



PRESIDENT'S *REPORT*

May 2023

Dear Harper College Community:

This is my favorite time of the year. Graduation season is upon us, and celebration is in the air as our students work hard to complete their coursework, ace their finals, and prepare to graduate from Harper College. To celebrate our graduates with their family members and friends on campus, we hosted Destination Graduation through a series of events that made our graduates feel extra special and motivated more of them to participate in our commencement ceremony on Friday, May 19. This joyous occasion will take place at the NOW Arena in Hoffman Estates, our first commencement ceremony at this location. Graduates and their families and friends will be treated to an inspirational and unforgettable program featuring University of Illinois System President Dr. Timothy Killeen. I am looking forward to hearing from Dr. Killeen as we celebrate our Harper Hawks and continue to build on the collaboration between Harper and the University of Illinois. This week, we also recognize our Career Skills Institute Continuing Education graduates who have gained the confidence to apply basic academic and employability skill sets in various environments. It is always a delight to see family and friends beam with pride on the accomplishments of our students!

Earlier this month, we celebrated students, faculty and community members at the Honors Convocation, our premier recognition of academic excellence. It is always a wonderful night to commemorate our students' work in the classroom, our faculty members who inspire them, and the community members whose dedication earns our admiration. Another event that achieves this same joy is the Educational Foundation's Realizing Dreams, which was held in April, connecting donors with their scholarship recipients. I spent time with the first student to receive the endowed Presidential scholarship I established. She was full of joy and gratitude for the financial support to help her achieve her academic and career goals.

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As we close out the academic year, we will be getting ready to welcome our summer students to campus soon. Our summer enrollment continues to rebound well from the pandemic and as of Friday, May 12, our total FTE is up 16% from last summer, while tuition-bearing FTE is up 9.2% from last summer and headcount is up 17.8% from the same time last year. I am grateful for the efforts of our enrollment management and marketing teams. You can indeed *Find It** at Harper College!

While on-campus activity is at a high level as we close out the year, Harper has also been well represented in the community and across the state. Along with Chair Kelley and Chief of Staff Jeff Julian, I attended the Illinois Community College Trustees Association's Lobby Day, which included the first ever meeting of the Community College Caucus. This historic group will help advocate for important legislative issues for community colleges, which is why it was so critical that this first gathering featured Governor JB Pritzker speaking about the meaningful role community colleges play in our society. After meeting with our state representatives and senators, I was able to return to our district to participate as the keynote speaker at the Barrington Area Development Council's annual dinner with the theme Better Together. At their request, I spoke

about the importance of belonging and shared good news about Harper's impact, accomplishments, and strategic priorities.

We are nearing completion of our search for a new Provost. Our three finalists were on campus last week interviewing on campus and meeting with key constituent groups. I hope to bring a recommendation to the Board at its June meeting. While we ready ourselves to welcome a new member of the Harper executive team, we are sad to say goodbye to a long-time member of the college community. Dr. Travaris Harris, who served at Harper for 20 years. He has accepted a new opportunity as the Vice President for Instruction at Cabrillo College. We are excited about this professional growth opportunity for Dr. Harris, wish him the best in his new role and thank him for his dedicated work on behalf of our students and our community.



Student Success

Advising

- Advising Outreach for March through April 2023
 - Advising Services (CNSO/Women's Program and Advising Services/OMD) served students with the following:
 - Student appointments conducted: 1,852
 - Received and supported student phone calls: 5,412
- Differentiated Care Communication Plan Updates:
 - Advisors proactively made 524 outreach phone calls to students who were not attending their courses at midterm and provided support and guidance to help them to get back on track. Over 150 of these calls (30%) resulted in a positive resolution of a direct connection with the student.
 - Advisors shared a "Finish Strong" email campaign to support students in their final weeks of the semester and sent over 7,737 emails to currently enrolled students.
- Advising Events
 - Our advising team hosted a popcorn event "Pop in Before you Pop Out" in the Quad earlier this month to support proactive dialogue with students on campus and to provide resources and support for the upcoming Summer and Fall semesters.
 - We served and connected with over 155 students at this event.

Career and Technical

- Adult Educational Development planned and conducted a Harper College Experience Day last month which allowed 130 advanced level Adult Education students to experience Harper College credit opportunities. They were hosted by the Health Careers, Paralegal, HVAC/Welding/Manufacturing, Computer Technology (CE) and Accounting departments. Many of these students are recent arrivals from Ukraine, Venezuela and other countries and are excited to explore their next steps at Harper College. These students participated in one-to-one in-person advising sessions to assist them in their transition to the college and assist with access to additional summer pre-college preparation. We hope to see them in credit classes in the fall semester.
- Carol Carlson-Nofsinger, coordinator of Paralegal Studies, hosted a legal employer panel and an alum paralegal panel for prospective and current students during the AOI Public Service Expo at the end of April. There was standing room only for the employer panel. All panelists discussed the role of legal assistants and paralegals in the public and private sector and in their offices (law offices, corporate legal departments, and government agencies). Attendees also took a tour of the print and electronic legal resources in the Harper College Library, hosted by Tom Goetz, librarian.
- In February 2023, the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association, acting on the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Paralegals, granted reapproval to the Paralegal Studies Program at Harper College. The term of approval is for a period of seven years, beginning February 2022 and ending February 2029.
- The Law Enforcement and Justice (LEJ) Department in cooperation with the Job Placement Resources Center hosted a Law Enforcement Career Fair in April. Forty departments participated.
- The LEJ/Forensics program cohosted the Public Service Open House Expo last month. One hundred preregistered for the event which included the LEJ/Forensics, Fire Science and Paralegal departments. The program had open classrooms and district law enforcement partners to speak with attendees.



- Faculty and staff from the Advanced Manufacturing Program participated in the High School District 214 Skilled Trades Fair last month where they shared their experiences, passion, and industry knowledge with interested students. This was an opportunity for D214 students to learn about post-secondary career options in the skilled trades.

Enrollment Services

- Beginning of May, Admissions Outreach hosted 350 incoming students, plus their families (674 people total) during a welcome reception in the Pavilion. The event provided students the chance to complete important enrollment steps and engage with Harper students, services and staff while helping them confirm their decision to attend this summer and fall.
- One Stop:
 - The One Stop processed 9,056 inbound contacts in April. We received 4,899 phone calls, 2,357 emails, 1,217 chats, and 583 in-person visits.
 - Our Salesforce Chatbot handled 49% (596) of the 1,217 chats received last month, while a live staff member answered 51% (621).
 - The One Stop conducted call campaigns, including Enrollment Day reminders. We made 661 calls and reached 37% of students last month.
- One hundred sixty-eight Promise Scholars applied for graduation for the spring 2023 semester. One hundred forty-eight of them will be receiving an associate degree while 20 will be receiving a certificate. These students have met all their Promise criteria of attendance, persistence, rigor/quality, and community service for all four years of high school and throughout their entire time at Harper.

Health Careers

- Under the guidance of adjunct instructor, Christine Rys, Health Information Technology (HIT) students in their final semester worked collaboratively to create on-demand webinars on topics of relevance to professionals in the field. The topics included:
 - Rural Health: Issues, Solutions, and the Impact on Reimbursement
 - Health Literacy: Challenges, Impacts, and the HIM Response
 - Drone Applications in Healthcare: Current Technology, Future Advancements, and Implications for HIM Professionals
- HIT program coordinator, Paula Akialis, requested and received approval from the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) to offer the webinars for three continuing education units. The educational webinars will be shared with health information professionals on our HIT Advisory Committee, at our externship sites, and with our colleagues and contacts throughout the region and state. Students will receive valuable feedback and credentialed professionals will receive CEUs for use in fulfilling the continuing education requirements of AHIMA.
- The Dental Hygiene Class of 2023 all successfully completed the CDCA Clinical Board Examination at the end of April.
- The Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Harper graduated its third cohort in December 2022 and the graduates completed their licensure exam, the National Physical Therapy Examination, in April 2023. We are happy to report our December 2022 graduates successfully achieved a 100% first-time pass rate on the exam, a huge accomplishment considering the program's short history.

Student Engagement

- In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Student Activities Board, Student Engagement, Harper Wellness, the Title IX team, Harper Athletics, and Harper Dining collaborated to bring TEALgate to the



campus. This tailgate inspired event began as an idea that the Student Activities Board's (SAB) President pitched (pun intended) early this semester and grew to encompass all of the campus partners! The event was named TEALgate in recognition of the color associated with Sexual Assault Awareness Week. Approximately 300 students and employees joined the party in Parking Lot 1 as we prepared for the Harper Hawks Baseball Team to take on the Oakton Owls in a double header. Players on both teams wore teal shoelaces for the games. Attendees were treated to tailgate cookout food, a photo booth, batting practice, outside games, and were able to learn about services including SAB, Wellness, Title IX, and Counseling at Harper. It was a perfect spring day for a TEALgate and ball game!

- The Asian Student Association, with the support of Student Engagement, hosted Asian Fusion Fest earlier this month in recognition of Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month. Students were able to visit tables representing countries included within the APIDA identity, participate in cultural activities, and try snacks enjoyed in that specific country. Asian Student Association is a new student club at Harper this year and Student Engagement would like to recognize them for a wonderful event!
- Student Government Association (SGA) hosted a charity formal titled "Enchanted" at the end of April. The formal was created to enable students to dress up and have fun with fellow peers in the Harper community. In addition, with the month of April bringing focus and awareness to mental health, SGA used the formal to raise \$3,775 dollars to give to the Barrington Youth and Family Services organization.
- Athletics
 - The men's and women's track and field teams are continuing their successful season as they approach nationals. The women's track and field team has maintained their #1 rank in the nation since obtaining it. Lilly Alberts is the national leader for the 400m and 800m while also setting new Harper records in each this year. Fiona Metzko is the national leader in the 1500m. Samira Rosenfeld no longer leads the nation in the 100m hurdles and 400m hurdles but is still ranked second while maintaining her national lead in high jump. Arianna Teichman leads the nation while she improved her hammer throw to 38.90m for the season. The Women's 400m, 1600m, and 3200m relays all lead the nation as well. The men's track and field team is currently ranked #4 in the nation. Albert Szewczyk leads the nation in the 10,000m event. Both teams are aiming to bring home trophies at nationals in a couple of weeks.
 - U.S. Track and Field and Cross-Country Coaches Association selected Lilly Alberts as the National Athlete of the Week for NJCAA Division 3. This is her second time receiving the award since the outdoor season started.
 - In April, Harper College baseball had two graduating sophomore players, Sean Holbrook and Tyler Spiecker, pull off a rare achievement of playing all nine positions in a 13-12 victory against North Central College. Story: <https://www.harperhawks.net/news/2023/4/19/baseball-two-hawks-make-history.aspx>
 - Also in April, Kyle Odeshoo hit three home runs in 12-14 loss against Morton College. Kyle Odeshoo is a freshman from Prospect High School who went through the Harper Promise Program. He is the rare Top 100 Illinois player that we've been able to successfully recruit to the program and exemplifies all the characteristics we look for in a potential student athlete at the highest level.
- Harper Wellness
 - Harper Wellness and the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion partnered to offer a Wellness and Justice series. In mid-April, two outside experts presented on the topic of, "Dismantling the Inherent Privilege of Self-Care."
 - Also in April, Harper Wellness hosted the "Weeding Out the Myths" event for Harper students to help educate students about marijuana use and misuse. Students were able to create and take their own succulents and learn about substance use. Over 120 students were in attendance.

Honors Program and Phi Theta Kappa

- In late April, Emily Alvia was honored as a member of the All-Illinois Academic Team at a banquet in Springfield, IL. In addition to being a member of the All-Illinois Academic Team, Emily was also recognized as a Coca-Cola New Century Scholar, which is a recognition given to the highest ranked member of the All-Illinois Academic Team.

Math and Science Division

- In February, the Engineering Department hosted our annual Explore Engineering at Harper outreach event at the Wojcik Conference Center. We were pleased to welcome more than 100 attendees, mainly prospective high school students and their guardians. Attendees learned about Harper's engineering transfer program, with presentations from Harper professors, and a panel discussion with current and former students. Our keynote speaker was a Harper alumnus, UIUC graduate, and EGR adjunct faculty member, Mustafa Hashim. Following the presentations, attendees had an opportunity to meet with representatives from several of our four-year university partners, including UIUC, UIC, NIU, IIT, Bradley, Iowa State University and Valparaiso. The event was followed by an alumni luncheon, where more than 30 Harper engineering alumni stopped by to share their amazing success stories.
- Also in February, Harper hosted seven local high schools for the ICTM Regional Math Competition event. Thirteen members of the Math Department helped to run the daylong event where roughly 300 local high school students competed in various levels of individual and team mathematics competitions. Top performers in these competitions advanced to the state level competition hosted at ISU in Normal, IL.
- In March, Harper College hosted an Illinois Science Olympiad Regional Tournament. Nineteen teams (seven in-district) of middle and high school students came to Harper to compete in 46 events from astronomy tests to Wi-Fi detector builds, anatomy and physiology exams to egg-smashing car races. The day was busy with the first teams arriving at 6:30 a.m. and festivities stretching until past 7 p.m. Schools came from as far away as the University of Chicago Lab School because the Harper Regional is the best run in the state. We couldn't do it without the help of over 100 student volunteers and 25 faculty, staff and other areas of the college. Shout outs to our lab technicians, Math and Science Division office staff, Facilities and the Print Shop!

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- Dr. Rabia Ali, Fulbright Scholar, presented on Pakistani Culture and Society. This event was co-sponsored by South Asian Student Association earlier this month. There were 27 students, faculty and staff in attendance.
- Guiding Learners to Intentionally Develop Efficacy (GLIDE), our peer mentorship program designed to support incoming Black and Latinx students, celebrated the end of the academic year with two events, a Spirit of Chicago Cruise at Navy Pier and a luncheon where they received certificates of completion.
- This month, in collaboration with the Office of International Education, we celebrated our fifth Social Justice Leadership Certificate (SJLC) cohort. Faculty, staff and administrators, including those that held roles such as co-facilitator, advisory board member and SJLC alumni, gathered for a luncheon to recognize the nine members of the 2022-2023 cohort.
- Dr. Johnson's three-year term as a member of the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE) National Advisory Board begins this month. She will serve on the Executive Diversity Officers and Executive Leadership Committee, which makes recommendations to facilitate the professional interests and needs of those in executive leadership positions related to diversity and equity in higher education.

Finance and Administrative Services

Information Technology

- The draft of the Technology Strategic Plan has been prepared, and we invited all employees to participate in a listening session held in April. In July, the CIO will review the plan with the trustees.

Human Resources

- The Annual Service Awards and Recognition Ceremony was held earlier this month and expanded to include two new excellence awards.
 - Employees recognized for Core Values Points of Pride: 44
 - Adjuncts with milestone years of affiliation: 34
 - Employees earned a degree or certificate: 8
 - Employees recognized for milestone years of service: 115
 - Recognition of the honorees of the League of Innovation Award
 - Excellence in Leadership Award - Michael Shaw
 - Excellence in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award - Dr. Joanne Ivory

Risk Management

- A risk assessment and an Incident Action Plan (IAP) have been completed for the graduation ceremony.

Advancement, Marketing and Communications

Advancement

- The Inspire Campaign has raised \$29.6 million as of March 31. Forty-eight new scholarships have been created during the campaign.
- In April, the Foundation hosted Harper HEART Day, its annual day of giving. Thanks to the partnership of our Harper retirees, employees, students, alumni and community members; the day engaged 151 donors including 64 first-timers. The campaign surpassed its fundraising goal of \$10,000 by raising \$17,790 for various Harper scholarships and programs. The culminating event for Harper HEART Day was a Harper Alumni and Retiree Reunion, which celebrated these groups' vital role in creating Harper's culture of excellence.
- Four student organizations participated in the Harper HEART Day Competition for Good, in which students raise funds for their choice of Harper scholarships or programs. This year's Competition for Good participants were the International Students Club, the Student Activities Board, the Student Nurses Association and WHCM Radio.
- The Foundation welcomes retiree Lynn Altfeld to the Harper Heritage Society. Lynn has included Harper College in her estate plans.

Community Relations

- In September, Community Relations relaunched the elementary/middle school tours for the first time since March 2020. Throughout the fall and spring semester, more than 2,400 students in 4th - 8th grades were introduced to college by visiting campus, talking with Harper students and learning about the different areas of study through interactive activities in chemistry, world languages, nursing and surgical technology, architecture, manufacturing, HVAC, law enforcement, astronomy, ceramics, theatre, wellness and more. They experienced Harper's Makerspace and Entrepreneur Center, Health and Recreation Center and the Library. Students also learned how to explore different careers, prepare for college and how they can



receive scholarships and financial assistance. The current school tour program launched in the spring of 2015. Over the past eight years more than 22,000 young students from districts 15, 21, 26, 54, 59 and 220 have visited campus through the program. For many of these students, their tour was also their first time being on a college campus. Some of those young students have now become Harper students and are volunteering as tour guides to help others realize that college is possible for everyone. The tour program is only possible with the help of the numerous Harper students, faculty, staff and alumni that volunteer their time to create and facilitate activities, lead tour groups, help with lunch and share their stories with the students. Thank you to everyone that has made this program successful!

- Since August, the community relations team has enhanced awareness of and access to Harper College programming, resources and events by facilitating Harper representation at more than 100 events and meetings including back to school events, community committee meetings, weekly Rotary meetings and events, mayor's luncheons, SBA and GOA networking events, STEAM nights, partner galas, business expos and community resource fairs. The addition of two new community outreach specialists, Paula Byrd and Paige Coe, were instrumental in increasing attendance at events and cultivating new opportunities to connect with the community and enhance their knowledge of Harper and the resources available. With Paula and Paige, Community Relations can have a presence at weekly and monthly resource events with our partners to create consistent connection and trusted relationships with underserved communities by meeting them where they are.

Marketing Services

- Harper College continues to engage students, prospective students, community members, and other stakeholders across its institutional social media platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter). For April, college social media impact included 1,609,700 impressions (113% increase over the previous month); 22,670 engagements (89% increase); and 7,252 post link clicks (89% increase). Top posts included announcement of the second-year launch of the community innovation fund grant program, "How has community college changed your life?" feature for #ccmonth, and summer class announcements.

Media Relations

- The *Daily Herald* published a guest column by Dr. Proctor and Board of Trustees Chair Bill Kelley to recognize Community College Month and discuss how Harper and other Illinois community colleges can expand their roles to best serve their communities, the state and the country.
- *Community College Daily* ran a feature story that reported on the variety of apprenticeship programs at Harper and how the college has partnered with employers to grow those opportunities.
- *Journal & Topics* newspapers, *Patch* and other media sources published reports about U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi's visit to campus, spotlighting the \$500,000 of federal funding he secured to help Harper launch an aviation maintenance program.
- The *Daily Herald*, *Journal & Topics* and *Patch* published stories about the Harper Speech and Debate Team's first national championship and individual wins at nationals.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran pieces about Harper receiving a \$1.6 million federal grant to develop new career pathways in AI and cybersecurity.
- *NewsNation* published a story about Advance Preschool, which has employees that are upskilling by pursuing credentials and degrees at Harper.



- The *Daily Herald's* Editorial Board marked National Decision Day by highlighting students who pursue vocational and technical roles, and praising Harper for its career and technical programs that serve those students.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a piece about Women Build and Habitat for Humanity, naming Harper as a sponsor and Dr. Joanne Ivory's role as a Women Build committee member.
- Nurse.com published tips for those taking the National Council Licensure Examination and quoted Adjunct Instructor Peggy Farrell about the importance of this test.
- The *Daily Herald* reported on local participants of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy, which held an investor panel at Harper. One of the middle school students worked with Harper's Makerspace and Entrepreneur Center to make prototypes of his project.
- The *Daily Herald* wrote about the visibility of a recent meteor shower and featured expertise from Associate Professor Kevin Cole.

Legislative Affairs

- In May, Dr. Proctor, Chair Bill Kelley and Chief of Staff Jeff Julian attended the Illinois Community Colleges Trustee Association's Lobby Day in Springfield. As part of the advocacy trip, the Harper delegation participated in the first ever Community College Caucus reception that featured remarks from Governor JB Pritzker and State Senator Cristina Castro and State Senator Tom Bennett. In addition, the team advocated for increased funding for community colleges, including the MAP grant, in meetings with the following elected officials: Senate President Don Harmon, State Senator Linda Holmes, and State Representatives Mary Beth Canty, Fred Crespo, Martin McLaughlin, Michelle Mussman, Nabeela Syed, and Mark Walker as well as a representative from State Senator Ann Gillespie's office.
- In May, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi visited Harper College for a check presentation to commemorate the \$500,000 in community project funding he secured for the college's aviation program. In addition to remarks by the Congressman, the college hosted an aviation roundtable on the role community colleges can play in training the workforce featuring industry experts from global aviation company AAR, the FAA, American Airlines, and United Airlines.

Strategic Alliances and Innovation

Grants Office

- In April, through its Innovation Accelerator, Harper was invited to submit a full proposal to the National Science Foundation as part of its Enabling Partnerships to Increase Innovation Capacity (EPIIC) grant program. Harper will be the lead institution for a cohort comprised of five community and technical colleges located in Kansas, Mississippi and Indiana. Each cohort college will receive \$400,000 to achieve cohort and individual institutional goals related to building institutional capacity and knowledge to create new partnerships and secure external funding to support ongoing efforts in emerging technology fields and regional innovation ecosystems.



Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness

- Comiskey Research and Scientific Verdicts have collaborated to complete the 2022-2023 Community Scan. The scan has been completed every three years since 2004 and solicits information from a representative sample of the residents in the district. In 2013, the college began collecting information from employers in the district. The Community Scan is used to determine the extent to which the college is achieving its mission and meeting the needs of the community. Additionally, the college utilizes the information to measure the community's awareness of Harper's initiatives, to determine the expectations regarding its relationships with local employers, to provide services for students related to career development and job placement and to inform future planning.
- The Outcomes Assessment Office has published the annual Outcomes Assessment Report. This report summarizes the assessment work of faculty and staff, highlighting the use of assessment results to improve student learning and department effectiveness. Updates on assessment of the general education outcomes are also included in the report.

Workforce Solutions

- We have several new employer partners:
 - Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital from Barrington will be participating in our CNA Apprenticeship Program.
 - Cargo Partner Network, Inc. from Carol Stream will be participating in a Supply Chain Management/Logistics Apprenticeship Program.
 - KASTO, Inc. from Schaumburg will be participating in a Mechatronics Apprenticeship Program.
- Martha Karavitis established a new partnership with the Illinois Resource Center to develop a Spanish Digital Literacy Program intended for District 15 parents who are non-native English speakers. The program's intent is to equip parents with basic computer and internet skills to provide better support to their children enrolled in District 15 schools. Almost 20 individuals are participating in the program.