



PRESIDENT'S *REPORT*

May 2025

Dear Harper College Community:

Another fantastic commencement ceremony is in the history books. More than 800 graduates participated in our 57th ceremony from a total graduating class of more than 2,400 representing 29 countries! Highlights included several moms and dads bringing their kids to the stage to receive their diploma covers, our youngest graduate at 17 and our oldest graduate at 73, and our more than 1,200 first generation students sporting stoles recognizing this honor. This year, our Career Skills Institute and High School Diploma completers participated in the ceremony for the first time. I was very impressed by the incredible speeches by our commencement keynote and alumnae Dr. Ruth Morales as well as Student Government Association president Kenneth Reyes. A special thank you to the numerous faculty and staff who worked tirelessly to create a memorable event at the NOW Arena for our graduates, their families and the Harper College community.

Graduation season also brings special energy to campus with celebrations and recognitions that highlight the incredible achievements of our students. From creative cap designs to memorable photo ops, it's a time of joy, pride, and well-deserved recognition. I also enjoyed our Academic Honors Convocation, where we recognized students earning a perfect 4.0 GPA, members of Phi Phi, our Phi Theta Kappa Chapter, and All-Illinois Academic Teams, and graduates of the Honors Program, Engineering Pathways, Alpha Delta Nu, Lambda Epsilon Chi, Social Justice Studies, and Global Scholars programs, along with those selected by faculty for Excellence in the Discipline. We also took time to celebrate outstanding contributions from students, faculty members and a foundation board member: **Preye Indiamawe** received the James Brown Memorial Honors Scholar Award; **Artem Khalet** was honored with the David K. Hill Memorial Award; **Professor William (Bill) Clark** received the Professor Powell and Larry Moats Extra Five Minute Faculty Award; and **Level 2 Adjunct Faculty Mary Horstman** was named Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member. Foundation board member **Rich Hohol** earned the James J. McGrath Award, while **Professor Margaret Bilos** was recognized with the Motorola Solutions Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence. Congratulations to all of this year's honorees!

Earlier this month, we held our groundbreaking ceremony for our new Business and Social Sciences Building recognizing the voters who overwhelmingly supported the 2018 bond referendum and the steering committee who served to help us modernize our infrastructure, create innovative learning spaces and expand opportunities that meet our community's evolving needs. Professor David Richmond and student Violet John shared insights into the engaging educational opportunities and fond memories that were created in Buildings I and J while Dr. Yolonda Barnes provided highlights of what lies ahead. It was great to witness our community support with so many elected officials and community members in attendance to hear from students, faculty and staff about the new opportunities on the horizon with the completion of the new building I. I'm grateful to all who have contributed thus far to reach this milestone. Please be sure to thank our Finance, Facilities, Communication, Community Relations and Marketing teams for their due diligence to ensure the successful and timely execution of this project.

As we begin summer, our enrollment numbers are up over last year, which caps off another year of promising enrollment trends. As of Wednesday, May 14, total full-time equivalent (FTE) (Community Education [CE] and Credit) increased 3.6% from last summer; tuition-bearing FTE increased 2.4% from last summer; and

headcount is 5,795, an increase of 2.0% from last summer. We will continue to monitor these numbers as we also prepare for the fall enrollment registration period.

On the legislative front, we continue to monitor proposed shifts in federal funding which are also affecting forecasts for state funding. There are concerning proposals at the federal level in the House higher education's legislation for the reconciliation bill as well as drastic cuts or eliminations of key programs benefitting our students in the proposed budget. We are working closely with our fellow community colleges through the American Association of Community Colleges and the Association of Community College Trustees to advocate against these federal funding reductions and the potentially increased costs via a proposed risk-sharing component on unpaid student loans which have been predicted to have negative impacts for students and institutions including some students potentially making the choice not to pursue or continue with their education. On the state level, I am pleased to report some good news on the progress of Community College Baccalaureate (CCB) bill in Illinois. The public and private universities released a statement last week indicating that they were essentially neutral on HB3717. This is the result of a dedicated team of negotiators including the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents, the Illinois Community College Trustees Association and the Governor's Office. Now we have to continue the work in the legislature to get this historic bill across the finish line. A special thanks to our elected officials carrying the torch, especially the bill sponsor, State Representative Tracy Katz Muhl, who secured bipartisan support from more than 50 co-sponsors in the General Assembly.

Finally, I want to thank everyone at Harper College—students, faculty, staff, administrators, and our Board of Trustees—for another wonderful academic year! Despite the headwinds we're facing in higher education, we were steadfast, continued our focus on our mission and truly fulfilled being the community's college in so many ways! Please take some time to rest and recharge. It's well deserved!



Academic Updates

By the Numbers

- Counseling Services
 - In April, Counseling Services facilitated 145 appointments, including 77 first-time student sessions aimed at supporting mental health and promoting academic success. This represents a 54.26% increase in total appointments compared to March 2025.
- Enrollment Services
 - In April, the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) team continued to support students and staff through direct outreach, self-service tools, and targeted communications. Key activity highlights are as follows:
 - 3,771 phone calls were logged.
 - 1,485 in-person visits were recorded.
 - 6,927 inquiries were submitted via email and information forms.
 - 1,264 chat interactions took place, with chatbots handling 52% of the conversations.
 - 1,012 event registrations were processed.
 - 35,573 sent through CRM-driven campaigns, including Health Careers Information Session and Advising "Finish Strong" campaigns.
 - Admissions Processing – April 2025 Highlights
The team supported cross-departmental efforts by managing essential student records and application data. Key activities included:
 - Audited 2,400+ student applications.
 - Resolved 688 suspended applications, including reactivations and duplicate record clean-up in Banner and Salesforce.
 - Processed 1,500+ transcripts and test scores to support admissions and placement.
 - Entered 391 high school IDs for improved data matching and reporting.
 - Handled 166 international student documents for International Student Office follow-up.
- Hawks Care
 - In the month of April, 282 students accessed the food pantry; 68 students met with staff; 36 students received dinners-on-the-go; seven students visited the career closet.
 - Harper College Lyft Pass Program had 562 unique riders who took 3,090 rides in April. The average cost per ride was \$9.81 and our monthly cost was \$30,311.81.
- Resources for Learning
 - In April, there was total foot traffic of 16,359 people in the library.
 - In April, the library checked out 19 library Chromebooks, 16 graphing calculators, and 10 Wi-Fi hotspots to students. The library also facilitated the checkout and distribution of two AED Chromebooks for AED students.
- Student Success and Retention
 - At the 2025 Academic Honors Convocation earlier this month, 44 students were recognized as Honors Program graduates and 11 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) students were named All Phi Phi award recipients.

Events

- Counseling Services
 - As part of a soft launch to expand group offerings, Counseling Services facilitated two pilot groups in April to support the campus community: Coping Toolkit: Stress and Anxiety Edition and Healing Pathways: A Grief & Loss Group for Students. These groups were designed to address key areas of student well-being and provide accessible, skill-based support in a small group setting. We look forward to expanding options for the fall semester!



- Enrollment Services
 - On April 30, the Project Assistance, Surpassing Obstacles (PASO) Team—along with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) and colleagues from across the campus—came together to support incoming Latine students and their families in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid, and the Harper College Scholarship applications.

The event was driven by a commitment to making Harper College more accessible and affordable for our future students. Thanks to this collaborative effort, PASO was able to assist 195 people (83 students and 112 family members).
- Harper Wellness
 - Harper Wellness kicked off Sexual Assault Awareness Month by hosting a series of events throughout April including partnering with Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault to host the Clothesline Project on campus. The Clothesline Project is a visual display of t-shirts made by survivors and significant others of sexual violence. Approximately 75 staff and students participated in the event.
 - In April, Harper Wellness hosted the “Weeding out the Myths” event for Harper students in collaboration with Counseling Services to provide education and resources surrounding marijuana use and misuse. Students were able to make and take their own bamboo. Approximately 110 students participated in the event.
- Hawks Care
 - Hawks Care hosted Canstruction: Level Up Against Hunger in the Avante Concourse in April. There were six participating teams composed of staff and students who built their Can-Art Sculpture completely out of roughly 2,900 pounds of shelf-stable food using our theme! The event raised awareness about food insecurity, our campus pantry, and fun food facts regarding the benefits of canned food. We are thankful for the support of our build teams (Counseling Services, Harper Wellness, Hyrule Heroes (an interdepartmental team), Job Placement Resource Center, Nutrition Intern), our jurors (Sue Borchek-Smith, Michelle Mabry, Karen Patterson, Amanda Porter, Chris Sweet) and our volunteers (Heather Nichols and Stu Swanson) for participating in our inaugural event!
- Resources for Learning – National Library Week (April 6–12)

The library celebrated National Library Week with themed events under *Drawn to the Library*:

 - Reading Challenge Bingo offered as passive programming.
 - 15 participants joined the “Feeling Ducky?” scavenger hunt.
 - 22 students voted on bookmark designs; the winning student design will be printed for fall 2025.
 - 28 attendees took part in the Craft and Chill event highlighting the library as a third space.
 - 56 Instagram users engaged with a reel featuring the Archives Office.
- Student Engagement
 - Jewish American Heritage Month was celebrated across campus with a variety of events. Last month, Holocaust survivor Ralph Rehbock shared his personal story and his family’s experiences with a room full of students. Additionally, the Celebration Through Art event was held in the Student Engagement Lounge earlier this month, and featured Make-and-Take activity bags provided by the library. To further honor the month, Student Engagement hosted a free student excursion to the Illinois Holocaust Museum also in May.
 - Red, White, and Blue Veterans and Military-Connected Graduation Cord Ceremony: A special ceremony was held this month to honor veteran and military-connected students earning a degree or certificate, along with their families. During the event, students were recognized for their service to our country and their academic achievements. Each honoree received red, white, and blue graduation cords and will also



receive a Harper College challenge coin, featuring artwork by Bernie Bluestein, a Harper lifelong learner and Congressional Gold Medal recipient.

- Student Success and Retention
 - In April, the Honors Program hosted the Great Books Symposium (on “Station Eleven” by Emily St. John Mandel) at Harper. Students from Harper, Oakton, and Wilbur Wright College participated.
 - Also in April, Honors students collaborated with the Harper Admissions Team to deliver a presentation about the Honors Program to potential Harper students from D211 visiting our campus.

Highlights

- Division/Program Highlights
 - Athletics
 - The Men’s and Women’s Track and Field teams competed in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) National Championships in Utica, New York earlier this month. The women’s team are the defending National Champions and are currently ranked 3rd in the nation. The men’s team placed fourth last year and are currently ranked 2nd in the nation.
 - The Harper College baseball team will travel to Kankakee Community College this month for the NJCAA Regional tournament and have posted a winning record for the first time in over two decades.
 - In May, the Athletic Department hosted a year-end celebration to honor all the student athletes who worked so hard during their respective seasons. The event took place in conjunction with the baseball team’s last home game which ended in a sweep of the Illinois Valley Eagles.
 - Career Preparation and Program Impact
 - Two recent Fire Science students placed first and second on the Palatine Fire Department’s hiring list. One has begun the hiring process; the other will start this summer. The hiring commission noted the positive influence of their Harper training.
 - This month, students in Chef Heather Johnson’s FSM 163 Garde Manger class showcased their skills through an end-of-semester dining event featuring a range of student-prepared dishes. Faculty, staff, students, and families attended and enjoyed the professional-level presentation.
 - Office of International Education (OIE)
OIE continued to strengthen global partnerships through visiting scholars and new initiatives:
 - Hosted Professor Jairo Viales and Adrian Carmona from the National University of Costa Rica to advance Harper’s MoU goals and develop a TESOL Certificate Practicum for spring break 2026.
 - Welcomed Prof. Joserrith Gutierrez from Universidad Autónoma de Guerrero (Mexico) to explore a future academic partnership.
 - Prepared for a May visit from Dr. Simon Onywere of Kenyatta University (Kenya) to deepen collaboration following Harper’s 2023 Fulbright-Hays program.
 - OIE continues to bring the world to Harper—and Harper to the world.
 - Student Success and Retention
 - This month, Honors and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) students volunteered at Deer Grove Nature Preserve, working to remove invasive species.
- Employee Highlights
 - Business and Social Science
 - Associate Professor Lisa Busto was named as an Illinois CPA Society’s Outstanding Educator Award winner. Awarded to educators at Illinois colleges and universities, the Outstanding Educator Award honors those who have made significant contributions to the

education of accounting students through their leadership, teaching excellence, and active involvement in the accounting profession.

- Student Highlights
 - Career and Technical Programs
 - At the 2025 Academic Honors Convocation this month, the Lambda Epsilon Chi (LEX) National Honor Society student inductees Elena Artemenko, Shari Cohen-Thomas, and Miguel Rodriguez received their certificates and pins.
 - Sponsored by the Northwest Suburban Bar Association (NWSBA), this year's Honorable Timothy C. Evans Scholarship for Paralegal Studies scholarship recipient is legal studies student Chelsea Brunetti. In May, at the NWSBA event, Judge's Night, Chelsea was honored and received a \$750.00 scholarship.
 - Office of International Education (OIE) - Student Spotlight – Scholarship Success
 - Harper student Jaime McLendon was awarded both the Fund for Education Abroad and Gilman Scholarships to study in France, fulfilling her associate degree requirements and a lifelong dream. A returning adult student and single mother of two, Jaime credits her success to Harper's support systems—including One Million Degrees, the Student Success Center, and Financial Aid—as well as strong connections with faculty and advisors. Her story reflects the power of perseverance and the transformative impact of education. Congratulations, Jaime!
 - Student Success and Retention
 - Hajera Quadri and Priyanka Saroya, Honors students who were recommended by the Honors coordinators for Georgetown University Preferred Admission, were officially accepted to Georgetown.
 - Aini Asim was named a winner of the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship.

Advancement

- As of May 8, the Foundation has awarded \$2,804,693.00 to 1,173 students for this academic year. One new scholarship fund has been established: Expanding Harper College's InZone Family Night. This brings the total number of new donor-sponsored scholarships created since July 1, 2024, to twelve.
- Late last month, the Foundation hosted the Realizing Dreams event, welcoming 195 donors and scholarship recipients for a meaningful and inspiring celebration. Additionally, in April, PASO held a Financial Aid Workshop for incoming students, where 50 scholarship applications were submitted. The workshop also assisted students in completing the FAFSA and the Alternative Application.
- The Alumni Relations' program has been busy engaging with alumni and soon-to-be alumni. The Distinguished Alumni Award nominations closed on May 5 with nineteen Distinguished Alumni Award nominations and nine Outstanding Recent Alumni Award submissions. Alumni Relations hosted a table during the Destination Graduation events on campus. The event gave the opportunity to connect with over 100 of Harper's newest alumni. Graduates received information on the alumni network and alumni gifts. All graduates participating in the commencement ceremony received a Harper College Alumni mini-flashlight.
- Over 1,000 Harper College Football Alumni will receive a print mailing inviting them to update their information with Harper College Alumni Relations, including a current email address. Alumni Relations and a group of Harper football alumni are collaborating to host a reunion on campus in spring/summer 2026.



- The Harper Heritage Society (HHS) held its annual reception at alumni-owned Chicago Prime Italian before attending the Harper Theatre Ensemble's production of *Gaslight*. HHS is the Foundation's planned giving society and recognizes those who designated estate gifts to Harper College.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- In celebration of National Diversity Month, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion partnered with Amelie Pineda, president of Amnesty International, Biology Professor Bethany Statler, and the Make Shop to host events that highlighted the lived experiences of biracial and multiracial communities. This included a social media post that highlighted Samira Mehta (Associate Professor of Women and Gender Studies and Director of Jewish Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder), and two events designed for community building and learning. Fifty-one students and staff participated.
- This academic year, Dr. Brittany Barber and Linguistics Professor Kathleen Reynolds launched a bi-weekly ESL Conversation Space in the Cultural Center, offering ESL students an opportunity to practice their language skills in a non-classroom environment. Students shared that they loved the experience so much, they want it to be available during the summer AND on a weekly basis! On average, 15 students attended per session.
- In April, more than 60 faculty members, students, and staff attended “Wrongfully Convicted: The James Gibson Story”, a powerful program sponsored by the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, The Harbinger, and the Social Justice Studies distinction. Imagine spending 29 years behind bars for a crime you didn’t commit—that was the reality for James Gibson. During the event, Mr. Gibson shared his harrowing journey of wrongful incarceration and the courageous fight that ultimately led to his exoneration.
- As part of Professional Development Day in April, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion hosted two informative sessions, including “The DEI Executive Orders/Office for Civil Rights Dear Colleague Letter: What You Need to Know.” Recent Executive Orders and guidance from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights have prompted important conversations across higher education about their potential effects on diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. This session offered an overview of the key directives and explored their implications for Harper College, as well as strategies for navigating these evolving legal and policy landscapes. The session was facilitated by Aaron Kacel of Robbins Schwartz and included a Q&A portion for employees to hear directly from Dr. Proctor and Executive Cabinet members.
- The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion co-sponsored a session titled “Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech: Navigating the Legal Landscape” with the Academy for Teaching and Learning. This one-hour recorded session examined the complex legal framework surrounding academic freedom and free speech, with a focus on the rights and responsibilities of faculty. Participants gained practical strategies for navigating these issues in today’s educational environment. The session was facilitated by Aaron Kacel of Robbins Schwartz.
- This year, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion sponsored and facilitated two LGBTQ+ Allyship trainings at Harper's Professional Development Day. The first event was a Safe Zone training facilitated by DEI’s Coordinator for Student Diversity Initiatives, LGBTQ+, Dr. Sonnet Gabbard. The 25 attendees of the 90-minute training learned about best practices for allyship and serving LGBTQ+ students. They also received the Safe Zone Trained certification. The second training, a Trans Allyship Training, was conducted by Moe Ari Brown. This was Mr. Brown's second time at Harper College, and the 25 attendees learned about ways to serve Harper's transgender, non-binary, and agender populations.

- In April, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Student Pride Club hosted the 4th Annual Harper Drag Show. The event featured 11 student drag performers, a faculty member performer, and a professional drag queen host, Jakki Love. The event was a rousing success with over 125 attendees.
- This month, the Guiding Learners to Intentionally Develop Efficacy (GLIDE) Mentorship Program concluded an incredible year with a celebration at Main Event, attended by 50 students. The evening was filled with laughter, connection, and meaningful reflections as we honored the accomplishments of our third cohort. This program has served as a launching pad for involvement in student organizations, advocacy efforts, and academic excellence. Past and current leaders from the GLIDE community have taken on significant roles in groups such as the Student Action Collective, Latinos Unidos, Jazz Band, and the Auto Club.
- We proudly congratulate the inaugural cohort of Leveraging Equity in Academia through Diversity (LEAD) Faculty Fellows – Isaiah Carrington, Dr. Amaziah Finley, Martinez E-B Garcias and Nicole Mancha – on the successful completion of their two-year fellowship! We are especially thrilled that Dr. Finley and Nicole have accepted positions within their respective departments and will continue contributing their talents and leadership to our campus community.
- Employee Resource Groups (ERGs)
Diverse Relationships Engaged in Affirming Multiculturalism (DREAM) ERG hosted its 15th annual mentoring celebration in April, shining a spotlight on six dynamic mentor-mentee pairs. The event featured powerful testimonials from mentees, who shared how the mentorship experience has advanced their personal growth, professional development and sense of belonging within the campus community. Mentors also reflected on the reciprocal value of the relationship.

External Affairs

Communications

- The Communications team pitched, secured placement and/or helped facilitate 10 articles that appeared in local and national media publications. Media mentions include:
 - The *Daily Herald* wrote a news article about Harper's advocacy for Illinois community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees. The ICCTA listserv also featured the story and the *Daily Herald's* editorial board published an opinion piece expressing support for the measure, citing conversations with Dr. Proctor and Board Chair Kelley.
 - ABC 7 featured students from Harper's Fashion Studies program previewing the designs for the department's annual fashion show.
 - The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* published profiles of Harper ASL instructor Marcos Aguilar.
 - The *Utica Observer-Dispatch* published photos of Harper athletes competing in the 2025 NJCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships.
 - The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran stories about Harper students who were named semifinalists for the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship.
 - *Community College Daily* highlighted that Dr. Roderica Williams and Craig Duetsch have joined Harper.
 - *Patch* ran an article about Harper student tour guides who first came to Harper on the tours they now lead.
 - *Leader's Edge* wrote an article about apprenticeships, highlighting Harper's partnership with Zurich North America.
 - *Patch* published an article about applications being open for this year's Community Impact Fund Grant Program.
 - *NIU Spotlight* profiled University Center employee and Harper alum Angelica Navarrete.
 - The *Daily Herald* and *Politico* wrote about Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi leading a panel at Harper College about public service careers.

- The Illinois CPA Society and CPA Practice Advisor announced that Associate Professor Lisa Busto received the Outstanding Educator Award.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* previewed the Harper College Theatre Ensemble's production of *Gaslight*.
- *Journal and Topics* newspapers wrote a story about Harper retiree Doug Spiwak being inducted into the NACDA Hall of Fame.
- The American Association of Community Colleges' *CEO to CEO Newsletter* highlighted Dr. Proctor as an outgoing member of the AACC's Board of Directors.

Community Relations

- The 2024–2025 school tour season concluded earlier this month with a visit from students at Holmes Middle School in Wheeling. This year, Community Relations welcomed more than 3,000 young students from Districts 21, 23, 26, 54, and 59. During their visits, students explored Harper College through interactive activities led by faculty and staff across a wide range of academic and career areas.
- Launched in spring 2015, the current school tour program has now brought more than 31,000 young students to campus. For many, these tours represent their first exposure to Harper—and to college in general. Some of those students have gone on to enroll at Harper and even return to serve as tour guides. Three of those former tour participants, now Harper students, were recently [featured in an article](#) for their continued involvement and leadership.

Legislative Affairs

- In May, Jeff Julian, chief of staff and VP of External Affairs, accompanied Trustee James Meyer to Springfield for the ICCTA Trustee Advocacy Day meeting with members of the college's state delegation to discuss key legislation including the community college baccalaureate degrees. The pair met with State Representatives Fred Crespo, Nicolle Grasse, Michelle Mussman, Jennifer Sanalidro, and Nabeela Syed as well as State Senators Darby Hills, Adriane Johnson and Seth Lewis.
- Funding requests were submitted for the FY26 Congressionally Directed Spending and Community Project Funding through the offices of Senator Durbin, Senator Duckworth and Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi.
 - The college requested \$1.25M to support smart manufacturing equipment and \$765K to support quantum pathways.

Marketing Services

- University Center (UC) Marketing Update through April 2025:
 - RSVP Forms
 - Comparison time frame: July 1, 2024 – April 7, 2025
 - Requests for information submitted through April 7: FY24 173, FY25 259
 - Information sessions RSVPs submitted through April 7: FY24 303, FY25 452
 - Web Traffic
 - Percentage reflects change from 2024 to 2025
 - Comparison time frame: December 29 through April 5
 - Landing Page - harpercollege.edu/university
 - Up 77.1%
 - Information session RSVP page - Up 186.3%
 - RSVP submission confirmation page - Up 214.5%
 - Email
 - Average open rate: 50.1% (Industry: 39.97%)
 - November – lowest open, lowest clicks (but still above industry average)
 - UC transfer fairs – highest open rate and highest clicks
 - Opportunity: Increase click rates



- Paid Campaigns/Paid Search
 - People are intentionally looking for and finding the University Center at Harper College.
 - Our paid campaigns are reaching more unique people, and more people are taking action than last year. (Examples of actions: Apply, send email, request information, etc.)
 - Click-through rate on UC brand search is 28%. (Average Google search click rates are typically single digits.)
 - Awareness tactics (Spotify and YouTube) have helped grow awareness about the University Center, as indicated by sharp increases in search volume.
 - Paid search is always running. Paid branding/awareness campaigns run between Info Session ad campaigns
- Campaigns currently running
 - Billboards on Route 53 – April 7 through August 1
 - Email campaign – ongoing
 - Digital information session campaign – ongoing
 - Digital brand campaign – ongoing
 - Paid search strategy – ongoing
 - Marketing to Harper grads in NOW Arena, graduation program, and digital marketing.
- Coming now through June
 - All of the above, plus:
 - Introductory mailer to new Harper students
 - Summer information session postcard to current Harper students
 - Large-format all-district awareness mailer – 180,000 households

Finance and Administrative Services

Facilities Management

- Canning Student Center and University Center: The Medwedeff sculpture has been relocated to the campus' north side. The contractor is working with MWRD to commence underground utilities work.
- Business and Social Sciences Building (BSSB): Mobilization/Construction is scheduled to begin in June.
- Emergency Services Training Center (ESTC): The contractor is currently progressing with demolition, installation of site utilities, and foundation work. These initial phases are on track and lay the groundwork for vertical construction to begin in the coming months.

Human Resources

- The Human Resources department hosted its annual Employee Recognition Ceremony for employees this month. Over 300 employees were recognized for anniversaries and accomplishments.

Information Technology

- The AI Taskforce is currently finalizing approvals for its recommended updates to the Acceptable Use Policy. In addition, the taskforce is preparing a recommendation to adopt Microsoft Copilot as the institution's primary generative AI tool. It is also developing a process for evaluating other AI resources, such as ChatGPT.

Risk Management

- Training for possible interaction with 1st Amendment Auditors was presented at the Operations Council meeting last month.



- A Family Reunification exercise was conducted with Plum Grove Middle School (PGMS). One thousand three hundred faculty, students and staff were relocated to Harper College Building M where they were received, accounted for, and transported back to PGMS.

Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness

- The Achieving the Dream (ATD) Annual Reflection Report was submitted in April. The report provides an opportunity for the college to reflect on progress toward student success goals and evaluate alignment with ATD priorities and best practices. The Annual Reflection also informs future support and resources while contributing to the collective body of knowledge across the broader ATD network of colleges.
- The Outcomes Assessment Office has published the 2023-2024 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.

Strategic Alliances and Innovation

Grants Office

- Innovation and Development
 - In April, SCC3 Employer Engagement Coordinator Sheila Cheripka presented Campus to Career: Using LinkedIn to Build Your Professional Network session in collaboration with the Job Placement Resource Center (JPRC). This virtual session was designed to emphasize the critical role of intentional networking for students in our Cybersecurity Program.
 - In April, PATHWAY Career Navigator Diane Boldt and Director of the SCC3 Grant Program Martha Karavitis-Hemmati presented to 50+ community-based organizations at the United Palatine Coalition Partners meeting. The presentation informed the CBO's (Community Based Organizations) on the SCC3 Emerging Tech grant project, including the new Cybersecurity AAS program, stackable certificates, and Bridge Foundation programs.

Workforce Solutions

- Job Placement Resource Center (JPRC)
 - Last month, the JPRC hosted 23 student workers for a Skill Savvy Student Aide Luncheon. During the luncheon, the JPRC discussed how student worker experiences at Harper map to career ready skills (essential skills) and how to translate their work experience to effectively written resumes using the new VMock AI resume tool.
 - The Apprenticeship Office hosted a successful Apprentice Info Session in April in celebration of National Apprenticeship Day. The event offered a valuable platform for students to explore apprenticeship opportunities and learn more about the pathways available. A representative from our first and long-standing apprenticeship partner, Richard Wolf Medical Instruments, along with one of their apprentices, spoke with interested candidates about the benefits of being an apprentice and the impact of participating in the program.
 - Sunstar Americas, Inc., has hired their first apprentice for the fall 2025 Mechatronics Apprenticeship program.

- Business Development
 - From Q1 to Q3 of FY25, total revenue from Wojcik Conference Center's external clients increased by 58.8% compared to the same period in FY24—rising from \$220,919.00 in FY24 to \$350,771.00 in FY25.
- Community Education
 - Harper College was recognized as an educational partner of the IBEW Renewable Energy Fund (REF) at the REF annual partners' meeting in February. REF and Harper Community Education offer career training for the renewable energy industry and a consumer education class focused on solar for homeowners.