

President's Report

February 2013

The Spring Semester is well underway! We had our first significant snowfall in some time and I'm pleased to report that our operations staff responded very well. There have been a couple of tough commutes but the College has stayed open and the campus clean-up was instrumental in supporting that decision. Thanks to all of our custodial and physical plant personnel who were involved in these efforts.

Earlier this month, we had the opportunity to acknowledge more than 2,100 years of service to Harper College. We celebrated the service of our employees who have been with us 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and even 40 years! It was a wonderful tribute to the essence of the institution: our people. Their commitment, dedication and service to our students and each other make Harper a special place. Special thanks to each of them.

Our enrollment is nearly flat. At the end of the day we will be down about one percent. This is despite the fact that our traditional-age enrollment has risen significantly. We continue to experience enrollment declines in our young adult and returning adult markets. This is a market that typically seeks job-related programs that are accessible and packaged in delivery methods that meet the demands of their personal and professional lives. We are taking a very hard look at how we can package our programs through shorter certificates that lead to either a job, or a degree. We have a good example of that in our manufacturing program and seek to replicate that in other employment sectors.

Although our enrollment revenue will not match our projections, we will balance the budget. We have responded to the enrollment decline by managing class schedules and related expenses. Our savings in personnel lines will most likely be in excess of \$4.5 million. We also have experienced a relatively mild winter which has resulted in substantial energy savings. Both of these make a big contribution to the budget savings we have experienced.

Late last week, our Steering Committee on Shared Governance met for another full day to bring more detail to a proposed new model for shared governance at Harper. The model that is being developed intends to promote more communication across the College, more inclusion of the many employee groups in campus-wide decision and policy making, and better aligns the system with the organizational design of the College so more support is provided to the proposed councils and committees. The Steering Committee is working very hard to propose a model of governance to the College Assembly for recommendation to the President prior to the end of the semester. The Steering Committee has worked very hard over the last year and a

half to examine our current system and seek ways that it may be improved. The model they have developed, in my judgment, will do just that.

Likewise the College task force that is developing the Harper Leadership Institute (HLI) has just finalized the recruitment period for the first Harper cohort that will participate in the program next fall. I'm pleased that over 70 college employees (in all groups) have indicated interest in the HLI. We look forward to the fall launch!

Below are highlights of key activities that are taking place around Harper.

Student Success

- Dr. Sue Bajt, Professor in the Computer Information Systems department, is the recipient of the 2012/13 Glenn Reich Memorial Award. The Award acknowledges a faculty member's outstanding commitment to using technology to advance teaching and learning. The award was presented on December 11, 2012, at the Harper College Foundation Board Meeting.
- The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) awarded the Harper College Diagnostic Medical Sonography program and the Cardiac Technology program (cardiac concentration) five-year continuing accreditation.
- Harper College Assistant Professor Kevin Long, a five-year veteran of the college's theatre department, is the recipient of the Illinois Theatre Association's 2012 Award of Excellence in College/University Theatre, an honor recognizing exemplary contributions to the field. He accepted the award during the organization's annual convention in Chicago in the fall. In the December issue of *American Theatre* magazine, Kevin's *Award of Excellence* was prominently recognized. *American Theatre* magazine is the national monthly magazine for the American professional not-for-profit theatre. The magazine showcases important work and significant issues affecting theatre art and practice.
- The 2013 Multicultural Faculty Fellows have been selected. Below are the faculty names and the titles of their multicultural curricular infusion projects:
 - Lisa Busto, Accounting – “Multicultural Business Leaders”
 - Robin James, Business Administration – “Multicultural Awareness in Today's Global Business Environment”
 - Mukila Maitha, Geography – “Exploring the Geography of Environmental Contamination and Social Marginalization”
 - Dawn McKinley, Accounting – “International Accounting Standards and Convergence with U.S. Standards”
 - Alina Pajtek, Linguistics – “*Crosstalk* – Linguistic Sources of Cross-Cultural Misunderstanding”
- Dean Ashley Knight has been named Community College Representative to the NASPA Region IV-East Advisory Board. NASPA is the nation's leading organization for student affairs administration, policy and practice, and Region IV-East is comprised of student

affairs administrators in the Great Lakes region. Ashley will begin her two-year appointment in March.

- On February 4th and 5th, Harper College hosted a workshop for aspiring community college chief academic officers that was offered by the National Council of Instructional Administrators, an affiliate council of AACC. Dr. Ender and Dr. Marwick helped to lead workshop sessions attended by future CAOs from Illinois and across the country.
- Student Activities coordinated and sponsored the Clubs and Involvement Expo on January 30th. Thirty clubs and organizations were highlighted and over 200 students participated in a two-hour period.
- As part of Harper's continued commitment to increasing student success and achievement, fifteen faculty and staff participated in the Annual Achieving the Dream Conference this month. Harper's progress was highlighted in a conference session entitled "Roadmap for the Underprepared: Creating Success Highways by Institutionalizing Early Interventions" that was presented by Kathi Nevels, Kimberley Polly, Laura LaBauve-Maher and Joan Kindle.

Human Resources

- Harper recognized 167 faculty and staff at its annual Affiliation and Service Award presentation/reception on February 5. In addition to being publically recognized, adjunct members were presented with an etched-crystal cube commemorating his/her years of affiliation. Employee Service Award recipients were presented with a commemorative identification card lanyard indicating years of service and a gift certificate. Employees with 25 or more years of service were presented with an Avanté-themed crystal award. All-in-all, the College recognized more than 2,100 years of service.
- Human Resources hosted the quarterly meeting of the Northern Illinois Community College Human Resources (NICCHR) group, an association of Human Resources professionals from the Illinois Community College System and its affiliates, on January 18. The meeting agenda focused on a variety of topics impacting community college employers, e.g., Return-to-Work legislation, Affordable Health Care Act mandates, post-tenure evaluation, collective-bargaining, etc. NICCHR institutions utilize the group's informal platform and network resources to share, review, and address institutional challenges and issues. The group has been meeting as professional colleagues for over thirty years.

Physical Plant

- In last month's Opening Session, Tom Crylen reported on two major construction projects that are about to begin on the east side of campus.
 - *Building H Renovation and Addition* - This project is currently in the State's Chief Procurement Office, which is the final step in the Capital Development Board (CDB) process before construction can begin. Although the approvals associated with this project have taken much longer than the CDB and College had originally anticipated,

it is important to remember that none of this would be possible without the State's 75% financial contribution. The changes are dramatic, and promise to provide wonderful facilities for our Career and Technical programs.

- *Building D Renovation and Addition* - This project is entirely funded by local dollars, and is going to be completed in two-phases. The first phase will include an approximate 30,000 square foot addition to the East which will house two large lecture halls, a multi-purpose space, a student commons area, and a regional chiller plant that will support surrounding buildings in a much more energy-efficient manner. This phase is scheduled to start next month. The second phase will affect the remainder of the existing building and include entirely new "smart" classrooms, faculty offices, conference rooms, commons areas, and offer much easier access for those that are mobility impaired. This phase will begin upon completion of Building H. Both projects will be designed at a minimum of LEED Silver-Certified, which will greatly enhance our sustainability efforts.

As with any construction, there will be growing pains. Every effort will be taken to keep disruptions to a minimum, and we ask for your continued patience and understanding. The results will be fantastic!

- Harper recently received a \$7,500 rebate check from the State of Illinois for installing two new electric vehicle charging stations in Parking Lot 14. This is the maximum rebate allowed by the program.
- In late January, an overview of the College, including financial performance and management, was presented to Moody's Investor Services. With the Board's leadership and the College's fiscally responsible approach to budgeting and spending, Moody's reaffirmed its highest possible rating of Aaa. This top rating should enable the College to obtain competitive interest rates for the upcoming general obligation bond issuance.
- The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) established the Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program to encourage government entities to prepare budget documents of the highest quality that reflect both the guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting and the GFOA's best practices on budgeting, and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal. This month the GFOA awarded the College its 14th consecutive Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012.

Information Technology

- The start of a semester is always a busy time for the Technical Services Desktop, Servers, and Network teams. Ensuring classrooms and computer labs are prepared and ready for the new term is top priority. Updating computer software in the Graphic Arts computer labs, updating and making adjustments to the student wireless systems, and reconfiguring printers in a number of science lab areas are a few of the accomplishments as the new term started. Additional technology deployments included servers to support the Information Technology disaster recovery systems and Banner student information systems.

- Technical services desktop team has completed the update of all computers to the Windows 7 operating system. This project involved thousands of hours of effort and coordination and affected each of the personal computers on campus.
- The Technical Services team updated two classrooms with new, state-of-the-art smart classroom technology. This system includes new software/network-based solutions that prepare us for the world of high definition media. Additional classrooms will be added to this pilot during the semester.
- As the current release is going off support by the vendor, Harper upgraded all Oracle databases to 11g. This was a highly complex and collaborative effort of many IT and functional groups, as it essentially replaced the database infrastructures of these critical systems.
- The project to implement Maxient Conduct Office software on an SAS (software as a service) platform was completed. The system provides the Student Conduct Officer with the ability to manage the student conduct case load, increase communication about student conduct issues, and send electronic correspondence to students regarding conduct matters.

Workforce and Strategic Alliances

- The Illinois Network for Advanced Manufacturing (INAM) area continues to coordinate the implementation of the \$13 million TAACCCT grant that was awarded to the College on behalf of 21 Illinois community colleges. A financial webinar was held for accounting staff at the partnering colleges.
- The Continuing Education area worked collaboratively with the Business and Social Science and Career Program divisions to pilot classes that provide both credit and non-credit options for students. Results were very positive and additional work in the area is planned.

Media Relations

- Harper stories were placed in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Daily Herald* (print and online), *Barrington Courier-Review*, the new *Inside Arlington* magazine, *Business News Daily* online, Patch.com, TribLocal, *Reflejos*, *The Grindstone*, and *Community College Times*.
- Stories/Placements are in progress with Reuters, NBC 5, *Chicago Tribune*, *Community College Times* and *Your Teen* magazine (among others). Highlights include:
 - *Chronicle of Higher Education* article that showcased our Advanced Manufacturing program as an example of a successful partnership answering President Obama's State of the Union call to close the skills gap;
 - *Barrington Courier-Review* cover story on our simulation hospital, with an online package that included video of a simulation;
 - *Daily Herald* story and editorial updating the positive progress of our high school partnerships;

- The launch of a Harper expert's column that will run monthly in *Inside Arlington* magazine.

Community Relations

- Jeff Przybylo, through our Community Relations Speakers Bureau, led a session at the Palatine Library that was so well-received he's been asked back to lead a multi-session seminar on using speech techniques to ace interviews.
- Dr. Ender read to students – and signed autographs – at Paddock Elementary School in Palatine as part of the annual Reading Night.
- A team of our culinary students, under the direction of Professor Pat Beach, will be doing live demos at the Dine-a-Palooza event, hosted by the Woodfield Chicago Northwest Convention Bureau on Wednesday, February 20.
- Harper hosted 180 middle school students this month as part of our Field Trips programming. Our Field Trip season kicked off in January, with a very successful visit from nearly 150 elementary students from Carpentersville. As part of an effort to ensure the trips are engaging, we've added in tour stops at sites like our Welding Lab and Studio V boutique, as well as the usual tour of the Simulation Hospital.

Legislative Relations

- Dr. Ender, Bill Kelley and Phil Burdick were in Washington, D.C., as part of the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Legislative Summit. They visited with two new U.S. Representatives who now serve Harper's district - U.S. Representative Tammy Duckworth and U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky – and incumbent U.S. Representative Peter Roskam, as well as their respective staffs. They also met with U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and a staff member from U.S. Senator Mark Kirk's office. The meetings emphasized the critical importance of Pell Grants to community college students, Harper's completion agenda, our Advanced Manufacturing program, and the dramatic decrease in remedial math rates thanks to Harper's partnership with local high schools.
- Legislators in Springfield are starting to put together the State's budget under the cloud of the pension funding crisis. The State's pensions are in the red by \$97 billion. Earlier this month, Standard and Poor's downgraded Illinois' credit rating to an A-, in part because lawmakers did not act on pension reform in the lame duck session last month. Under the repayment schedule, the State's pension payment this year is about \$7 billion which is nearly a quarter of the State's entire operating budget.
- Several bills have been filed that would prohibit the State from distributing MAP grants to students who enroll at for-profit colleges. Last year, MAP money ran out in March. Over 145,000 eligible students (many of them community college students) were denied grants after the demand exceed funding. A similar proposal passed the Illinois House two years ago, but did not make it out of the Illinois.

In April we will host a one-day conference “Aligning Demand, Skills, and Training with Sector Needs” an opportunity to hear directly from human resource professionals in five employment sectors: manufacturing, information technology, retail, logistics and materials handling, and health care. This National conference will bring together corporate and community college teams to examine skills and credentials that respond to the needs in those five employment sectors. Currently, Motorola Solutions, Archer Daniel Midland, Boeing, the Gap, and Caterpillar have agreed to present skills needed in their sectors. We anticipate approximately 20 colleges will be attending this event. We will use the information gained in the conference to inform our curriculum planning and certification programs for those employment areas. The conference is being sponsored by the HR Policy Association, the Auto Communities Consortium (a regional group of community colleges focused on workforce development), Motorola Solutions and Harper College. We particularly wish to acknowledge Motorola Solutions’ contribution. Our relationship with Motorola has placed us as a finalist for the AACC College/Corporate Partnership Award. We will learn in April at the AACC annual conference if our strong partnership is selected.

This past week has seen some very nice media for the College. Both a good article and editorial in the Daily Herald on our secondary partnership and the coverage by the Chronicle of Higher Education tying the State of the Union address to our manufacturing program. Our media relations office has helped make these good connections. Thanks to Phil and Erin!

Spring is around the corner! Stay warm!

Ken