



## PRESIDENT'S *UPDATE*

February 2020

Dear Harper College Community:

I am happy to report that Achieving the Dream (ATD) has recognized Harper College as a [Leader College of Distinction](#). It was a privilege to be at the ATD DREAM conference in Maryland this past week with faculty and staff to receive this recognition and celebrate our college's efforts in achieving new, higher student outcomes and narrowing equity gaps. Additional correspondence on this wonderful recognition is included in the board packet.

Our Strategic Planning Conference is Thursday, February 27, and more than 200 faculty, staff, students, Board of Trustees, and community members are participating in this important work. The conference represents the fourth phase of our planning process, which has also included student focus groups, dialogue sessions, data summits, and a Board workshop. At the conference we will be discussing our four themes—College Culture, Equity, Excellence in Teaching and Learning, and Partnerships and Outreach. I am grateful to the Strategic Planning and Accountability Committee for their leadership on this initiative. Our next strategic plan will be critical in guiding us as we continue our laser focus on addressing student outcomes, equity, and preparing tomorrow's workforce.

As of February 24, our FTE enrollment for spring 2020 is up approximately 1.5% from last spring. This increase is due in large part to our dual credit and we continue to work with our partners at our sender schools to strengthen these opportunities for our high school students to earn college credit.

Our February Board meeting is always special as we bring forward our recommendations for faculty tenure. The achievement of tenure is an important milestone for our faculty and one that requires intense preparation on their part. I want to offer my congratulations to those faculty members on this special occasion as we recognize their excellence in the classroom and a sustained commitment to improving student learning outcomes.

### **Campus News . . .**

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Finally, our searches for the Provost and Executive Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services positions are progressing nicely. Our committees have selected semi-finalist candidates in both searches and begin interviews soon. We expect to have finalists on campus for the Provost position in late March and for the EVP position in early April. I will keep you posted as we reach key milestones in these searches.

It's hard to believe that we are just under four weeks away from our Spring Break and presumably warmer weather. Thank you for your support of students, faculty and staff and please enjoy this report on their accomplishments to date.

## Student Success

- Over 79% of students enrolled in a Start Smart experience in fall 2019 met with an academic advisor and had a personalized, electronic educational plan created to comply with one of the course's outcomes. This is 8% higher as compared to fall 2018 and, when coupled with the almost double enrollment in Start Smart this past fall, there was a 111% increase in the number of educational plans created for Start Smart students. Source: Cognos leveraging the Operational Data Store. Report created and validated by Sebastian Brozek and Matt McLaughlin.
- 53% of enrolled, case managed students (4,973 students) had a personalized, one-on-one meeting with their assigned advisor during the fall 2019 semester. This represents a 6% increase as compared to fall 2018 and exceeds the 50% target that was set for this past semester. By the end of the fall semester, 74% of students who met with their advisor had registered for spring 2020 – a 31% increase as compared to case managed students who did not meet with their advisor. Source: Cognos leveraging the Operational Data Store. Report created and validated by Sebastian Brozek and Matt McLaughlin.
- As the fall 2019 semester concluded, final Early Alert numbers were compiled and indicate increased usage of the Starfish system that supports this student success initiative. Over 2,700 students were included in early alert surveys sent to faculty for feedback during the fall semester representing a 16% increase as compared to fall 2018. In addition, close to 400 unique faculty and staff, a 5.6% increase compared to last fall, raised a flag of concern, a referral to an academic support center or supported students by way of sending a 'kudo' for positive reinforcement. Source: Starfish System Data Extract. Report created and validated by Sebastian Brozek and Matt McLaughlin.
- Pascuala Herrera has been selected as an inductee into the Susan M. Daniels Disability Mentoring Hall of the Fame. The Hall of Fame was created by the National Disability Mentoring Coalition to honor those who are making a significant difference in the lives of youth and adults with disabilities through mentoring and to raise awareness about the importance of mentoring for individuals with disabilities. As an inductee, Pascuala is being invited to serve on the National Disability Mentoring Coalition.
- Jason Altmann was appointed to the Illinois Board of Higher Education's Disability Services Advisory Committee. The committee is charged with evaluating policies and practices in higher education institutions that impact students with disabilities.
- Access and Disability Services was included in the January 2020 edition of the *Disability Compliance for Higher Education Journal* for their efforts in implementing campus events to raise disability awareness.
- The LEJ Program is coordinating a workshop with seven northwest suburban villages scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2020, for individuals seeking to become police officers. The workshop is a one-day event where individuals will learn from subject matter experts about the entire police officer selection process. Although everyone is invited, the hope is to reach and draw minorities and females who want to be police officers and help educate them on how to be successful in this competitive process. This should be a phenomenal event for anyone wishing to know more about the selection process and separate themselves as a viable candidate.

## Finance and Administrative Services

### *Facilities Management*

- The scope of work for the Algonquin Road Marquee Sign Refurbishment Project includes removal and replacement of the existing electronic message board system and software for the Algonquin Road marquee sign. Construction is substantially complete.

### *Finance*

- After a request for proposal process in July 2015, the college entered into a three-year vending services agreement with Sodexo America, LLC, to provide cold beverages, hot beverages, and snacks on campus. The agreement provided for up to four additional one-year renewal options. Based on their service and competitive commissions, the college is exercising its third annual option to renew the agreement from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. The agreement provides for a minimum annual guaranteed vending commission payment of \$118,500. Sodexo is continuing to partner with Farmer's Fridge to provide salads, sandwiches, and snacks made fresh daily through two of their automated "smart fridges" located on campus.

## Advancement, Marketing and Communications

### *Marketing Services*

#### **February 2020**

- Marketing Services is providing marketing support for four upcoming events. Direct mail materials for all four events are in the pipeline with additional advertising, digital marketing and email campaigns to expand reach and generate interest among targeted audiences.
  - PASO Welcome and Spring Kick-Off for this month
  - Explore Engineering on February 29, 2020
  - University Center Information Session on March 4, 2020
  - High School Open House on March 19, 2020
- Partnered with Admissions Outreach to refine the online course emphasis for summer 2020 enrollment marketing. As of January 2020, this messaging has been applied to several tactics-in-progress, including direct mail, audio scripts, and digital campaign messaging.

#### **Web Highlights:**

Relaunched Harper College [home page](#) with new design template, featuring more impactful photography, more flexible content positioning, and improved functionality for uses on mobile devices.

### *Advancement*

- The Alumni Program launched the second annual Alumni Virtual Mentoring initiative. Virtual Mentoring invites students and alumni to sign up for a chance to be matched with a mentor from participating Harper College Distinguished Alumni. The program gives students and alumni the unique opportunity to be paired



with highly accomplished alumni and ask questions, seek career advice, motivation and direction as well as learn about the mentor's career trajectory and how they became the leader they are today. In 2019, nearly 30 students and alumni signed up for the opportunity to be paired with a mentor.

- The Foundation hosted a Valentine's Day Card signing event for scholarship recipients. One hundred fifty recipients attended and personally wrote Valentine's Day messages to their scholarship donors. The cards were then mailed to their donors. The card was designed by a Harper College graphic arts student.
- The Harper College Educational Foundation's Major Gifts Committee hosted a prospective donor reception at TopGolf Schaumburg in February. Business and community leaders and prospective donors attended the event which included remarks by Harper College Promise student Arij Ahmed and Dr. Proctor. Over 30 people signed up to attend.

#### *Grants Office*

- In February, the Educational Foundation received a grant award of \$2,100 for scholarships from the Illinois Community College Scholarship Foundation for three Harper students in Health Care programs.

#### *Community Relations*

- In January, Harper participated in the STEM Night at Clearmont Elementary in Elk Grove Village. Faculty Fellow Cristian Martinez discussed zoology and entomology and brought some special guests with him to introduce to the students.
- Community Relations and Workforce Solutions welcomed Elk Grove Village trustees Sam Lissner and Nancy Czarnik to campus last month. The trustees along with Economic Development Specialist Nick Radcliffe toured campus and spoke to representatives from Health Careers, Manufacturing and the Makerspace and Entrepreneur Center.
- Earlier this month Community Relations hosted a breakfast with Dr. Proctor and more than 30 community partners. Guests received an update on the college and the resources available to businesses and organizations in the Harper district.

#### *Legislative Affairs*

- State: Governor J.B. Pritzker delivered his first State of the State address in late January. He highlighted several first-year achievements and briefly touched on his 2020 legislative agenda, which includes ethics reform, criminal justice reform, clean energy legislation, property tax relief and a fairer tax system, among other topics.
- In his budget address a few weeks later, Pritzker outlined his proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget. It calls for a 5% increase in funding to community colleges and universities; making community college tuition-free to all MAP-eligible students whose families make under \$45,000 per year; and adding another 20,000 new MAP scholarship students.
- The Illinois Senate reorganized under newly elected Senate President Dan Harmon. State Senator Laura Murphy (D-28) was named to the Senate Democratic leadership team, becoming deputy majority leader.
- State Representative Mark Walker (D-53) attended a Student Government Association meeting and spoke about his experience in politics and how legislation is passed at the state level.



- Federal: Dr. Proctor, Trustee Bill Kelley, Student Trustee David Santafe-Zambrano and Interim Chief of Staff Jeff Julian attended the National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C. The advocacy event brings together more than 1,000 community college leaders to shine a spotlight on the importance of community colleges to Congress and the administration, and informs and educates community college leaders on federal policy issues. Harper's contingent met with Congressmen Raja Krishnamoorthi and Sean Casten, U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth, and other representatives of elected officials in Harper's district.
- Congressman Sean Casten (D-6), a scientist and clean energy entrepreneur, gave a guest lecture to one of Associate Professor Joe Wachter's chemistry classes.

*Media Relations:*

- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Harper's Global Region of Focus Initiative being recognized as a winner of the Institute of International Education Andrew Heiskell Award for Innovation in International Education. The article was also highlighted in the AACC's *21st Century Center* blog and [ccnewsnow.com](http://ccnewsnow.com).
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about a mother and daughter who are both students in Harper's Licensed to Practical Nursing program.
- *Insurance Journal* published a story about Harper's apprenticeship program with Zurich Insurance Group and how learning about the partnership sparked interest in local high school students after a visit to the company's headquarters.
- The *Chicago Tribune* ran an article on Raymond Moehrlein, who taught math at Harper for more than 30 years and served as an assistant coach for the track and field teams.
- The *Daily Herald* and the *Daily Herald Business Ledger* ran articles about Harper offering free safety courses for local businesses.
- *Community College Daily* published a list of finalists for the American Association of Community College's 2020 Awards of Excellence. It includes finalist Dave Braunschweig, professor of computer information systems, for his leadership on expanding faculty adoption of Open Educational Resources (OER) instructional materials – a good way to reduce textbook costs for students.
- *Unique Venues* listed Harper's Wojcik Conference Center as one of its top picks for places to hold a summer conference.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about the Arlington Heights Police Department taking measures to increase diversity among its police force. One of the initiatives is a partnership with Harper to increase broad recruitment efforts for minorities and others interested in law enforcement careers.
- *Reel Chicago* ran an article about Chicagoan special effects artist and baker Dina Cimarusti, who credits Harper's pastry program for her success in the film industry.
- *CME Group* published a video detailing economic predictions in light of the January 31 Brexit announcement. It features Dave Lerman, who taught investment management at Harper.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article detailing the history of the Women's Club of Inverness and its ties to Harper.



- The AACC's *21st Century Center* blog ran an article about Harper's geographic information systems program
- *Quintessential Barrington* magazine ran an article about an Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital event that included a photo of Dr. Proctor and her son.

### *Internal Communications*

- Highlighting Departments and Sustainability

We shared a story about the year-round work the Buildings and Grounds crew put in to keep Harper's campus blooming. The article, "[Harper Prepares to Bloom](#)," provided employees with a behind the scenes glimpse into Building V, including the cultivation of plants from seeds, cuttings and division. The grounds crew has been able to increase many of our annual plants by more than 15-fold through careful cultivation, which helps stretch the college's budget. The article exceeded click through goals and has resulted in direct, positive feedback to the grounds crew.

## **Institutional Planning and Strategic Alliances**

- In preparation for Harper College's next strategic plan, two focus groups were conducted to give students the opportunity to provide feedback on the college's strengths, areas for improvement, issues the college will face within the next four years, and the most important areas the college should focus on in the next plan. The insights gathered from the student focus groups has been combined with input from faculty, staff and the Board of Trustees to develop overarching themes that will guide the development of the plan.

## **Workforce Solutions**

- Six businesses of Harper's Small Business Development Center were recently awarded the "Dream Big Angel Grant" through the Harper Foundation. Winners were selected from a pool of 30 applicants with awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000. The winners included: Assisting Hands Home Care, Twisted Hippo Taproom and Eatery, Honey with Style, Ergonomic Solutions, High Haven Education, and Elite Command Junk Hauling.
- Harper College Continuing Education and the Small Business Development Center launched the *Grow with Google* program in February 2020, offering a series of training topics to help small businesses understand and gain access to Google Business tools, which help a business thrive in the digital landscape. Workshop topics offered include: Get your Business Online, Reach Customers Online with Google (SEO), and Using Data Analytics to Drive Business Growth. The initial *Grow with Google* workshop was well attended by a dozen small business owners at the Harper Professional Center in Schaumburg.

### *Promise*

- Promise Scholarship in the High Schools
  - The high school Class of 2023 completed their registration for the Promise Program with a total of 6,318 signing up. This is 93% of the entire high school class of 2023 (6,769) within our district.
  - High school seniors (Class of 2020) are currently coming to campus to attend a Promise Preview Session, which details their next steps to complete the Promise Program in high school and begin successfully here at Harper this fall. These sessions are offered through the end of April.



- Promise Scholars at Harper College
  - Four hundred and twenty-one Promise Scholars began with us in fall 2019. Of those students, 402 persisted to the spring semester, with 303 maintaining Promise eligibility.

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

- Harper celebrated Black History Month in February, through various events hosted by the Black Student Union including Spoken Word, Black Entrepreneurship Day and more.
- PASO, one of the Latinx Initiatives for families, hosted Posole Night for nearly 100 students and family members to address their questions about college life.
- Harper is excited to welcome Dr. Cia Verschelden on March 3 as part of the Basic Needs Project to discuss bandwidth recovery and the impact on student success by poverty, racism and social marginalization.