

## President's Report

June 2014

It appears summer may have arrived! However, given the snow on May 16, one should not take anything for granted! Summer is a busy time on our campus. Over the next two and half months we will be extremely busy with campus projects, enrolling a new class of students, and serving the hundreds of young people who have enrolled in our InZone summer program. We have seen a 20% increase in enrollment in that program this summer which is outstanding. Bringing these youngsters to our campus will only help reinforce the message, "This College is for you!" Congratulations to Mark Mrozinski and his entire team for execution of our InZone program.

This month we bid farewell to two important external secondary school leaders, Dr. Nancy Robb (211) and Dr. Tom Leonard (220) as they have either retired, (Nancy), or moved to new position (Tom). Each has been replaced with very capable and respected professionals and we anticipate that our continuing work with our high school districts will go on without interruption. The framework we developed to guide the Northwest Educational Council for Student Success has helped assure this continuity.

Based on the good work of the Council, we have been invited to share our program with members of the "Northern Illinois University Regional College Readiness Partnership." We will participate in a discussion with them soon that will also involve Jim Applegate from IBHE, and Karen Hunter-Anderson from ICCB. We are delighted that they have asked us to share further information about the Council. In addition, in a conference call last week with officials from the White House Domestic Policy Council and Secretary Arne Duncan, we were requested to present at a forthcoming convening of higher education leaders and school superintendents regarding the work and success of our collaborative efforts. Again, we were delighted to be asked and look forward to sharing our information.

There are currently a lot of federal grant funds available for aspiring institutions. We intend to write several proposals for grant dollars this summer, including:

- In partnership with MDRC, a \$400,000 grant request to assist with developing a student predictive analytic system;
- In partnership with San Juan Community College (NM), a \$400,000 grant to replicate the Northwest Education Council on Student Success in New Mexico;
- In partnership with Vanderbilt University, a \$4 million grant to support numerous joint research projects on our mathematics curriculum, delivery of developmental mathematics, and a replication of our high school math initiative in the English discipline;
- A \$2.5 million request to the Department of Labor for a Round 4 TAACCCT grant to develop short-term certificates in Quality, Entrepreneurship, Sales, and Technology.

- In partnership with our NECSS colleagues and the North Carolina Early College Program, a \$20 million consortium grant over 5 years to begin an early college program across all of our District high schools.

In addition to these opportunities, we will be working with the College Board and Facebook on an action-research project that will seek to reduce the level of “summer melt” (those students who apply for admission to our institution and then do not engage further). Through social media intervention we will be attempting to reduce this melt. We were excited to be invited to be used as a beta site for this project and we will focus on our adult student melt during July and August.

It is indeed fantastic to be surrounded by “insurmountable” opportunity!

Below are some significant activities and accomplishments.

### ***Student Success***

- Members of Phi Theta Kappa attended the Regional Conference on June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at Elgin Community College. During the conference, Harper was recognized with several awards. Among the awardees were Sean Pedersen, Leader of Distinction Award; Dedria Cornwall and Hanan Aquil, Outstanding Officer Awards; Ema Gavrilovic, Outstanding Member Award; Charles Roderick, Distinguished New Advisor; and Alicia Tomasian, Most Distinguished Advisor Award.
- The first class of the Harper College Fire Science Technology Department and the Elk Grove Township Fire Department Firefighter Academy graduated, with honors, 12 Firefighter Candidates on Saturday June 7, 2014. This achievement is a result of a partnership between the Harper College Fire Science Department and the Elk Grove Township Fire Department. The students completed FIS109 (Basic Firefighter Operations), a 12 credit course that prepared students to take the state exam. The Fire Academy Candidates who graduated were placed on the Elk Grove volunteer firefighter roster.
- Harper student, Zam Kendra Nalubega, was awarded the National Association of Community College Teacher Education Programs (NACCTEP) scholarship. The mission of NACCTEP is to promote the community college role in the recruitment, preparation, retention, and renewal of diverse early childhood and K-12 teachers and to advance quality teacher education programs in the community college. NACCTEP awarded Ms. Nalubega a \$1,000 scholarship.
- Harper students scored well above the national average on the American Chemical Society exam. The average for all CHM 205 sections on the 2014 ACS exam was 48.2; the national average is 39.2. This is the highest average Harper has ever had.
- 100% of the students in the Dental Hygiene Program passed the national dental hygiene board exam.
- Sophomore third baseman, Kurt Becker (Palatine H.S.) received Second Team All-American honors for baseball. Kurt graduated from Harper in May with an Associate in Arts and a 3.49 GPA. He will continue playing at Lewis University.
- The men’s track and field team finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation and the women’s team finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Juan Barajas (Schaumburg H.S.) led the charge for the Hawks, placing second in both the 5k and 10k to earn All-American status in both events. He crossed the finish line in

16:26.94 in the 5k, and he completed the 10k in 33:50.68 to earn a combined 16 points in the two events.

- The Women's Program hosted its annual "Community Information Exchange" with local services and agencies and many Harper programs and services were also highlighted (the new LCC, ESL and ADS programs).

### ***Facilities Management***

- Phase I of Building D is substantially complete and is in the process of being turned over to Harper College. Facilities Management and Information Technology will use the summer months to prepare this phase of the project for fall semester occupancy. Landscaping work will occur through the fall planting season, and Phase II demolition will occur after winter break, when all remaining occupants are relocated elsewhere on campus. This project remains under budget and on schedule.
- Exterior work is in the final stages on Building H, and interior finishes are progressing well. Landscaping work will occur through the fall planting season, and the building will be ready for occupancy after winter break. A move team has been assembled to coordinate and implement the relocations that will need to occur during this time. The project remains under budget and on schedule.
- The majority of exterior work is complete on the East Campus Parking Structure and the focus is now shifting to the attached ancillary facilities, i.e. warehouse and mobile lab storage. Harper College Police and Information Technology are in the process of addressing security requirements so the first two floors can open by the start of fall semester. Landscaping work will occur through the fall planting season. The project remains on budget and schedule.
- Work is underway on the East Kris Howard Drive Ring Road and Parking Lot 6 Reconfiguration Project. A portion of the ring road was successfully closed immediately after graduation. Lot 6 will be substantially complete and ready for use by the start of fall semester. Landscaping work will occur through the fall planting season. The project remains on budget and schedule.
- Design development is proceeding very well on the Canning Center and projections are that it will be completed in late June. Construction documents will proceed in earnest after approval by the Capital Development Board and will be completed in January 2015. Construction is scheduled to start in July 2015 and be ready for occupancy by fall semester 2017, barring any delays. The project remains on budget and schedule.

### ***Information Technology***

- The Student Information System (Banner) will be upgraded to a new version in July 2014. The Information Technology and Functional User teams have made excellent progress in preparing for the upgrade.
- The Enterprise Systems team completed the upgrade of AccuSQL, the system used by the Language Lab, Success Services, Tutoring, and the Writing Center to manage student appointments and track the use of resources. The new version provides security, reporting, and user interface enhancements.

- The Servers and Networks team assisted with a number of ongoing projects, including video streaming for the graduation ceremony, security review for the new employee portal, move of Facilities Department's FAMIS ticket system to a new data center, and response for scheduled maintenance outages for both main internet service providers. The Servers and Networks team also upgraded and/or replaced servers supporting FlexReg, Oracle, Banner (development), Luminis (student portal), and Pharos (print management).

### ***Human Resources***

- Human Resources conducted the first of several training sessions to roll out the new Harper Onboarding System to campus departments on May 19, 2014. This system was designed to improve the onboarding experience in welcoming our new employees. It offers electronic forms processing (eforms) and an informational portal to all new employees prior to their start date, centralizes forms processing, and verifies employment eligibility using E-Verify. E-Verify is a government program that confirms work authorization and eligibility by cross-referencing the databases of both the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration. The onboarding system has been very well received by the new hires serving as our "test" employees.

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

- The Illinois Community College Risk Management Consortium (ICCRMC), which is made up of 12 member Colleges, holds the majority of Harper's insurance coverages. This year, ICCRMC took over the group purchase of all the member's insurance treasury bonds at a savings of 4% (\$1,693) to Harper, and all member colleges are paying less for this coverage.

### ***Advancement***

- The Harper College Educational Foundation held its Annual Meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. At this meeting the Foundation Board of Directors voted to conduct a major gifts campaign to align with the Harper College 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2017 with a goal to be determined at a future date. They also voted to raise \$5 million for the "Promise Program" endowment as part of the major gifts campaign.
- The 26<sup>th</sup> annual Harper College Golf Open was held on June 9. The net goal of \$75,000 was exceeded with preliminary estimates of between \$85,000 and \$90,000. Proceeds will be allocated for the "Promise Program" and for Resource for Excellence grants.
- An event to celebrate the first named classroom was held to honor Glen Reeser. A reception and barbeque dinner was held in the "Reeser Ceramics Lab".
- Fundraising progress at the end of April reflects \$2.5 million or 85% to goal for the fiscal year.

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

- Stakeholder focus groups for the mission input begin this month and will continue through the summer.
- The final design of the data warehouse that will support the new student analytics system will be completed during July.

- The division will hold a retreat in July to develop the first draft of the college's SWOT analysis for the Strategic Planning and Accountability Committee.

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

- The INAM office hosted a statewide meeting of all consortium members to review progress on grant requirements. As part of this meeting, the presidents from the 21 member colleges, or their designees, attended the President's Advisory Council meeting. Thus far, there are approximately 900 student enrolled in INAM courses statewide.
- The Fast Track area, in collaboration with Admissions Outreach, hosted a successful information session. Over 40 prospective students attended.
- InZone, Continuing Education's summer youth program, launched last week. Enrollment in these popular programs is up 20.42% from last year.

### ***Diversity and Inclusion***

- Harper College has completed the design and implementation of a Faculty Fellowship program that aligns with our Core Values and will assist our institution with meeting our goals around Diversity & Inclusion. Two recent Master's degree graduates from Chicago State University have been selected to participate in our Diverse Teaching Fellowship program this fall as members of the English and Mathematics departments.
- Twelve members of Harper College, including Special Assistant to the President for Diversity & Inclusion, Michelé Robinson, traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana to attend the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE).

### ***Communications and Legislative Relations***

- *The following is the "End of Session Legislative Report" by Harper's lobbyists Al Ronan and Cheryl Axley:*

The 2014 Spring Legislative Session was the second session under the leadership of the legislative democratic supermajorities. Financial pressures continued to dominate this session and were heightened by the scheduled roll-back of the temporary income tax increase mid-way through the upcoming fiscal year. As you will recall, in 2011, following Governor Quinn's last re-election effort, the General Assembly approved a temporary four-year 67% increase in the state's income tax during the lame-duck session. That temporary increase is scheduled to roll back at the end of the calendar year, just weeks after the upcoming November elections.

Despite facing his toughest re-election bid since taking office, in March Governor Quinn called for making the income tax increase permanent as a way to fund the budget for the next fiscal year and beyond. The move was supported by House Speaker Madigan and Senate President Cullerton. But in the end, there was not enough support among rank and file Democratic legislators to extend the income tax increase in an election year.

The final version of the State Budget represents \$35.7 billion in spending, with a \$6 billion dollar gap between revenues and spending. Therefore, legislators will likely consider this issue again, be it a permanent or a modified tax increase, during the veto or lame duck session.

There was no talk of a special session, however, with the Governor instead saying he will work to minimize budget cuts. The Fall Veto Session is scheduled for November 19 - 21 and December 2 - 4.

All of Harper's state funded capital projects - Building H, the Canning Center, and renovations to the Hospitality program area - were included as part of the bond reauthorization bill HB 3793.

- Some recent stories about Harper in local and national media include:
  - *Daily Herald* reporter Eileen Daday wrote an article on Harper's Career Skills Institute (CSI) for students with learning disabilities and shared student success stories.
  - The *Daily Herald* also published a letter to the editor from an Arlington Heights resident voicing her support of the CSI and Harper.
  - *Daily Herald* reporter Eileen Daday wrote a feature article on the passing of longtime Harper nursing professor Jean Hastings Genster and the impact she had on Harper nursing students.
  - An *American Association of Community Colleges* article about the \$75 million federal grant supporting the First in the World Competition highlighted Harper's 10,604 initiative as an innovative completion goal. Provost Judy Marwick spoke with reporter Frank Smith about the steps Harper has taken to increase completion rates.
  - *Community College Daily* included news of the Illinois Network for Advanced Manufacturing (INAM) launching its website [INAM.net](http://INAM.net). Dr. Ender is quoted.
  - The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Harper having not one – but two – winners of the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke scholarship, which awards transferring community college students up to \$30,000 annually for the next two to three years.
  - *Community College Daily's* Reporter's Notebook mentioned Harper and the other NGLC Breakthrough Models cohort receiving the \$100,000 grant from Educause.
  - Several articles in the *Daily Herald*, *TribLocal* and *Patch* promoted the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Dinner and Jazz Concert and the Social Media Boot Camp.
  - The *Daily Herald* ran an article about the spring sports banquet honoring longtime groundkeeper Richard "Duke" Geary, who recently retired after 34 years.
  - The *Daily Herald* ran another article about new Student Trustee Colin Weber.
  - *Daily Herald* reporter Katlyn Smith wrote about Hanover Park's economic progress and Mayor Rodney Craig, who specifically touted the new Education and Work Center.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge the long and excellent service of Chief Mike Alsup who has announced his retirement effective June 30. Mike has brought a true professional approach to our Police Department and Campus Safety and Security program and he will be missed.

I also want to acknowledge and thank Dr. Mary Knight for her outstanding leadership and service to our Advancement and fundraising efforts. She has brought the Foundation to a new level of success and has raised the bar considerably on the expectations we should have of that department. I know Mary deeply regrets leaving, however, appropriately, family and home trump professional opportunity. Mary leaves with my deepest admiration, respect and thanks.

There will be a ton of news to report following the next month or so as we ramp up for fall semester. In July, the Board will meet in a workshop and then in August we are back our regular meeting schedule.

Enjoy summer.

*Ken*