

PRESIDENT'S *REPORT*



January 2023

Dear Harper College Community:

Happy New Year to all as we ready to welcome back our students for the spring 2023 semester! Just this past week, faculty and staff began ramping up preparations for a new semester with an Opening Week that included professional development, fun activities and the college's inaugural Campus Conversations, a new series to bring employees together to deepen discussions on important issues. Our first two topics were Building Community and Equity Dialogues and featured packed rooms of employees facilitating meaningful and engaging conversations. The input received during these discussions will help us refine and enhance our approaches in these important areas.

I am always pleased to open our daily enrollment emails and find the word "increase" featured in the message. We are off to a good start for spring 2023; as of January 17, total FTE (CE and Credit) has increased by 4.5% from last spring while headcount has increased by 6.6% from last spring. Strong enrollment in AED, CPE, Dual Credit, Apprenticeship and International are contributing to these increases. Hats off to our enrollment and marketing teams for their focused efforts, as they implement specific action plans which will be formalized in our strategic enrollment plan.

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Before winter break, I received a call from U.S.

Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi to inform me that our congressionally directed funding request for \$500,000 for our aviation maintenance program had been passed by Congress as part of the omnibus budget legislation. These funds will be critical as we jumpstart aviation programming for Harper to be the regional leader in this high demand career field. Being selected for this funding through this competitive process is a testament to our strong commitment to legislative affairs and the benefits it yields for our college and community. I look forward to celebrating receiving this federal support with Congressman Krishnamoorthi later this year.

Additionally, we are working closely with our peer institutions through the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents and the Governor's Office to elevate the workforce development dialogue at the state level. Later this month, we will be joining with our colleagues to meet on three distinct industry sectors—clean energy, manufacturing and information technology—to ensure community colleges are the premier provider for workforce training in the state. It is my hope that this strategic work at the state level will strengthen the existing regional efforts of the 13 active community colleges in the Northern Illinois Workforce Consortium (NIWC) to achieve two main goals: To award credentials that have labor market value to close the skills gap in the regional workforce and to work collaboratively to leverage resources and information to advance workforce initiatives in our region.

2023 stands to be a promising year of strategic progress for Harper! Again, Happy New Year!

Student Success

Enrollment Services

- The One Stop processed 4,458 inbound contacts last month, down 1.1% from last year. We received 3,205 phone calls, 883 emails, 250 in-person visits, and 320 live chats. We saw a significant increase in in-person traffic. Walk-ins were up by 35.9% year-over-year, while emails and chats were down approximately 12%.

Promise Scholarship:

- Fifty-eight Promise Scholars completed a credential during the fall 2022 semester. Most of these students came in with a significant amount of dual credit allowing them to complete their degree early.

Health Careers

- Massage Therapy graduate Jennifer Blose ('21), LMT, and owner of Purpose Therapeutic Massage, was awarded the Bloomingdale Chamber of Commerce's Best of Bloomingdale for 2022, in the category of Chiropractic and Massage Therapy. After graduating and securing her state license, Jennifer set to work establishing a thriving private practice, with results that are clearly paying off. In her same category were several massage franchises and chiropractic offices.

Student Engagement

- In December, 20 students and staff joined the Student Veterans Association (SVA) for a ruck around campus to benefit Toys for Tots. Participants traveled through campus with their donation and the ruck ended in the Center for Veterans and Military Connected Students for a reception. SVA donated three boxes of toys to Toys for Tots in what they hope to make an annual event. Thank you to all who donated!

Harper Wellness

- A second vaccine pop-up clinic occurred at the Health and Recreation Center at the beginning of December in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Public Health. Employees, students, and community members were able to receive free COVID, flu, and MPV vaccines. Around 70 people participated in this vaccine clinic.
- Two refueling stations were set up around campus during the weeks leading up to finals. The refueling stations provided grab-and-go snack options and beverages for students, along with wellness information to help them better prepare for finals. Around 320 students participated in the refueling stations.

Student Affairs

- One Million Degrees (OMD) hosted an end of semester event called "OMD Scholar Luncheon" at the end of November.
 - Hosted in the Wojcik Dining Room.
 - Thirty-three Harper students attended.
 - The event was a stop-by event and had a steady flow of students coming by to grab lunch and mingle
- OMD hosted an evening event called "OMD Scholars & Coaches Social Gathering" at the beginning of December.
 - Hosted in the Wojcik Dining Room.
 - Twenty-seven Harper students attended.
 - The event was kid-friendly to accommodate potential attendance barriers related to childcare and resulted in six children being in attendance (kid's table with coloring books and activities).
 - Twenty OMD Coaches attended (community members).



- Event included two activities that elicited the participation and co-mingling of OMD Scholars and Coaches.
- The Center for New Students and Orientation partnered with the One Stop and Student Success Initiatives to implement a pilot in Starfish to raise a flag to the One Stop for follow-up support to new remote students with Registration and Financial Aid questions.

Student Success

- The Student Success area, in partnership with Information Technology, configured the Starfish student success system for two new roles that are focused on supporting students in the early childhood and health careers programs. The system enhancements will allow the new Early Childhood Academic Coach and the Health Careers Navigators to monitor any concerns about their assigned students, offer kudos for recognition and encouragement, and will allow them to track their interactions. Further, these staff members will appear in students' personalized Success Network with whom they have a connection.

Liberal Arts

- In December, the English Department completed production of Volume 29 of The Harper Anthology, an annual publication of students' academic writing from Harper College courses. Volume 29 might be considered the "comeback edition" of the Anthology, as the pandemic had interrupted publication of this long-time Harper College journal. This new edition includes over 40 essays on a wide range of academic subjects. The Harper Anthology celebrates student writing and academic progress and is widely used in English composition classes and other courses to provide instructional guidance for writing students, through reading, analysis, and discussion of exemplary papers written by Harper peers. Copies of The Harper Anthology are available in the Liberal Arts South Office, Room L203, and it can be accessed electronically at the English department website.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- Brittany Barber, Manager of the Cultural Center, presented a training on Unlearning Unconscious Bias for 40 students in collaboration with One Million Degrees (OMD).
- The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion hosted a December "Kickback" that provided students an opportunity to destress in preparation for finals. The program included lunch and giveaways.
- Esmeralda Guerrero Lopez, Coordinator for Student Diversity Initiatives, is one of five Harper College employees nominated to receive the League for Innovation Roueche Excellence Award, based on her many contributions to the college! The Office of the President is sponsoring the conference attendance for her and the other four nominees – Karega Cooper, Sue Egan, Dr. Stephanie Horton and Sean Warren-Crouch. The conference is being held in Tempe, Arizona, from March 11-14, 2023.
- Employee Resource Groups (ERGs)
 - The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and all three Employee Resource Groups (DREAM, LAND and SAFE) co-sponsored the "2nd Annual ERG & DEI OMG The Semester is Almost Over Winter Celebration," last month in the Cultural Center. The lunch was well attended and included a hat decorating contest and karaoke featuring faculty, staff, and administrators.
 - LAND (Learning About Abilities, Not Disabilities)
 - Last month, LAND held a "De-stressing" program for members and allies, providing a great end of the year opportunity to connect with colleagues. Attendees learned wellness tips to apply at work and at home from Daniel Moore, a Clinical Supervisor in Health Careers at



Harper College. Each attendee received a gift bag that included a microwavable Rice Bag Heating Pad, Garrett's popcorn, a variety of teas, hot cocoa and chocolate treats.

Finance and Administrative Services

Accounting Services

- We recently learned that the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded Harper with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for our Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. We take great pride in receiving this award from a credible third party as a testament to our fiscal responsibility and stewardship with the financial resources entrusted to the college. Per the judges, our report meets "the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive spirit of full disclosure to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report." Kudos to our finance team for their excellent work!

Information Technology

- Second quarter phishing simulation numbers: 1,719 sent; 63 clicked links (3.66%); 49 users reported via email or tickets.
- In the month of December, Information Technology received 40 survey responses post servicing, with an overall satisfaction rating of 98.7%. The surveys are only sent to employees, not students.

Human Resources

- Message sent to all employees announcing a change to the use of sick, vacation and personal leave time. Non-faculty may now use time in 1/4 hour increments rather than 1/2 or whole day increments. Oracle allows this functionality and employee gain more flexibility in their use of earned time. Employees who earn sick leave may now use the earned time for immediate family members (removing the emergency situation clause). Employees may also use sick or personal leave to extend their bereavement leave for family members (up to an additional five days).
- Employees may now request to work remotely 100% of the time. A decision tool and request form have been created and shared across campus.

Risk Management

- Incident Command training is scheduled for the months of January and February.
- Two Emergency Operations Center kits have been received and will outfit our primary and alternate Emergency Operations Centers.

Advancement, Marketing and Communications

Advancement

- The HOPE Giving Circle hosted its winter event "Mapping Your Genealogy: How to get Started" this month. The event was a partnership with Harper Community Education. Thirty-five guests attended the event, including HOPE members, HOPE scholarship students, prospects, and friends.
- The Foundation's Calendar Year-End Direct Mail appeal exceeded its fundraising goal of \$45,000. As of January 1, the campaign raised \$74,230 from 91 total donors. The campaign featured messages from



Student Government Association President Prince Bahadur and retired Nursing faculty member Carole Bomba.

- Vistex increased its scholarship support of students studying technology from \$10,000 to \$26,000 annually.

Community Relations

- During the fall semester, Harper participated in more than five events with the Schaumburg Business Association (SBA). Representatives from Workforce Solutions, Foundation and Community Relations hosted information tables to educate SBA members on the programs and services provided by Harper. Dr. Michelé Smith, Vice President, Workforce Solutions, represents Harper on the SBA board.
- This past holiday season, Harper partnered with three schools from Community Consolidated School District 59 to provide toys to families in need. More than 200 families received toys, gift wrapping, and winter clothing for the holidays. Through the generosity of Harper faculty and staff, this was the first year that the college was able to support families from three schools. Thank you to everyone that donated.

Marketing Services

- December social media highlights across the institutional Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram channels: Total Impressions: 998,428, Engagements 15,918, Post Link Clicks 5,877.
- Top posts included:
 - Harper students Taiah Guess and Varshitha Akella recently received the National Collegiate Honors Council's Freddie T. Davy Student Scholarship.
 - Congratulations to the Harper Women's Cross-Country team on bringing home the 2022 NJCAA Division III Women's Cross-Country Championship!

Media Relations

- Community College Daily published an article about Harper's new JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) Faculty Fellowship program, highlighting the inaugural fellows: Drs. Markenya L. Williams and Alina Pajtek. The Illinois Community Colleges Trustees Association also spotlighted the story.
- The Daily Herald and Patch ran stories about Harper's membership in ECACE (Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity) and how the college has deployed grant funds to support early childhood education students via new scholarships, resources and staff members.
- The Daily Herald and Patch published interviews with Harper Professor James Edstrom related to his recently published book, *Avenues of Transformation, Illinois's Path from Territory to State*.
- The Daily Herald featured Harper College in an article focused on sustainability efforts at area colleges. The piece highlighted Harper's Makerspace and Entrepreneur Center and its manager, Jeffrey Moy, while discussing how the college is reusing otherwise wasted materials.
- The DePaulia (DePaul University's student newspaper) published an article about plant-based and lab-grown "green meat" and quoted Rachael Costello, clinical supervisor in Harper's nutrition department, about the future of these foods.
- The Daily Herald ran a story about the downward trend in expressway shootings in 2022, quoting Harper Assistant Professor Frank Trost about takeaways from the data.



- The Chicago Tribune published a story about a Ukrainian family who immigrated to Schaumburg when Russia invaded their country. The family's daughters have been taking Harper classes when virtual classes in Ukraine became difficult to attend.
- The Daily Herald ran a piece highlighting local projects that would benefit from the national spending package, recently passed by Congress and President Joe Biden, including aviation maintenance programming at Harper.

Legislative Affairs

- As noted in the introduction, the college received confirmation that it will receive \$500,000 to support developing an aviation maintenance program. This was the result of our FY23 congressionally directed spending request through U.S. Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi's office. The Congressman will visit campus later this spring to celebrate this funding and learn more about our programming in this area.
- At the federal level, newly elected and reelected legislators were sworn into office for the 118th Congress. Of note, Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-North Carolina) chairs Education and the Workforce Committee and Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Virginia) serves as the ranking member, while Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) chairs the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-Louisiana) serves as the ranking member. At the state level, Governor Pritzker and other constitutional officers have been sworn in along with the members of the 103rd General Assembly. Of note, the Governor has named free college as one of his priorities for his second term.
- Good news from the lameduck session of the 102nd General Assembly as the college learned it will receive \$191,318 grant through the ICCB for the administration of the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act.

Strategic Alliances and Innovation

Grants Office

- In December, Harper was awarded a grant of \$97,990 from the Illinois Board of Higher Education for the FY23 Nursing School grant program. This program supports student transition from ADN to RN-BSN with partnering institutions and includes funding for a transition coordinator, nursing tutors, exam prep, translation of program materials in Spanish, professional development for nursing faculty, a climate survey, and scholarships.

Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness

- The 2022-2023 Fact Book has been released and is posted on the public website. The Fact Book is a one-stop resource designed to provide the answer to commonly asked questions about Harper College and the Harper district.
- Throughout the month of December, the Office of Outcomes Assessment offered virtual and in-person drop-in sessions for course-level, program-level and non-instructional departments to build their 2022-23 assessment plans. These sessions provide support and guidance for those leading assessment efforts across campus. Individuals representing 17 different areas of the college attended the sessions.



Workforce Solutions

- Harper Business Solutions advanced its relationship with local manufacturer Nation Pizza and Foods by securing a new 11-month contract for training, catering, and room rentals.
- Quantum Group from Morton Grove is our new apprenticeship employer partner for the Graphic Arts Production program. They hired one apprentice to start in the spring semester.