

## President's Report

April 2015

In a few short weeks we will march toward the graduation stage—the spring semester has flown by. This is a season of celebration on a college campus. There will be many events, tributes, and emotions shared over the next several weeks. On May 16, we will acknowledge the hard work and efforts of students, faculty and staff as the commencement celebration unfolds. Many emotions will be evident as we pay tribute to the leadership, service, and stewardship of Laurie Stone, a dedicated Harper Trustee for 15 years, this year's honorary degree recipient and commencement speaker. Laurie's degree will recognize her work in moving Harper forward through communication, building teams, solving problems and leadership. Laurie's capacity for leadership, perseverance and selfless service is what we hope to instill in every student who walks across our graduation stage. None could be more worthy than former Chair Laurie Stone; it is an honor to acknowledge her in this meaningful way.

Over the past few months, many of our faculty and staff have traveled to professional conferences to learn from colleagues and share their knowledge. Harper was recognized at the recent American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) conference for our work in developing an integrated student planning, mapping, advising, and early alert program, supported by predictive analytics. This project, known as Project Discover, is one that gives us an opportunity to engage students, at scale, in a much more intentional manner. From the feedback and questions the Harper panel received at the conference, I'm convinced we are on the cutting edge of something meaningful and important.

We were also joined at the AACC conference by our superintendents from Districts 211, 214 and 220 who assisted me with presenting our joint work. The Northwest Education Council for Student Success (NECSS), founded in collaboration with these partners, has done amazing work and it was great to share a national platform with the superintendents and explain our noteworthy outcomes. We are much further ahead than many of our peer institutions.

Also at the AACC conference, I served as a panelist for a session that critiqued the recently released book: *Redesigning America's Community Colleges*. As you know, I am very enthusiastic about the recommendations the book has put forth with respect to the College's organization, delivery of services, academic and career pathways, and developmental education. We have developed very coherent pathways in our Career and Technical Programs, and a very clear pathway in our Engineering program with the University of Illinois. As my faculty colleagues at Harper know, this is a more difficult exercise with the Associates of Arts, and, in some cases, the Associates of Science. Difficult as it may be, we must build and promote additional clear and coherent "maps" that focus on the liberal arts learning outcomes and assure students meet the requirements for their degrees while ensuring every course counts when they transfer. Frankly, I believe there are some exciting opportunities for faculty to develop large communities of students who relate to them through the lenses of a "program of study" rather than simply a course. Building communities of scholars and faculty is, in my mind, the very essence of the pathway concept, much like we do under the organizing rubric of the

“Honors Program.” Our challenge is to take that methodology to scale for all our students and align those programs with “meta majors” that, in turn, align with students’ academic and career goals. Ultimately, if we are going to support the success of all students at scale, we must find programs that work. In some cases, that will mean doing some things differently and some things not at all. We must experiment and innovate to move the student success needle. Harper has the strength of talent in faculty and staff to do just that.

Earlier this week, Dr. Freeman Hrabowski provided a stimulating address for our annual Diversity Symposium. Speaking to a packed Performing Arts Center assembled with faculty, staff, students and other guests, his themes resonated closely with our new strategic plan. Dr. Hrabowski discussed the College as a mentor, ways in which we could align professional development with College goals, efforts we must make to assure the success of the “average” student, investing in collaborative learning, and the use of analytics to guide decision making for the College and students, alike. It was a powerful address and one that aligns with the new proposed strategic directions. Inclusion, Engagement and Achievement are about all students, not just the best students. Dr. Hrabowski, many times, used the expression the “Harper Way.” This was also an expression used many times at our strategic planning conference to serve as a proxy for the type of student experience Harper should provide, consistently. I believe the “Harper Way” is about an intense engagement with every student, support for every student and success for every student. If our “brand” connotes this in the perception and reputation of Harper, I am very confident about a future full of opportunity and growth. Our next strategic plan will provide a road map to take us there.

As you might imagine, this last two months have been hectic and full for the College. Below you will find the highlights of those months.

### **Student Success**

- In February, six members of the Harper College Ethics Bowl team (Justin Provo, Eri Svenson, Ali Longbottom, Lauren Bell, Robert Moskwa, and Ayhane Stubberfield) participated in two national competitions. The first, held on Thursday, February 19, was the Third Annual Two-Year College Ethics Bowl Championship. One of the two Harper teams that competed in this event defeated the other Harper team in the semi-finals and then went on to win the championship, making this the second national championship in three years of the competition’s existence. Three days later the two teams from Harper combined into one larger team and competed in the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl Championship. This championship featured the top 32 teams out of over 148 teams that had competed in the regional tournaments. Harper College was the only two-year college to qualify for the championship. At the event, the team placed in a tie for seventh, having advanced to the quarter-finals. This is the best any two-year college has ever done at the event.
- Harper’s early alert program, Project Success, is one of 10 recipients of the inaugural Models of Excellence Award by *University Business* magazine and sponsored by Higher One. The award recognizes campuses where student success initiatives are making a difference. Our early alert program is featured in the April 2015 edition of the *University Business* magazine.
- The American Council on Education (ACE) announced that Dr. Kenya F. Ayers, Dean for Academic Enrichment and Engagement at Harper College, has been named an ACE Fellow for academic year 2015-16. Harper College President Dr. Ken Ender, himself an ACE Fellow in 1994-95, nominated Ayers. She’s the first Harper employee ever to be selected for the prestigious program, and one of only two new Fellows hailing from a community college.
- Three Harper College Fashion Design students won awards at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Design Competition & Fashion Show, “A City within a City,” presented by the Chicago Fashion

Foundation. Student Stephanie Munoz won the 1<sup>st</sup> place award of \$5,000 and Myra Chung won the 3<sup>rd</sup> place award of \$500. Tessa Bullen won the Business Scholarship for \$1,500.

- After winning both the State and Regional Championships, the 2015 Harper College Speech & Debate Team traveled to Cleveland, OH (April 4-11) to compete at the "Phi Rho Pi National Community College Speech and Debate Tournament." This year's squad finished fifth overall (Large School Debate Division) and sixth (Large School Speech Division). 56 community colleges competed at this year's nationals. The Harper squad earned medals in 5 of the 13 speaking events, including a bronze and silver in a new form of debate, "International Public Debate." Student medalists included: Dustin Beelow, Meghan Cwiok, Anna Dowd, Zack Mayo, Meagan Faye Allen, Mason Hoppe, David Roznovjak, and Gissel Saavedra. Other team members are: Stephanie Fox, Celine Hall, Joe Haynes, Chris Kremer, Sydney Maggio, and Arman Rahman. The team is coached by full-time faculty members, Jeff Przybylo, Margaret Bilos, and Josh Sunderbruch.
- On Saturday, March 14, the Office of Admissions Outreach hosted their annual spring open house for high school sophomores and juniors. 338 people attended the event. This year's open house featured a distinguished panel of Harper's faculty; Dr. Richard Middleton-Kaplan, Sam Giordano, Karega Cooper and Jeannine Lombardi. The panel discussion was facilitated by Victoria Atkinson.
- Student leaders Adam Schalke and Ninoshka Llontop organized four days of events at Harper College as part of the national "It's On Us" campaign designed to promote awareness of sexual assault on campus. The events included panel discussions where students, staff and faculty discussed the difficult topics of sexual violence and consent, and culminated with a pledge that students could sign to indicate their willingness to intervene or confront sexually inappropriate situations.
- On Saturday, February 28, the Harper College Math Department hosted a division 4AA regional Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics math competition. Students from seven local high schools participated: Barrington, Conant, Fremd, Lake Park, Palatine, Prospect, and Schaumburg. Students competed in written competitions in algebra 1, geometry, algebra 2, and pre-calculus. There was also an oral contest and several team events consisting of two person and eight person teams. Over 20 full-time, adjunct, and retired faculty judged, proctored, graded, and entered scores on the day of the competition.
- Student Xavier Aguirre was chosen by the International Society of Phi Theta Kappa as one of thirty 2015 Distinguished Chapter Members. Xavier was nominated last year by Harper's Phi Phi chapter and was selected by a panel of judges from over 150 nominees internationally.
- The fall 2015 Induction Ceremony for Phi Theta Kappa was held on Tuesday, April 14 where 124 new members were inducted into the national honors society.
- On April 9, the Hanover Park Education and Work Center was awarded the 2015 Illinois Workforce Partnership Innovative Solutions Award. The Center was developed as a partnership between the Village of Hanover Park, Harper, Elgin Community College and the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership. Dr. Kenya Ayers represented Harper College at the awards ceremony in Springfield at the Governor's Mansion.
- This year, the AEE Division launched the Extra Mile Awards to acknowledge employees whose values reflect Division values. On February 24, the winners received trophies in a ceremony hosted by Dr. Kenya Ayers, Dean and attended by Dr. Ken Ender, President. The honorees included: for Student Engagement: Elizabeth Ward, Alice Roberts, and Melinda Knobe; for

Colleague Support: Mary Cerutti, Diana Cincinello, Melinda Knobe, and Nancy Smith; for Innovation: Elizabeth Ward, Eric Bohman, and Kathryn Powell; and for Resilience: Pat Lacey, Maria Knuth, and Andrea Fiebig.

- The AED Department hosted a College for a Night event at the Learning and Career Center (LCC) in Prospect Heights on April 15. Approximately 60 students attended GED math, Phlebotomy, Academic ESL and Computer Information Systems classes taught by professors from these departments who volunteered their time.
- The Women's Program experienced great completion rates for fall 2014. Completion of credit courses: 91%; developmental completion rate: 85%; ESL completion rate: 98%; AED completion rate: 83%; and CE completion rate: 100%.
- Admissions Outreach, along with the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, awarded over \$17,000 in scholarships to 70 students as part of a summer enrollment campaign encouraging adult students to go forward with their education.
- Multicultural Recruiting Specialist in the Office of Admissions Outreach, Juanita Bassler was featured in the March 1 issue of *Reflejos* newspaper as a northwest suburban leader who has made a difference in the community for post-secondary education opportunities. Juanita serves diverse families in the district by talking with them about academic and career track opportunities available at Harper College. Juanita's commitment and dedication to recruitment has yielded constant enrollment increases in the Hispanic market.
- During the spring 2015 semester, the Academy for Teaching Excellence hosted two, five-week faculty development series that provided faculty with the opportunity to learn about innovative teaching strategies and classroom assessment techniques. At the conclusion of each series, faculty were challenged to demonstrate an impact on teaching practice by designing and delivering a capstone mini-lesson that they would ultimately implement in their classroom. Special recognition should be given to the Harper College faculty and staff who facilitated the faculty development series workshops and to the CAFE and CII staff who coordinated the efforts: Virginia Turner, Brett Fulkerson-Smith, Richard Middleton-Kaplan, Dominique Svarc, and Dawn McKinley.
- Throughout February, the Black Student Union (BSU) provided leadership for a successful program series of lectures, video presentations, intergroup discussions, and other activities designed to celebrate Black History Month 2015.
- "Ferguson on the Frontlines," a lecture delivered by Mr. Justin Hansford, law professor at Saint Louis University, was attended by over 175 participants and described the speaker's experiences of witnessing first-hand the events following the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. The event (and subsequent activities) included audience dialogue on ways in which Harper can be a more inclusive and welcoming community to all its members. Dr. Travaris Harris and Paul LeBreck were panelists with Justin Hansford following the presentation.
- Harper had excellent participation at recent Financial Aid workshops. The workshops, held at Harper and various district high schools, helped nearly 300 students prepare for college.
- Assistant Professor in Business Administration Robin James was awarded the Dr. Joseph Cipfl Research grant by The Illinois Community College Faculty Association (ICCF) Executive Committee. ICCFA is an advisory body to the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). It has been endeavored to promote excellence in teaching and learning in all community colleges in the state of Illinois. Faculty research and faculty workshops are supported through annual grants. Robin will present her research, *To Belief or Not Belief: Shifting the Pedagogical Focus from*

*Beliefs to Behaviors: A Case Study Analysis of Community College Faculty Pedagogical Beliefs, Perceptions and Instructional Practices*, at the annual ICCFA Conference, Springfield, IL, October 29-30.

### ***Facilities Management***

- Construction has started on the outdoor patio off the east end of the new addition to Building D. Landscaping in this area and around Building H will follow.
- Bidding for the Outdoor Amphitheater and Pedestrian Mall project is underway with the intent of bringing a recommendation to the May Board of Trustees meeting.
- Construction continues on the balance of Building D. Exterior demolition to make way for the new glass rotunda area has been completed and interior mechanical work throughout the balance of the building is underway. The project remains on schedule for completion before the fall 2016 semester begins.
- Programming studies for Buildings F and M were presented to the President's Cabinet on April 14. After internal reviews are complete, a presentation for these projects will be made to the Board.
- Underground utility relocation work necessary for the West Campus Infrastructure and Canning Center projects has started. Construction fencing, dust control screening, and temporary sidewalks to re-route pedestrian traffic safely around the site has been completed. Phase I work will continue through September.
- The Capital Development Board (CDB) has informed the College that the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) has placed the Hospitality Project on hold, along with many other State-funded projects. It is uncertain if the Canning Center will be impacted by the State's financial troubles. The College is working through all available avenues to ensure that both projects continue to move forward. Any lengthy delay to either of these projects will have adverse cost, schedule, and scope implications.
- The Advanced Manufacturing Lab project was successfully re-bid. It should be noted that the footprint of the building was increased to achieve the maximum footprint available. An exhibit is being presented to the Board of Trustees this month for Construction Management services. Pending approval, the project will start immediately to achieve an October completion date.

### ***Information Technology***

- The Information Technology team partnered with the Office of Student Development to complete the implementation of My Plan, a system that provides students with a variety of planning and support resources.
- New software was installed in the Building H Math Lab. This software provides the instructor the ability to view and share contents with all student computers in the lab. Faculty can select student computers to project the student's work on a large classroom display. This is part of the ongoing project to create a more interactive learning environment within the Math Lab.
- The Information Technology team provided support to the Director of Athletics and Fitness to conduct an investigation of Fitness Center management systems. The work helped to identify

systems that can support the core functions of the department, including check-in/out, attendance tracking, back-office operations, registration, and payment.

- The Enterprise Systems team completed several updates to the Student Checklist application, making it easier for students to use functions of the checklist. The checklist provides students with the ability to track progress required for admission and registration.

### ***Harper College Police Department***

- On April 7, 8 and 9, the Harper Police Department sponsored three one-day classes on “Tactical Medical Trauma”, conducted by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. The training was provided to all Harper College Police Officers, as well as police officers from surrounding departments. This training focused on teaching the officers how to provide advanced first aid measures to victims suffering from serious trauma injuries. This training was conducted at no cost to any of the participants.

### ***Human Resources***

- Roger Spayer, Chief Human Resources Officer, was asked to serve as a member of the 2015 Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy’s (IMSA) Admissions Review Committee. IMSA enrolls many of Illinois’ talented students in the areas of mathematics, science, and technology. The Committee’s task was to assist the Academy in its selection of the IMSA class of 2018. The Admissions Review Committee is composed of educators, scientists, and civic leaders in Illinois, and representatives from the IMSA faculty and staff.

### ***Finance and Administrative Services***

- The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awarded Harper its 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014. The 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.
- The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) also awarded Harper the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The GFOA established this certificate to encourage government entities to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles and to prepare Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports (CAFRs) that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure. This is the fifth consecutive year the College has received this GFOA award which is the highest form of recognition in government accounting and financial reporting.
- 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 enabled the College to obtain a very competitive interest rate during the recent general obligation funding bond issuance.

- After going through a competitive bid process on February 25, Harper sold \$4,890,000 of General Obligation Limited Bonds. Based on the strength of the renewed Aaa Moody's rating, the true interest cost on the bonds is 0.8%. The bonds were issued to fund necessary capital expenditures, and will be paid off within three years.

### ***Advancement***

- Trustee Bill Kelley was selected as this year's recipient of the McGrath Award. Bill will receive the award at Convocation on May 6. The McGrath Award is awarded as a tribute to those special people who have unselfishly given time, effort and funds to uphold the excellence of Harper College. With his wide range of community involvement and his outstanding time and commitment to Harper College, there is not a more deserving individual to receive the 2015 McGrath Award.
- New scholarships developed:
  - The Donna Penkava Grzegorek Dental Hygiene Scholarship Fund is an endowed scholarship which was established by Harper Distinguished Alumni and sisters Donna Grzegorek and Sandy Penkava. The scholarship will be awarded to Harper College students in the Dental Hygiene program.
  - The Elizabeth A. Troyer Memorial Endowed Scholarship is an endowed scholarship which was established by Philip A. Troyer in memory of his wife Betsy, a former Harper Alumna. This scholarship will be awarded for the first-time in 2015/16 to participants in the Rita and John Canning Women's Program at Harper College.
  - The Kelley Family Endowed Career Foundations Scholarship Funds is an existing annual scholarship, and recently reached the endowed level through additional contributions made by Bill Kelley and his wife Jeanne. The scholarship is designated for Continuing Education students with developmental disabilities.
  - Northbrook Bank and Village Bank are proactively reaching out to serve the Harper College Learning and Career Center through a number of proposed initiatives. One result is the Wintrust Bank Learning and Career Center Scholarship, an annual scholarship established by Susan Zecca and Marisol Wallscetti, for Prospect Heights and Wheeling residents and small business owners with financial need. The scholarship was awarded for the first time in Spring 2015.
  - The Young Family Scholarship is an annual scholarship which was established by Jim and Judy Young and awarded for the first time in Spring 2015 to participants in the Rita and John Canning Women's Program at Harper College.
- The Harper College Distinguished Alumni Awards Program recognizes former Harper students who have distinguished themselves in their careers and in their service to the community. The awards program was launched in 2008, as part of the College's 40th Anniversary. To date, 43 individuals have received this prestigious award. In October 2015, five additional stand-out alumni will join this select group during a celebratory reception and awards ceremony held on campus. Nominations for 2015 are now being accepted. If you know any amazing alumni, celebrate their professional and community achievements by nominating them for this prestigious award. Deadline for nominations: May 15.

### ***Planning and Institutional Effectiveness***

- Harper's Learning Assessment Committee hosted the 6th Annual Assessment Conference. The event was attended by over 90 faculty and staff. Tom Angelo, co-author of *Classroom Assessment Techniques*, presented the keynote "Doing Assessment as if Teaching and Learning Matter Most." The keynote was followed by breakout sessions which included topics on providing feedback for learning, improving student writing, promoting student reflection and classroom assessment techniques. The conference also included posters presented by Harper College faculty including Concept Mapping in Microeconomics, Measuring Student Learning in Developmental Mathematics, Assessment of Team Experiences and Reflection with a Clinical Evaluation Tool (Nursing).
- The Outcomes Assessment Office published the annual Outcomes Assessment Report. This report provides an overall summary of the assessment work of faculty and staff across the College. In addition to participation rates, the report highlights examples of departments and programs using assessment results to improve student learning and department effectiveness.

### ***Workforce and Strategic Alliances***

- The Job Placement Resource Center hosted a lunch to honor our student workers; 67 students attended the celebration. Anjannette Brumfield who works in the Career & Technical Programs Division Office was the first Student Employee of the Year! Dr. Ender presented her with a certificate and a \$100 gift card.



- Registration in our summer youth InZone program is up 20% from last year. This robust program continues to be a popular choice for area families and their children. This year, special opportunities will be available for low income youth to attend InZone.

## ***Diversity and Inclusion***

- Michelé Robinson, Special Assistant to the President for Diversity & Inclusion, recently attended the National Association for Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE) Conference in Washington DC. This was the first time that Harper College was represented at this conference and was one of only a few community colleges present. The NADOHE conference was held in conjunction with the American Council of Education (ACE) and a joint session of College/University presidents and Chief Diversity Officers took place during the conference.
- Robinson also attended a 5-hour workshop at Elgin Community College on April 2nd titled Research and Theory-Based Interventions to Increase the Success of Hispanic/Latin@ College Students.
- Human Resources and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion hosted the first ever New Employee Reception for employees that have worked at the college between 4-9 months. Members of President's Cabinet were present and connections were made with each of the new employees. This initiative is part of the College's efforts to help new employees feel welcomed and included as important members of our campus community.
- The Diversity & Inclusion Committee hosted Dr. Freeman Hrabowski at the 2015 Diversity Symposium on Friday, April 24. More than 340 people were registered for the symposium and the attendees consisted of Harper College employees, students, and community members including colleagues from our area middle and high schools, neighboring community colleges and Northern Illinois University.

## ***Communications, Legislative and Community Relations***

- The fifth year of Harper's College and Career Expo was its biggest and best yet. More than 1,000 people attended the 2015 Expo, held on Saturday, April 25, including area students in grades 4-8 and their families. In addition, more than 120 Harper faculty, staff, and students and more than 30 community and business partners volunteered to make the Expo a success.
- Elementary and middle school students attending the Expo participated in more than 30 hands-on activities hosted by Harper faculty and another dozen hosted by community and business partners, including Northrop Grumman, Arlington Heights Memorial Library, American Society of Safety Engineers and Society of Women Engineers.
- Among the attendees were students and families from Harper partner schools in D21 and D15 and 100 matches from Chicago area Big Brothers Big Sisters.
- Along with Science, Math, Nursing, World Language and Career Exploration activities in Avanté, this year's Expo also included tours and activities in the new Career and Technical Education Center hosted by Harper's Fire Science, Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, Forensics, Manufacturing, Welding, HVAC, and Architectural Technology programs.
- Internal Communication, Student Communication and Enrollment Services (One Stop, Admissions Outreach and the Center for New Students) spent two days, March 30 and 31, having conversations with more than 600 students, faculty/staff and community members outside the Building A construction area about upcoming changes to the building access due to the West Campus Infrastructure project. This tactic was the result of direct student feedback and provided a positive, personal approach to the messaging about construction detours.

- Harper Chief Communications Officer Phil Burdick accompanied six Harper students to Springfield for Student Advocacy Day on April 14. The students lobbied State Representatives and Senators from Harper's district about support for MAP funding and for increased state support of all Illinois community colleges.
- Assistant Provost for Enrollment Services Maria Moten was invited to speak before the Illinois House Higher Education Committee about Harper's initiatives to increase college readiness for high school students and create more intentional and streamlined career pathways. Maria talked about programs developed through the Northwest Educational Council for Student Success (NECSS) which has led to a drop in the number of entering students who take remedial math and a sharp increase in the number of dual credit students.
- Campus tours were conducted for four area schools, a Girl Scout troop, and the McHenry County Worknet group.
- At multiple ambassador school events, Harper hosted information tables to share information on Promise, admissions, and other services open to the community.
- The official kick off of the Promise Scholarship program highlighted Harper-related stories in the media this month.
  - The *Daily Herald* ran a front-page, all-zone centerpiece on the Promise program. *Daily Herald* reporter Katlyn Smith appeared on ABC 7's Sunday morning broadcast to discuss the article and program with anchor Stacey Baca. The *Daily Herald's* coverage also included a very positive editorial about Promise.
  - *Chicago Tribune* reporter Robert McCoppin wrote a comprehensive article on the program, attending both a meeting about Promise and a new student orientation to get a sense of the types of students who might benefit.
  - *Fox 32* anchors Darlene Hill and Corey McPherrin interviewed Dr. Ender its Good Day Chicago broadcast.
  - *WGN-TV* reporter Dana Rebek did a live report on the program for their 11 AM and Noon shows.
  - *NBC Chicago*, *CBS Chicago*, *ABC 7 Chicago*, *CLTV* and *Telemundo* also broadcast stories about the Promise Program.
  - Articles about the Promise program also appeared in national higher education publications *Inside Higher Ed* and the *Community College Times*.
  - *Daily Herald* reporter Katlyn Smith wrote a nice election article that ran on page 3 about Trustee Rita Canning not seeking another term on the Board. She sat down with both Rita and former District 211 Superintendent Nancy Robb, who will succeed her.
  - *University Business* magazine ran an article about Harper being named a Model of Excellence for its work with Project Success and the Starfish Early Alert software.
  - *Daily Herald* tax watchdog Jake Griffin wrote about a column about the average price of meals for community college board members and senior administrators. While College of DuPage spent an average of \$66.52 per person at each meal, the highest of all suburban community colleges, Harper came in the lowest. He writes: "At Harper, where the

average meal cost \$9.42 per person, board members can choose between a \$1.05 cookie or a different \$1.05 cookie.”

- Griffin also wrote a *Daily Herald* article about local community colleges foundations that are below the national average in the percentage of students receiving scholarships and the average scholarship amount. The story found the College of DuPage Foundation’s average scholarship amount was half the national average. The Harper College Foundation was close to all of our peer colleges at just slightly below the national average.
- *Daily Herald* reporter Eileen Daday wrote a nice two-page article about Harper student Hasan Fetahi of Hanover Park, who was recently selected for a NASA scholars program. Fetahi has a very interesting background that begins with his family fleeing their hometown during the Kosovo War and seeking refuge in the U.S. Our own student photographers took one of the photos that ran in print of Hasan and Dr. Kelly Page.
- Harper’s Ethics Bowl team, which won the two-year school national competition and made it to the quarterfinals for the larger four-year school competition, was featured in the *Daily Herald*, *TribLocal* and *Patch*.
- Harper’s Speech and Debate team, which won the state championship, was featured in the *Daily Herald*, *TribLocal* and *Patch*.

Whew! We have been busy! We look forward to May and all of the activities running up to commencement. Join us for the next month of celebration.

*Ken*