



Dear Harper College Community,

It has been a busy month since my arrival on July 1. My first academic year at Harper will be a Year of Engagement to “Learn, Leverage and Launch” a comprehensive strategic plan to effectively address emerging needs for our community. Over the past four weeks, I have been **learning** about Harper and its key partners through formal and informal meetings with internal and external stakeholders. The Executive Council and I spent hours reviewing key responsibilities in their areas, challenges, and opportunities for **collaboration** - one of our institutional core values. This is an example of how we may be able to **leverage** and build upon key initiatives that have yielded positive results for the College, and build future opportunities for success. All of this information, as well as key events that are being planned for the fall, will help **launch** the next strategic plan for the College. The communication plan and timeline for developing the next strategic plan are currently being drafted and will be shared soon.



It was helpful to meet with the Board and the Foundation Board in early July to learn more about strengths and opportunities that await us. I continued to glean more information about our communities through meetings with all three superintendents of our high school sender districts as well as with presidents from surrounding community colleges.

In an effort to meet as many faculty and staff and to tour buildings and key spaces on campus, I have scheduled several “pop-in” sessions with our academic divisions and other units on campus. I’ve also incorporated impromptu visits across campus. More visits are scheduled and I look forward to meeting more employees and seeing more of our facilities. In addition to the Executive Council, I have met with the President’s Cabinet, Management Council and the Supervisory/Management group and hosted an informative Union Leaders’ Lunch.

Students have been a focus as well. Thus far, I have met with our Student Trustee and students from Phi Theta Kappa to learn about their college project ideas. Additional meetings with students, including our Student Government Association, are planned once the fall term is underway.

Enrollment is also being monitored and an encouraging picture is emerging for our fall semester. As of late July, we are experiencing an 11.7% overall increase for fall while summer was down about 4%, compared to the same time periods last year. We are looking forward to welcoming our first cohort of Promise Scholars with 417 enrolled for the fall term. There is great opportunity to accelerate student completion and reach more students with high quality distance learning offerings, so we are marketing programs of study that can be completed in the blended and online formats.



I have attended many special events over the past month, including the dedication of the Ian Dustan Memorial Pediatric Room within the Simulation Hospital and our inaugural Alumni and Retiree reception. I also attended the Harper Heritage Society Reception and Dinner and was delighted to meet one of the founders of the Illinois community college system and one of the first trustees of Harper College, Kris Howard-Jensen. Her rich history with Illinois community colleges, including her involvement in the formation of Harper College, is inspiring!

As you can see, I have had an active and rewarding first month—with more to come. Thank you for the warm welcome. I am delighted to be here and serve as the sixth president of Harper College!

Dr. Avis Proctor

Campus News . . .

[Student Success](#)

[Finance and Administrative Services](#)

[Institutional Planning and Strategic Alliances](#)

[Workforce Solutions](#)

[Advancement, Marketing and Communications](#)

Student Success

- Honors Student Dean Kapolas, who presented last fall at the National Collegiate Honors Council convention in Boston, was celebrated in a Harper article that was picked up by the National Collegiate Honors Council feed. The NCHC congratulated the entire Honors community at Harper in their post. Honors recommended three students for preferred consideration admission at Georgetown University, and all three were admitted. In addition, for the second year, an Honors student received a full-ride scholarship to Lake Forest College, and once again, an Honors student won a full-ride scholarship to Elmhurst College.
- The men's track and field team took third place at the 2019 DIII Outdoor Track & Field Championships, hosted by Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, NY.
- The women's track and field team took third place at the 2019 DIII Outdoor Track & Field Championships, hosted by Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, NY.
- TAP had a successful year with students with autism spectrum participating in three workshops hosted by the Job Placement Resource Center. There has been an increased participation by the TAP students in the ADS Success Club and weekly lunches with faculty members and staff. Nine new TAP students have already been admitted into the FY20 cohort and we continue to receive new applications for the FY20 cohort.
- The Rita and John Canning Women's Program hosted 30 community organizations at the seventh annual Community Information Exchange event. This event provides an opportunity for Harper College and community organizations to come together to share how students and community members in need can holistically be supported.
- Access and Disability Services provided a daylong workshop titled "Hands in the Air Workshop in STEM" to 29 sign language interpreters and a workshop "Strategies for STEM Inclusivity in Math" to nine teachers from community colleges and high schools. Workshop participants were given continuing education units for the participation.

Finance and Administrative Services

Facilities Management

- The scope of work for the Building B Boiler Room project includes the replacement of two boiler burners, chemical treatment piping, water softener, deaerator and accompanying piping. Boiler burners and the deaerator are substantially complete.
- The scope of work for 2018 Winter Projects includes Building H project room and Entrepreneurship Center remodeling, Building L artwork display lighting, Building Y Data Center temporary air conditioning power tie-in to fire suppression system, Room X264 lighting modifications and Building Y online testing lab remodeling and electrical lab improvements. Construction is substantially complete.
- The scope of work for Building R Fly Tower Roofing includes the replacement of the roofing system and the installation rigging for window washing equipment. Construction is underway and scheduled to be completed by July 31, 2019.
- The scope of work for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Roof Safety Project, Phase I includes the installation of roof access safety devices and systems to address updated OSHA

fall protection requirements for persons performing service and maintenance work on roofs. Phase I is limited to Buildings B, C, D, R, and the Foglia Foundation Health and Recreation Center. Construction is scheduled to be completed by August 31, 2019

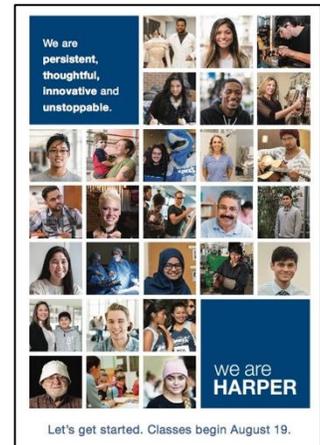
Information Technology

- The Student Systems team has made several enhancements and modifications to improve and streamline the Harper Student experience. The eSARS appointment scheduling system was updated and now requires students to provide the course and reason for an Academic Support Center (ASC) appointment. This information allows the ASC to better prepare to assist the student at the time of the appointment and to run detailed reports of the type of assistance students have requested. The message that a student receives if there is a registration hold on their account was updated by the Student System team. The updated message provides additional guidance and direction to the student.
- The Information Technology team provided the infrastructure and support to allow for real time video broadcast/streaming of the Harper graduation ceremony to additional campus rooms and over the Internet.

Advancement, Marketing and Communications

Marketing Services

- All-District Direct Mail - As part of its comprehensive enrollment marketing campaign, Marketing Services distributes an oversized postcard to all district residential addresses in advance of the fall term. The front of the card features images of Harper students, faculty, staff and alumni. Key messages include:
 - Areas of Interest, including invitations to free areas of interest workshops and career direction workshops.
 - Information sessions for:
 - Apprenticeships
 - University Center
 - Fast Track
 - Health Careers
 - Adult Prospective Students
- The postcard also features a code that waives the \$25 application fee.
- Key performance indicators include waiver code usage, landing page traffic and attendance at information sessions (As a side note, the June 13 University Center open house yielded more than 90 RSVPs).
- New Residential Mailer - More than 9,000 new district residents received the College's welcome brochure the week of June 10. The foldout mailer introduces new residents to opportunities to enrich their lives through learning at Harper.
- Social Media May Highlights



All-channel Totals

- Total impressions: 1.9 million
- Total engagements: 6,468
- Link clicks: 5,533
- Top Posts: DePaul RN to MSN launch, University Center, Teacher Appreciation Week shout outs, graduation cap decoration event, graduation.

Advancement

- The Foundation hosted the 31st annual golf outing. One hundred and thirty nine golfers attended the outing, which generated more than \$147,000 in generous donations and proceeds to the Promise Scholarship program and Resource for Excellence fund. This is more than \$17,000 over the projected budget for the event.
- The HOPE Giving Circle has awarded four \$10,000 scholarships for the 2019-2020 school year. The HOPE recipients include Oyinkansola Akinola (fashion design), Alex Aleksandrov (nursing), Ariana Herrera (pre-med) and Aleska Schwartz (civil engineering). Recipients can utilize the award at Harper or at their 4-year transfer institution. The HOPE Giving Circle brings together influential women of diverse backgrounds with a common goal of supporting women in achieving their educational goals and empowering them to reach their full potential. The HOPE Giving Circle achieves its mission through funding scholarship, mentoring, professional development and networking opportunities.
- The Rotaract Club at Harper College volunteered with The Birthday Party Project. The mission of the Birthday Party Project is to bring joy to children living in homeless and transitional living facilities. The Harper College students hosted a birthday party celebrating the children that had a June birthday. All the mothers and children living at A Safe Haven were invited to the party.

Community Relations

- The 2018-2019 school tour season is complete. Students in 4th -8th grade visited campus throughout the year to learn about different programs and areas of interest as well as what it is like to be a college student. The school tour program inspires an early interest in higher education and shows all students that college is possible. More than 4,000 students have visited campus over the past year (more than 20,000 students have visited campus over the past five years). These young students have talked with current Harper students and alumni, learned about Promise and paying for college, discussed ways they can prepare for college and toured the campus including the new library and Health and Recreation Center.

Legislative Affairs

- State: First-term Democratic Governor J.B. Pritzker navigated his massive agenda through the Democratic-controlled General Assembly and passed legislation approving an increase to the minimum wage, enacting a budget, approving a multi-billion-dollar capital plan, legalizing sports betting and recreational marijuana, expanding gaming and approving changes to the state's income tax structure.
 - The FY 2020 budget calls for a 5% increase in funding to public colleges and universities, as well as a \$50 million increase to the MAP grant program. The House did not consider legislation previously passed in the Senate to freeze property taxes for schools and repeal the estate tax.
 - The approved \$45 billion capital plan does not include projects specific to Harper College; however, four capital projects including the Canning Center, hospitality program facilities, parking lot improvements and Building H closeout funding, were re-appropriated in the

state budget. Harper continues to work with representatives and the governor's office on the release of those funds.

- Federal: U.S. Senators Tammy Duckworth, Dick Durbin and others reintroduced legislation known as the Community College to Career Fund in Higher Education Act to support innovative partnerships between community colleges, technical colleges and businesses to train students for careers in high-demand fields. In announcing the legislation, Duckworth said it builds off successful public-private partnerships such as the insurance apprenticeship with Zurich.

Media Relations

- The *Daily Herald* ran a front-page article about Harper's partnership with DePaul University to offer an RN to MSN degree – the first degree to be offered at the University Center. *ABC 7*, *WGN* and *CLTV* each included short segments during their news broadcasts.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about the student success strides Harper has made over the past decade under Dr. Ender's leadership.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Harper's Ambassador School program and the work Harper is doing to spark an interest in higher education among elementary school students, particularly in schools with significant populations of low-income students.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about new Student Trustee David Santafo-Zambrano and his journey out of violence and extreme poverty in his native Colombia.
- *WBEZ* radio aired a segment on community college HVAC programs and showcased Harper's as a robust program that prepares students for industry.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Vice Chair Bill Kelley being presented with the President's Award for Distinguished Public Service by the Northwest Suburban Bar Association.
- In an article about student work experiences, *Education Dive* included the Harper apprenticeship program.
- *Inside Higher Ed* ran an article about how colleges are adopting creative solutions to support adjunct faculty and included Harper's initiatives.
- The *Journal and Topics* newspaper ran an article about Harper's commencement ceremony and how a record number of graduates walked.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Palatine appointing veteran officer David Daigle as its new police chief; Daigle currently chairs the college's Law Enforcement and Justice Advisory Committee.
- Harper Lifelong Learner Bernie Bluestein was featured in *The Forward*, a prominent Jewish publication, to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of D-Day. Bluestein is a regular fixture in Harper's art program labs. Bluestein was also the subject of a *Daily Herald* article on his role in World War II's Ghost Army.
- In an article about Education Design Lab's Seamless Transfer Pathways design challenge, *Campus Technology* wrote about Harper's partnership with District 211 and Northern Illinois University, which allows students to earn a business degree in three years.

- *Inside Higher Ed* included an announcement that Dr. Martha Kanter spoke at Harper's commencement ceremony.
- *MSN Money* and *Stacker* ran an article about the best community college in every state, which was based on a series of cost and quality indicators; Harper was included in the rankings as best community college in Illinois.

Internal Communications

- In an effort to help employees feel connected to their colleagues, highlight college initiatives, promote collaboration and enhance connection to the college and its mission, InsideHarper, the employee e-newsletter, has been running a series of "Meet Your Colleague" spotlights. Using both original content developed for InsideHarper and working collaboratively with the Academy for Teaching Excellence and Marketing Services to repurpose content, we have featured eight faculty and staff members. Each of the stories exceeded benchmark goals.

Student Communications

- Animated "stickers" were developed for students to add to their social media stories. These gifs and the Harper College GIPHY channel were a great success, with nearly 250,000 views since launching. Students were excited to add the Harper graduation cap and hawk mascot to their stories, sharing Harper pride with their followers. We look forward to continuing to engage our students using this platform.

Institutional Planning and Strategic Alliances

Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- The 2019 SWOT Analysis was completed by the Strategic Planning and Accountability Committee with the support of the Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Division. The SWOT development process included the review of numerous internal and external data sources, as well as a thorough campus-wide feedback and input process. The SWOT Analysis provides the College with an assessment of internal strengths and weaknesses, as well as the identification of external opportunities and threats. Along with the College mission and vision, the SWOT Analysis is critical in laying the foundation for future planning.

Workforce Solutions

- Harper College received approval from the U.S. Department of Labor to offer a new registered apprenticeship program for Electric Mechanical Technicians. Northrup Grumman and Klein Tools and other industry partners participated in the development of this apprenticeship pathway, and they will be hiring apprentices as part of the new program.
- Harper's Workforce Certification Center administered CompTIA IT Certification exams to ninety District 214 students within the Network Systems/Information Support and Services Career Pathway. In addition, in May 2019 the Certification Center administered Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) exams to 220+ dual-credit students from high school districts 211, 214, and 220.



- The excitement of the InZone sports program being back in the Foglia Foundation Health and Recreation Center has spilled over to all our sports programs as enrollment is currently operating at a 15% increase in comparison to 2018.
- Kathleen Canfield, director of the Job Placement Resource Center, was recently appointed chair of the Scholarship Committee for the National Student Employment Association (NSEA). The NSEA advocates for the advancement of student employment professionals through training, professional development, and research opportunities for the purpose of skill building and career development.

Promise

- A total of 417 Promise Scholars are registered for fall term. We look forward to welcoming this first full cohort of Promise students to Harper.

Diversity and Inclusion

- The Social Justice Leadership Certificate (SJLC) cohort traveled to Portland, OR to attend the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE). The SJLC is a yearlong professional development program for full-time faculty and staff to develop leadership capacities in diversity, equity, and inclusion.