

President's Report

June 2010

Harper College culminated the 2009-10 academic year with our 42nd Commencement Ceremony held on May 23, 2010. We celebrated the “coming home” of graduation to Harper College after being off-campus for the past three years. The outdoor graduation “under the tent” in front of Avanté generated the largest participation ever, with more than 431 graduates, 128 faculty and 44 administrators attending, in addition to the more than 2,500 guests. The speeches by both Governor Pat Quinn and Beverly Goodman added to the ceremony, making it a very inspiring event. Our sustainability efforts in using a “green gown” drew national attention with stories in *The Washington Post* and *US News and World Report*. A special thanks to the Graduation Committee for planning a very special graduation for the College. Also, a very, very special thanks to Nancy Savard, Dave Berrios and their physical plant crew for all the event set-up and tear down; also kudos to John Filler, Diane Filstead and Darryl Riley from Food Service who were responsible for seeing to it that everyone attending had plenty of water to stay well hydrated during a hot afternoon.

Even as we were planning and executing graduation, we were busy enrolling new students for the summer and fall semester. Our summer enrollment now is at 10,319 students, a 4.31% increase over last summer. We are well on our way to making our goal for summer and will do so with another 104 FTE enrollments by July 29.

We have been continuously enrolling new students for the fall semester. In addition, student and parent orientation programs began earlier this year. More than 300 students have already completed the entire testing and orientation process this month due to these early efforts. Parent orientation is offered throughout the summer but new this year will be orientation sessions designed especially for parents of African-American students and one conducted in Spanish for our parents who are non-native speakers.

More than 1,000 students participated in events sponsored by Student Activities during the last weeks of the semester. From a Cultural Arts lecture featuring the hosts of NPR's “Sound Opinions” to an engaging Student Appreciation Day, Harper students were able to connect with faculty, staff and each other in positive, learning-centered activities. It was a wonderful ending to the spring semester for our students.

We anticipate submitting the Strategic Plan to the Board for adoption in July. In anticipation of that presentation, we have attached the historical context of this planning effort and the Strategic Directions and Goals that are being considered. The Board will receive a short overview of these data during our June meeting. In August, we will invite the Board to a master planning workshop with our planning team from EE&K/Graywood. This workshop will provide

the Board with the overall direction of the plan, its goals, strategies and cost estimates. Following the workshop we will work to finalize the Master Plan for Board adoption at the September meeting.

June marks the ending of the Harper careers for Carol Blotteaux and Tammy Rust. Carol retires June 30, and Tammy will be headed to Joliet Junior College as Vice President for Finance on July 1. Both of these women have performed admirably for the College and will be missed. Join me in thanking them for their service.

Next week, I will be traveling to China with The College Board. The Board annually invites college presidents and faculty and K-12 superintendents, principals and teachers to visit China as part of an educational exchange with Chinese counterparts. I was delighted to be asked to apply and that my application was accepted. It should be an enlightening trip, educationally, socially and culturally. I shall make a brief report about the trip in my July *President's Report*.

We end fiscal year 2010 with a balanced budget and with plans in place to manage the difficult state revenue forecast for FY2011. We look forward to July 1 and the beginning of the new fiscal year. We will also welcome two new members to the executive team, Dr. Judy Marwick and Dr. Ron Ally. FY2011 promises to be an exciting year for the College.

Regards,

Ken

William Rainey Harper College Strategic Directions and Goals

Strategic Planning Process Background

William Rainey Harper College has engaged in a broad, collaborative community-based strategic planning process to become a national model for 21st century community colleges. Initial efforts included:

- Input from internal Harper constituencies resulting in seven themes for Harper's future (Vision 2020).
- Symposia and workshops with educational, business, economic and community leaders and elected officials on student success and the changing workforce. This Week of Engagement culminated with the installation of Harper's fifth president, Dr. Kenneth Ender, whose installation address identified four major themes for Harper College.
- A collaborative scholarly document (White Paper) summarizing the interactions from the Week of Engagement and identifying four critical issues facing William Rainey Harper College.
- A conference with more than 100 external and internal thought leaders gathered to explore "Building Community Through Student Success." Participants listened to national, regional and local leaders discuss and react to issues facing the 21st century community college. Collaborative breakout groups representing civic, business and educational perspectives translated these issues into critical factors important to Harper's future success. Harper stakeholders received that input and continued to shape critical factors into strategic directions. They then identified six possible strategic directions for the College, including partnerships critical to their success. The conference steering committee further refined the six directions and identified possible goal themes. This document was distributed back to the conference attendees for final feedback. The feedback process resulted in four strategic directions and 13 possible goal themes.
- A rigorous internal review of the four strategic directions and possible goal themes was then initiated by the Institutional Planning Committee with the resulting proposal being reviewed by the College Assembly. This internal review resulted in the endorsement of the four strategic directions and the establishment of nine goals with the agreement to send them out for an all campus review and feedback.
- Feedback from the campus community was received and reviewed resulting in clarification of goal statements.

On the next page you will find the Strategic Directions and Goals for your review and feedback.

Please provide any feedback by July 7 to: strategicplanning@harpercollege.edu

All of the documents mentioned above and those prepared for the conference (White Paper, AtD Data Team Report, key articles on student success and the community college's role in responding to national educational agendas) can be found on the external Harper Web site in the Strategic Planning section: <http://goforward.harpercollege.edu/page.cfm?p=5770>.

June 16, 2010

Strategic Directions and Goals

As a successful 21st century community college, Harper College is committed to Building Community Through Student Success. This commitment is reflected in the following four strategic directions.

Strategic Directions

- Create a culture of innovation, accountability and transparency at Harper College.
- Develop programs with educational partners that inspire postsecondary education and career readiness as a life goal.
- Increase completion and achievement of all students with a focus on underperforming student groups.
- Engage in partnerships to develop programs in existing and emerging career areas that enable students to succeed in a global economy.

Goals

We will demonstrate our progress in these directions by accomplishing the following goals:

- Identify funding and leverage partner resources for innovative projects.
- Identify, monitor, and publish results on institutional effectiveness measures, key performance indicators and metrics for strategic goals.
- Create “stackable” career and academic pathways that incorporate industry-relevant and postsecondary credentials which lead to a sustainable income.
- Ensure P-20 curriculum alignment and transfer articulation.
- Decrease student achievement gaps of developmental, young male, and black non-Hispanic students, while increasing academic excellence for all.
- Increase the percentage of first-time, full-time freshmen from our feeder high school districts who begin in credit-bearing courses.
- Inspire all students to seek postsecondary opportunities.
- Integrate career readiness skills into education and training programs with an emphasis on adult education.
- Increase the number of certificate and degree completers.