

President's Report

February 2015

We are well into the Spring 2015 term. Students are engaged in their classes, we are beginning our budgeting cycle and are reminded once again that our efforts are firmly focused on ensuring student success for all Harper students!

The past few weeks have been dedicated to planning a robust Strategic Planning Retreat. Pre-reading materials have been sent to participants and we are urging all to come prepared for frank and open conversations about the direction the College should take over the next four years. The first afternoon on March 4 and morning of March 5 will include key stakeholders of the College that are not faculty or staff. We are delighted that our two new Achieving the Dream coaches will attend. The remainder of the conference will involve faculty and staff distilling the information gathered and drafting directions the College will take. The last plan included nine strategic goals—which may have been too many. This time, we hope to create 3-5 overall goals for the College.

To launch our new strategic plan, the College is presenting a revised mission statement to the Board for their approval. Many thanks to the Strategic Planning and Accountability shared governance committee, under the leadership of Colleen Burns and Mark Mrozinski, for leading this important work. Their revision included developing criteria for effective mission statements and overarching themes. This work was vetted multiple times by internal and external constituencies. The revised mission statement is also a critical component to our upcoming accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission.

Enrollment continues to hover at 1% less than last spring in terms of FTE. However, we are encouraged that headcount has increased by 2% indicating that we are drawing more students to Harper. However, they are taking fewer credit hours.

The Executive Council and I met with the Strategic Enrollment Management Task Force to review their recommendations and celebrate their important work. We had a frank discussion and left with a feeling that their recommendations will fit nicely within the auspices of the new Strategic Plan. Their focus on adult students was revealing in that this population is by far the largest served by the College—yet their retention rates are the lowest. The Task Force made tangible recommendations that are doable and promise to increase enrollment and, more importantly, retention of adult students

Below are the highlights of student, faculty, and staff accomplishments for the last month.

Student Success

- Harper College's new One-Stop Center opened in Building A-250 at the start of January. This is a tremendous service to our students. If students have questions or need help with registration, financial aid, scholarships, billing payment plans and more, the One-Stop Center can assist. Students no longer have to bounce from office to office and building to building. Instead, they can go to one place for student-centered quick resolutions.
- Students from Wheeling High School, completing their CNA dual credit class in the Fall Semester, have taken the State examination and had a 100% pass rate.
- Phi Theta Kappa students submitted their final Honors in Action and College projects at the end of January. The College Project focused on Phi Theta Kappa students participating in Harper's *Project Inspiration*, an outreach program for local junior high students. It aims to inspire post-secondary education and career readiness through campus tours administered by Harper students. Phi Theta Kappa members partnered with Amie Granger to serve as ambassadors to lead tours and participate in discussion panels prior to the tour to answer questions and encourage students to pursue a college education. The Phi Theta Kappa students also created a website and brochure to promote parents' involvement in their children's education. The brochure was distributed to over 200 middle school students during campus tours.
- Access and Disability Services received a \$2,000 allocation grant from the Rotary Club of Palatine Foundation. The grant will allow ADS to help support students in "Get Ready for Job Success" program and their professional endeavors. The allocation will be split amongst the students so that they can purchase a suit or other professional dress for interviewing. For many students, this would be a major financial burden that would be another roadblock to successful employment.
- The CNA program along with Job Placement Resource Center (JPRC), hosted its first targeted Job Fair on Friday, January 23. There were 13 employers represented, including nursing homes, social service agencies and hospitals. The fair took place at the Wojcik Center where about 103 students were taking the State test, making it convenient for them to attend. The JPRC reports that students have been successful in obtaining interviews and employment.
- To support the changing marketplace and to ensure relevancy for all of Harper's degrees, the College has decided to withdraw the AAS degree in Architecture in favor of an articulated transfer program for students who wish to become architects. This decision was made following a comprehensive review of the AAS program that was completed last year.
- At the annual conference for the Association for Student Conduct Administration (ASCA) held February 7-9, Laura Bennett, Student Conduct Officer, took office as the first President to serve from a community college. ASCA serves as the leading voice for the field of student conduct administration.
- Faculty and administrators attended the 2015 Dream Conference February 17-20. The Harper Team of eleven included Faon Grandinetti and Becky Gerambia who presented on the topic of "Communicating Student Success: Using Data for Planning and Improvement."
- Dr. Joanne Leski, Nursing Professor, received notification that her abstract entitled, "*Promoting Reflection with a Clinical Evaluation Tool*" has been accepted for the 2015 NLN Education Summit as a Poster. There were over 400 abstracts and the selection process was extremely competitive. This poster will also be part of the 6th Annual Assessment Conference and Share Fair at Harper scheduled for March 13.

Facilities Management

- Construction for the Starbucks in the new addition on the east end of Building D is complete. The space has been turned over to Sodexo for employee training and subsequent operation.
- Interior demolition in the balance of Building D (Phase II) is underway. Exterior work will begin once weather conditions are more favorable. The project remains on schedule for full operation for the fall 2016 semester.
- Completion of landscaping around the new East Campus Parking Structure and Building H will begin as soon as weather permits.
- Programming studies for Buildings F and M remain on schedule for completion by the end of March. Input group and steering committee work is progressing well, and site visits to several other facilities are being conducted. Upon delivery of this information, the College will be in a better position to understand both the logistical and financial aspects of these two important projects.
- Underground utility relocation work necessary for both the West Campus Infrastructure and Canning Center Projects will begin in mid- to late-March and is targeted for completion by September. The project team is currently finalizing a logistics plan to accommodate occupants that will be affected, including those residing in Buildings A, M, and S. Meetings with all affected groups and the President's Cabinet are being scheduled. Construction fencing and dust control will be provided at all times.
- The Capital Development Board (CDB) has informed the College that the required reviews of complete (100%) construction documentation for the Canning Center are running longer than originally anticipated. This will likely have an impact on the actual start date for construction, but the project team continues to work with CDB to ensure that the intended fall 2017 opening remains intact. More information will follow as it is made available.
- The Advanced Manufacturing Lab project is currently being re-bid due to lack of responses from larger construction management firms. We are hopeful that this effort will attract small to mid-sized general contractors and subcontractors. Bids are expected back by the end of February.

Information Technology

- Information Technology successfully launched Microsoft Office 365 for all Harper College faculty and staff. This cloud-based system provides free access to the Microsoft Office Suite of software, as well as cloud-based data storage through the Microsoft One Drive product. This is a huge initiative as faculty and staff will now have access to documents that are stored in the Harper One Drive wherever there is internet access.
- The Enterprise Systems team partnered with the Foundation team to migrate Raiser's Edge, the fundraising software system, and Financial Edge, the financial management system, from the College's data center to a cloud-based service provided by Blackbaud. Support and future upgrades will be managed by a team of Blackbaud staff, who have significant expertise with features and functions of the system.
- The Enterprise Systems team completed configuration and development work to enhance the systematic process that prevents registration after a semester begins. This

enhancement allows students to register for class on the same day of class start, but they must do so before the first meeting of the class.

- The Enterprise Systems team partnered with the Financial Aid and Business Offices to complete testing and implementation of Banner Financial Aid 8.22, which is the most current version of the student information system module and ensures the College is compliant with the latest regulatory standards.
- Information Technology was involved in following office moves this month:
 - Relocation of the Women's Program offices
 - Relocation of the Access and Disability Services classroom to Building I
 - Relocation of the Center for Multicultural Affairs
 - Relocation of Information Technology's Student Service Desk
 - Vacating all technology from Building D in preparation for demolition

Human Resources

- Harper recognized 129 faculty and staff at its annual Affiliation and Service Award presentation/reception on February 4. 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. The College recognized over 1,745 years of service.

Finance and Administrative Services

- Ron Ally was a member of the Higher Learning Commission Accreditation team that visited Western Oklahoma State College in Altus, Oklahoma from February 8 - 11, 2015.

Advancement

- We want to welcome to the Foundation Board of Directors Monica Mueller from Motorola Solutions and Joe Delaney an attorney from DK M&O in Arlington Heights. Both members' brief bios are included below.
 - Joe Delaney concentrates in residential real estate transactions, short sales and distressed property transactions for DK M&O in Arlington Heights where he has successfully completed transactions for all types of clients, including first time home buyers and savvy real estate investors. Joe is a member of the Illinois Real Estate Lawyers Association, 2007 Volunteer of Year for the Palatine Park District and member of Loyola Academy Parents for Others. His fundraising experiences include Palatine Rotary Club, PAFA, Palatine Little League, and Loyola Academy Ramble 2007-2013.

A lifelong resident of the northwest suburbs, Joe graduated from Arlington High School in 1979. He received an A.A. from Harper College in 1981, his A.B. from Georgetown University in 1983, and his J.D. from DePaul University in 1986. He lives in Arlington Heights with his wife, Mary Beth.

- Monica Mueller serves as a director of government affairs at Motorola Solutions where her responsibilities include Government Affairs operations, managing state government affairs in Illinois for the company, directing the company's Political Action Committee (PAC), and helping to coordinate the country management organization at the company. Before joining the private sector, Monica managed the Chicago office of Lt. Governor Bob Kustra, and previously managed his first campaign for statewide office. Upon graduating from college, Monica was one of eight individuals selected by Governor Jim Thompson (R-IL) to serve as a Dunn Fellow, a highly selective and regarded fellowship program.

Monica serves on the Executive Committee of the Civic Federation of Chicago and is a board member of the Public Affairs Council and their PAC conference advisory committee. She also is a mentor in Motorola Solutions' Women's Business Council and a "greet and guide" facilitator for new employees, and serves on the company Foundation's STEM education grant review committee.

- On Saturday, January 31, the Harper College Men's Basketball program, in partnership with the Alumni program, welcomed former men's basketball players and their families for a special Alumni Basketball Event. Alumni guests watched the current men's basketball team take on N4C foe, Rock Valley College. At halftime, alumni including former men's basketball players, former members of the pompom team, and former coaches and basketball managers were recognized during a special presentation and given a Harper College Alumni Basketball t-shirt. There were approximately 65 individuals who attended this first-ever alumni basketball event.
- Save the Date for the 27th Annual Golf Open: June 8, 2015! We are happy to announce the Event Sponsor for this year's golf outing is Robbins Schwartz. Other sponsors also joining this year's outing are Player Gift Sponsor, BMO Harris and Bruch Sponsor, Atomic Mechanical Services, Inc. To sign up for sponsorship opportunities or register for the Harper College Educational Foundation Golf Open visit: <http://goforward.harpercollege.edu/foundation/events/golf.php>

Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- The 2014-2015 Student Success Report (SSR) has been completed. The report was developed to provide support for the Strategic Plan and Achieving the Dream (AtD) student success initiatives. The report provides the College with actionable data for planning interventions and improving student success. Through various sources, the report provides both visual and narrative representations organized around three key categories: Successful Progression, Completion and Transfer, and Workforce and Employment. These categories are analyzed at the aggregate level by several measures and are disaggregated by selected target demographics.
- Project leads, Becky Gerambia and Faon Grandinetti, presented the SSR at the national AtD conference this month. This presentation included details on the process, data, feedback, and communication strategies employed in developing SSR and a discussion of how data from the SSR are used at Harper.
- Final details for the Strategic Planning Conference are being addressed. The pre-conference materials were distributed last week and to date we have 96 confirmed attendees.

Workforce and Strategic Alliances

- The Chicago-Cook Workforce Partnership was informed that the Hanover Park Education and Workforce Center has won the Innovation Award from the Illinois Association of Workforce

Professionals. This Center is a joint effort between Harper and Elgin Community College. It provides access to workforce and educational opportunities for residents located in the southwestern edge of Harper's district.

- The Workforce Certification Center has given 1,442 exams. Certification areas include Certiport, Autodesk, and WorkKeys.
- The TAACCCT office hosted two individuals from South Central College in Minnesota who were recently awarded a round 4 TAACCCT grant from the Department of Labor focused on advanced manufacturing. Harper staff shared best practices and tools with the new grantees.
- The Student Temporary Assistant Team (STAT) program has received excellent feedback. This program provides temporary student help to College departments and divisions, paid for by the Job Placement Resource Center. STAT has been a win-win partnership; it provides paid work for students and temporary assistance to College areas.

Diversity and Inclusion

- Following a national launch for Faculty Fellow candidates, to date the Office of Diversity & Inclusion has received 57 applications from energetic and interested applicants from across the United States including one applicant from the great state of Alaska! Applications are being disseminated to the Division Deans for faculty review and interviews. Names of new Faculty Fellow candidates for the 2015-2016 academic years will be presented to the Board in May of this year.
- Members of the Executive Council, including the College President, visited each area high school at the start of 2015 to introduce the Promise program to incoming freshmen - Class of 2019. This group of current 8th graders will serve as the first cohort of students eligible for the Promise program. It was an exciting opportunity for Harper to meet and greet our future students and to share Harper's commitment to making a college education a possibility for each and every family in our district.

Communications and Legislative Relations

- Approximately 130 people attended the Grand Opening of the Career and Technical Education Center on January 23. Presenters included Dr. Ender; Diane Hill, Chair, Harper College Board of Trustees; State Senator Dan Kotowski; State Senator Matt Murphy; Richard Hoffman, President and CEO Atomic Mechanical Services, Inc.; Michelle Mabry, Harper Student; and The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor of Illinois. Governor Rauner stressed the importance of education and the need for skilled workers in Illinois. Dr. Ender and Governor Rauner wrapped up the event by spot welding a bike rack created by Harper students. After the ceremony, guests were able to take self-guided tours throughout the building and enjoy refreshments.
- Harper received extensive media coverage of Governor Rauner's visit to the Career and Technical Education Center opening. Illinois Radio Network reporter John Gregory, whose report was run on more than a dozen stations across the state, included this quote from Governor Rauner: "We can make the American dream a reality by expanding institutions like this. That's why it's so great that the state has supported this facility and I, as governor, will be an ally and advocate for more of these facilities around the state." The Daily Herald, ABC 7, CBS 2, WGN/CLTV and others came out to cover the event.

- Harper was honored with the Public Sector Partner of the Year award from the Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The award was accepted at the annual awards dinner on January 29.
- Harper hosted a table at Jane Addams Elementary School's Family Literacy Night on February 19. Alejandro Mendoza answered questions about Harper and college readiness.
- Harper will host 3rd through 5th grade students from District 59 schools for their Problem Based Unit PANEL presentations on climate change on February 23, 25 and 26. The students visited campus during December and met with members of the science faculty to build their knowledge and prepare for their PANEL presentations.
- Harper College Trustee Bill Kelley and Student Trustee Marisa Andreuccetti attended the 2015 ACCT National Legislative Summit in Washington DC. They had the opportunity to advocate for community colleges with lawmakers who represent Harper's district including U.S. Senators Richard Durbin and Mark Kirk, U.S. Representatives Bob Dold and Peter Roskam, Waverly Gordon, Chief of Staff to U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky and legislative staffers for U.S. Representative Tammy Duckworth.
- Harper also received wide media coverage of Harper pre-med student Homira Wardak's invitation to attend President Barack Obama's State of the Union address as U.S. Representative Tammy Duckworth's guest. Homira is taking part in the One Million Degrees program. The *Daily Herald*, *WGN/CLTV*, *NBC 5*, *CBS 2* and others also ran articles and news segments.
- The *Daily Herald* put a spotlight on Harper's new Power of 15 partnership in a front-page centerpiece that ran in all zones. The innovative program, which will begin in the fall, will offer seniors at the three sender districts an opportunity to graduate high school with 15 college credits.
- *Inside Higher Ed* reporter Michael Stratford wrote about 2015 ACCT National Legislative Summit ACCT in Washington, D.C. The article includes a quote from Harper Trustee Bill Kelley, who is serving as the president of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association.
- *Daily Herald* political reporter Mike Riopell wrote an article about the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents voting to pursue four-year degrees in high-demand career areas such as nursing. He spoke with Dr. Ender about the initiative.
- The *Business Ledger* ran a profile on Harper alum Gina Kimmel, who started a vintage clothing and lingerie company. Kimmel, the ex-wife of late night talk show host Jimmy Kimmel, came to Harper in 2012 for the fashion program.
- The *Journal and Topics* wrote an article about Harper's new partnership with the Palatine Fire Department to offer CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training.
- The *Daily Herald*, *TribLocal* and *Patch* ran short articles promoting a new exhibit at Harper featuring artist Ryan Thompson; promoting an upcoming rock and roll boot camp led by the co-hosts of "Sound Opinions," the nationally syndicated music radio talk show; and promoting the free tax preparation services offered at the Learning and Career Center in Prospect Heights.
- Internal Communication produced a video (<http://youtu.be/Ndb8UMHbl6o>) about the Phase II construction of Building D that is posted to Harper's website and shared through internal communication tools. The video has been viewed nearly 200 times. A second video (<http://youtu.be/DUw82H9w7CI>) highlighting the February 1 – 2 blizzard and the herculean effort

by Facilities to clear the snow was created and posted to Harper's intranet (HIP). This video has been viewed 189 times.

- The Weekly Construction Update was converted to utilize Constant Contact to track open rates. The stats show strong open rates, equal to 80% of the open rates for Thursday's InsideHarper.

February has certainly been a cold month. Luckily, we have not had to deal with the significant snow that has hammered the east coast. March brings the promise of warmer weather—and something that our students look forward to: Spring Break!

I was delighted to be invited by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) to attend an educational trip to Cuba. Cathy was able to join me for the week long trip, along with four other Presidents, the Executive Director of the ICCB and a few other academics. Frankly, we were awed by what we saw and experienced. Cuba is a country of deep contrasts, from the people to the culture, cuisine, housing, transportation – the list goes on and on. Every morning, in the middle of Havana, we woke to the sound of roosters! Every evening we went to sleep with a backdrop of revelers on the street below. The architecture is stunning, but crumbling everywhere. The countryside was replete with abject poverty and we had the best meal on the trip at a farmer/artist's home on their patio. In April, Cathy and I will make a presentation at the Board meeting regarding our impressions, findings and possible next steps. Frankly, I loved the Cuban people and their sense of self. I hope we can build some ongoing relationships for our students and faculty. There is much we can learn.

As a reminder, the April Board meeting will be much later—on April 29. This is necessary so that the Spring 2015 Board election can be certified by the counties we serve.

Stay warm and think spring!

Ken