acquire basic skill literacy, high school equivalency diplomas, and career-focused certificates and degrees using WIOA funds and other forms of student aid. Commissioner Britton was pleased to witness the cooperation amongst the partners to provide constituents with all the career transition resources they need under one roof. To learn about Harper's partnership at the American Job Center, visit www.harpercollege.edu/wioa.
- In May, Harper College kicked off the Habitat for Humanity Northern Fox Valley, 2022 Women Build Day. This is a month-long event, that invites women to help families build strength, stability, and independence through housing. Working under the supervision of construction professionals and alongside other volunteers, faculty and staff completed a landscaping project and added aluminum siding to one of the homes of a future Habitat homeowner. It was a truly rewarding and fun event. Harper participants were Lisa Busto, Shauntae Gore, Rita Gura, Joanne Ivory, Claudia Mercado, Kimberly Pohl, Kimberley Polly, Beverly Riley, and Darice Trout.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- In collaboration with the Health Careers Division, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion co-sponsored, a "Roundtable Discussion with Diverse Healthcare Professionals." This program provided students an opportunity to connect with professionals of color in a wide range of health careers. Panelists included Dr. Felicia Brumfield, Physical Therapist; Tomika Flowers, Dental Hygienist; Linda Mercado, Registered Nurse; and Dr. LoShay A. Willis, Respiratory Therapist. Each panelist provided valuable insight and answered numerous questions for a very curious group of students.
- The Dean of Students Office, the Academy for teaching Excellence, and the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion hosted our final sessions in the Free Speech and Expression series. "Controversies Across the Country" addressed the challenges experienced by campuses regarding the First Amendment and

maintaining a safe and inclusive campus.

- In celebration of AAPI Heritage Month, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion hosted bestselling author, Ajanta Chakrabourti, who engaged students and their families with a reading from her children's book collection "Let's Celebrate Holi!" The first 20 children that attended received a copy of the book.
- The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in partnership with the Office of Admissions and local school districts, hosted approximately 150 high school students. The students received a tour of Harper's campus including mini tours of the Cultural Center. Students also learned about the many opportunities available at Harper.

Social Justice Leadership Certificate Program

- We celebrated four years of achievement with the SJLC Program. Organizers, co-facilitators, advisory, and alumni of the first four cohorts gathered in the Wojcik conference center dining room to recognize the continual evolution and many contributions of the program. The SJLC is unique among programs at community colleges as a collaboration between the Offices of International Education and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and is a project-based curriculum focusing on fostering leadership capacity among employees through a social justice lens. Many of the participants attested to the impact of their experiences in the program, from conceiving and nurturing their projects to watching them bear fruit and even become part of campus-wide initiatives. With 30 alumni, the SJLC projects are as varied as the participants, including professional development workshops on white fragility and trauma-informed pedagogy, the development of a social justice oriented curriculum, research, and advocacy for a childcare facility for Harper College students, and the research on the demand and need for an intercultural space for students. During the ceremony, the fifth cohort (2022-23) of nine employees was introduced. They will begin their social justice journeys over the summer with a shared book read. At the dawn of its fifth year, the SJLC is a well-established program that is central to the intercultural education and DEI missions of the college.

Finance and Administrative Services

- The COVID-19 Response Team agreed to continue providing COVID testing on campus via rapid tests only at the college's expense through the end of the spring semester, or longer if the Governor's vaccination/testing mandate is extended.

Facilities Management

- The scope of work for the Canning Center will include new facilities for the Campus Life/One Stop Admissions Center (Student Center) to provide one location for student services and related functions, Hospitality Facilities to support the Hospitality Program, and the University Center which will include the Professional Center, the Regional Innovation and Entrepreneurship Hub, and the Testing and Certification Center. The schematic design continues and is scheduled to be completed in August 2022.

Information Technology

- For April, Information Technology received an overall satisfaction rating of 97.1%.
- Updated the drug-free and Title IX surveys in the Banner SIS to provide a cleaner and simpler look to students.



Advancement, Marketing and Communications

Advancement

- The Foundation hosted an interactive campus tour in April with donors, prospects, and alumni. Attendees visited four programs – Chemistry, Law Enforcement and Justice Administration, Simulation Hospital and Surgical Technology. Guests met with faculty and students to learn more about each area and participated in hands-on activities (similar to what students experience in the classroom). Dr. Proctor and members of the Executive Cabinet joined the tour to meet with guests. The Foundation plans to host additional interactive tours in the future. The Foundation appreciates the faculty who were so willing to engage with our guests and showcase their programs.
- The Harper Alumni Program in collaboration with Student Involvement hosted a Distinguished Alumni lecture featuring 2021 Distinguished Alumnus Dr. Christopher Schneider in April. Dr. Schneider lectured on his new book *Sexual Misconduct: Power, Media, and #MeToo*. Nearly 50 students, alumni and Harper faculty/staff attended the event.
- Harper College will host Gradfest in June at the Ender Outdoor Pavilion. The festival style lunch event will bring together Harper College alumni from the classes of 2020 and 2021 in order to provide the alumni an experience that acknowledges and celebrates their graduation and accomplishments. Gradfest will feature lunch, music by the band 7th Heaven, activities, and meaningful opportunities for connection for the alumni.

Community Relations

- In March, Harper hosted the Partners for our Communities Carnivale Celebration of Cultures. The fundraising event celebrated the many cultures supported by Partners for our Communities programs in Palatine, Hoffman Estates and Hanover Park. More than 150 guests learned about various cultures, enjoyed performances and refreshments. Harper faculty, staff and students also participated in the event.
- Harper proudly sponsored the annual GOA Business at the Ballpark in April. More than 50 businesses participated in the event. Community relations and representatives from Workforce Solutions were on hand to discuss the programs and services available to businesses and organizations. Attendees also received a Harper tote bag. Over 160 people attended despite the cold weather.
- This past month Harper participated in the Schaumburg Business Association Women in Business lunch and Good Morning Schaumburg. Representatives from the Harper Women's Program, Hawks Care and Workforce Solutions attended the events and shared information about Harper's programs, services, and resources available to businesses and the community. Harper is a longtime member of the SBA.

Marketing

- Storytelling and communication across Harper College institutional social media channels have been active this spring. For the 28-day period ending May 10, the college's LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook institutional pages generated:
 - 852,540 impressions, a 1.4% increase over the previous 28 days
 - 14,567 engagements, 72% increase
 - 3,508 post clicks, a 4.2% increase
 - The total net audience also grew by 797 followers
 - Top posts included:

Education and Work Center Partnership
Dr. Stephanie Whalen honored for innovation by AACC
2022 graduate spotlight: DijZhane Dennis-McKinley
2022 Mother's Day graduation post

- We invite you to follow the college's institutional social pages:
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/school/harpercollege/>
Instagram: @harpercollege
Twitter: @harpercollege
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/harpercollege/>

Media Relations

- Community College Daily and the Daily Herald highlighted the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and Harper advancing to the next phase as one of 25 semifinalists.
- The Daily Herald, WBBM radio and Patch highlighted the launch of the \$100,000 Community Innovation Fund Grant Program for nonprofit organizations in Harper's district to support the advancement of equity, diversity and economic mobility. The ICCTA shared the article on its listserv.
- The Daily Herald and Patch ran an article about Dr. Stephanie Whalen being honored by the American Association of Community Colleges as a Faculty Innovation Award finalist for AACC's 2022 Awards of Excellence.
- The Daily Herald ran an article about a District 214 culinary competition and the winners receiving a scholarship to Harper's hospitality management program.
- The Daily Herald, Journal and Topics, and Patch ran articles about a variety of Harper's Igniting Paths to Success Scholars.
- The trade journal Healthy Simulation ran a feature about Harper alumnus Dan Micic, CEO and founder of Medical Shipment, a supplier of nursing supplies and equipment.

Legislative Affairs

- State Senator Ann Gillespie and State Representative Mark Walker met with Dr. Proctor on campus to discuss issues facing community colleges. Sen. Gillespie and Rep. Walker also met with the Student Government Association sharing their experiences in the Illinois legislature with students.
- The Governor extended his executive orders through May 28, including the vaccine/testing mandate for higher education institutions.
- The state continues to see improved economic news as Illinois received a credit upgrade from the S&P Global Ratings agency. This latest action means that Illinois has now received two-notch bond rating upgrades from the three major credit rating agencies in the last year – making a total of six upgrades in less than a year.

Strategic Alliances and Innovation

Grants Office

- In April, Harper submitted an application to the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration's Apprenticeship Building America (ABA) grant program. Harper requested \$2,989,816 to create multiple pre-apprenticeship programs with three on-ramps (Youth/HS, Adult Learners, and Industry-Focused) leading to Harper's Insurance and CNC registered apprenticeship programs (RAPs) during the first year of the grant. Proven models will be replicated and scaled across all Harper RAPs during the following three years. Partners include D211, D214, D220, the CCWP, POC, Housing Authority of Cook County, and employer partners.
- In April, the Educational Foundation submitted an application to Motorola Solutions Foundation requesting \$40,000 for two prestigious scholarship programs – the Award for Excellence and Engineering Pathways. Scholarships of \$5,000 are awarded annually to six Engineering Pathways students and two Award for Excellence students. The Pathways students who successfully complete their program at Harper automatically gain acceptance to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Engineering School. The Excellence scholarship is designed to increase access and diversity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics career fields and to recognize academic achievement. This program is designated for women, students of color, and students from other underrepresented groups.
- 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 \$21 million in emergency aid grants to students.
 - The emergency aid application for students enrolled in spring opened the beginning of January and will close mid-May.
 - For the spring 2022 term, through the beginning of May, 3,504 students have received emergency aid totaling \$7,275,450.
 - Since March 2020, when Harper received its first HEERF grant award, Harper has distributed \$20,343,076 to students. There is approximately \$694,000 remaining of the HEERF student portion.
 - The summer 2022 emergency aid application will open the beginning of June and will remain open until all student portion funds have been distributed.

Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness

- The Office of Institutional Research continues to provide the Harper Community with enhanced access to data for planning and decision-making needs through partnerships with groups across campus. Over the next few months, the following new or enhanced Power BI reports will be released: National College Health Assessment (NCHA) to inform and support student wellness programming, Strategic Plan Student Goals to report progress towards 2024 targets, Student Success 360 to bring multiple measures of student's success into one report, and Institutional Effectiveness Measure (IEM) to track progress on IEM targets.
- The Outcomes Assessment Office has published the annual Outcomes Assessment Report for 2020-2021. This report summarizes the assessment work of faculty and staff, highlighting the use of assessment results to improve student learning and department effectiveness. General education assessment information is also included in the report.

Workforce Solutions

- In April, Harper Business Solutions attended the GOA Business at the Ballpark Expo, held at Wintrust stadium where 30 new businesses learned about customized training.
- Barrington Bank & Trust Company is a new apprenticeship employer for fall session.

Promise

- 155 Promise Scholars from the second Promise cohort have applied for graduation this academic year.
 - 86% of these scholars earned either an Associate in Arts or an Associate in Science degree
 - Other credentials include an Associate in Engineering Science, welding certificate, and CNC operating certificate.
- The average GPA of these graduates is a 3.61.
- These 155 students alone have completed over 14,000 hours of community service over the past six years.