

## **President's Report**

**June 2016**

I am still feeling the glow and energy from last night's High School Equivalency Certification ceremony as I write this report. Students, along with family and friends, experienced the excitement and satisfaction of accomplishment and success; for many, this was the first completion or recognition in an educational setting. Our faculty and staff working with these students deserve profound thanks for a job well done.

The last two weeks have brought much success to our Foundation. Through the efforts of the Educational Foundation Board and the professional staff, we have received \$722,000 in commitments which represent our donors' investments in Harper students. Of that, \$300,000 will go to Promise, \$300,000 will go to the Rotary "Fishing Well" Scholarship which is focused on adult students, and the final \$122,000 is unrestricted and typically invested in faculty and student projects. This is a very, very strong finish to an outstanding fiscal year!

Our partnership with Zurich Insurance will be spotlighted next week at the "Select USA Investment Summit." This Summit is sponsored by President Obama and coordinated by the Department of Commerce. Speakers include the President, Secretaries of State, Commerce and Labor, as well as the Secretary of Finance. There will be an invited audience of global investors. Mr. Mike Foley, CEO of Zurich North America, and I will join a panel moderated by the US Ambassador to Switzerland discussing our Insurance Apprenticeship program. We are delighted this program will gain international attention and honored to be part of this program.

We will be spending considerable time over the next several months preparing D Building for occupancy and use this fall, as well as transitioning Library faculty and staff in academic support services areas to temporary offices and spaces in the building. We intentionally left one section of Building D un-programmed as we knew swing space would be critical as we move on to future building renovations. Most of this effort is coordinated and handled in-house by our Physical Plant management and staff. Needless to say, they will be very busy this summer.

The State budget and political dysfunction that surrounds it continues to bring angst throughout the State and within higher education in particular. Harper will enter the next fiscal year with a proposed balanced budget that assumes 25% less revenue from the State of Illinois than our base budget typically receives. The executive team has developed some alternative strategies to reduce our expenditures further should the State fail to pass a FY17 budget or reduce our anticipated funding even further. We will be engaged in campus conversations in early fall discussing alternatives. It is anticipated that any actions we may need to take will occur in the last quarter of the calendar year. Under every scenario that is considered, we remain committed to not using reserves to balance the budget in FY17.

Below you will find highlights of many notable initiatives and achievements.

### ***Student Success***

- Students Amanda Drexler and Eri Svenson received the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, offered to only approximately 75 students nationwide. This scholarship is based on a blend of merit and need and is worth up to \$30,000 a year for three years.
- The Harper Student Veteran Association (SVA) received a \$10,000 Home Depot grant to refurbish the new Center for Military Connected Students. The 87-page application was submitted by the Faculty Advisor and SVA officers. The application included a SVA chapter business plan and project plan for the space. The renovations to the space are expected to begin this summer.
- Susan Harrison-Grant was honored to receive the Harper Spirit Award for Faculty Advisor of the Year for her work with the Student Veteran Association at the Celebration of Excellence.
- All of Harper's high school CNA program students (Conant, Palatine, Elk Grove, and Wheeling) passed their CNA state exam with a 100% pass rate! Thanks to our CNA Instructors, John Reyes, Vicky Deguia, Pam Boyle, and Jane Weller, and congratulations to their students.
- The Women's Program hosted the Community Information Exchange with attendees representing 42 different community services and agencies. This annual event is a fantastic opportunity for providers throughout our district to come together and learn about services and resources to help those in need – ranging from support for single parents, infants, and children to mental health, short-term housing, and job coaching.
- The Center for New Students and Orientation continues to offer support to parents as well as new students. The *Parent and Family Guide* on the external web features regular blogs written by Vicki Atkinson and the team in the Center for New Students which address topics of interest to families of future or current Harper students.
- Anita Rehberg in the Center for New Students offered a series of workshops designed especially for the new or returning adult student. The topics address common concerns of adult students: "Help – I Forgot How to Study," "Finding Career Direction," "How to Market Yourself," and more. Additional sessions are being planned for this summer and fall 2016.
- Stacey Watson, Adjunct Counselor, and Michele DeCanio, Full Time Counselor, will have a Project Transition Autism Program (TAP) abstract published in the *American Academy of Pediatric Neuropsychology Journal*. Stacey presented a breakout poster session on Project TAP at the American Academy of Pediatric Neuropsychology Conference. The TAP poster session received a 2<sup>nd</sup> place honor out of more than 50 poster sessions for the most innovative study in the Neuropsychology field.

### ***Facilities Management***

- The Building D Renovation Phase II project reached substantial completion on May 11. The furniture installation began May 23 to be completed by July 15, and move in by August 15.

- The outdoor amphitheater was completed on May 16. The landscaping is complete with the exception of the south end of Building D, where the seed blanket will be replaced with sod.
- The Building P chiller plant upgrades will be expanded to serve Buildings A, C, and W, in addition to the currently connected Buildings F, L, P, and R. Heating system work is scheduled to begin in August to be completed before the heating season. The cooling system work will be done throughout the heating season and be completed by spring.
- LCC Chiller Replacement involves removal and replacement of the chillers at the Learning and Career Center. The existing units require replacement as they have exceeded their life expectancy and are no longer reliable. This project is pending Board approval.

### ***Information Technology***

- The Information Technology team completed the upgrade of Oracle EBS database to the current release (12c). The new version provides enhanced productivity tools that afford greater ability to optimize performance and resolve issues of the critical systems of the College.
- The Information Technology team provided the infrastructure and support for Harper graduation ceremonies to allow for real time video broadcast/streaming of the ceremony to additional campus rooms and over the Internet.
- Significant focus continues on obtaining and preparing the numerous technology-related products for the renovated Building D. Hundreds of devices have been received and work is underway to begin installation once furniture is in place.
- The Telecommunications team completed several projects during the month of May. They worked with Enrollment Services and the Business Office to restructure the One Stop call queue. The new structure allows One Stop agents to accept Business Office, Registration, and Financial Aid calls. They facilitated a cable installation to the roof of Building D that was necessary to provide wireless Internet access for Graduation.

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

- Rich Seiler, Manager of Auxiliary Services, is a Certified Auxiliary Services Professional and a member of the National Association of College Auxiliary Services (NACAS). NACAS is the largest auxiliary services support organization serving higher education. CASP certification is to recognize professionals who have demonstrated knowledge in multiple fields of auxiliary services. Rich has been chosen to serve as a subject matter expert to develop new CASP exam questions to be used over the next five years.

### ***Advancement***

- The Harper College Educational Foundation held its Annual Meeting on June 7. At this meeting the Foundation Board of Directors approved the FY 2017 budget and slate of officers.
- The 28<sup>th</sup> annual Harper College Golf Open was held on June 13. The event generated more than \$177,000 gross and is expected to net \$130,000. The scholarship appeal raised \$21,544.00 in support of the Promise Scholarship.

- Enrollment Email Communication Activity Report, Week of June 6, 2016:

FAF SA/No App	Need To Test Nudge	Need To Attend Orientation Nudge
<p>These prospective students listed Harper on their FAFSA but had not yet completed a Harper application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,382 emails delivered on 6/8/2016</li> <li>• 718 total opens</li> <li>• 361 unique opens</li> <li>• 26% open rate</li> <li>• 58 total clicks</li> <li>• 41 unique clicks</li> <li>• 3% click rate</li> <li>• 34 clicks to the "Get Started/Apply" page</li> <li>• 4 clicks to the "Learn about FA" page (video)</li> <li>• 3 clicks to the CASH for College RSVP page</li> <li>• 3 unsubscribes</li> <li>• Activity report provided to Admissions Outreach for follow up</li> </ul>	<p>New fall students who have yet to make a testing appointment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,235 emails delivered on 6/11/2016</li> <li>• 270 total opens</li> <li>• 310 unique opens</li> <li>• 25% open rate</li> <li>• 109 total clicks</li> <li>• 77 unique clicks</li> <li>• 6% click rate</li> <li>• 93 clicks to the <a href="#">MyHarper</a> log-in page</li> <li>• 4 clicks to One Stop page</li> <li>• 5 clicks to "Learn about FA" page (video)</li> <li>• 1 click to CASH for College RSVP page</li> <li>• 1 unsubscribe</li> <li>• Activity report provided to Admissions Outreach for follow up</li> </ul>	<p>New fall students who have yet to make an orientation appointment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 477 emails delivered on 6/11/2016</li> <li>• 338 total opens</li> <li>• 166 unique opens</li> <li>• 35% open rate</li> <li>• 46 total clicks</li> <li>• 27 unique clicks</li> <li>• 5.7% click rate</li> <li>• 28 clicks to the <a href="#">MyHarper</a> log-in page</li> <li>• 3 clicks to One Stop page</li> <li>• 2 clicks to "Learn about FA" page (video)</li> <li>• 2 click to CASH for College RSVP page</li> <li>• 3 unsubscribes</li> <li>• Activity report provided to Admissions Outreach for follow up</li> </ul>

- Expect activity rates to rise, particularly with Test and Orientation emails.
- Along with primary call to action, each email included links to Learn about Financial Aid video and CASH for College RSVP.
- Daily 48-Hour Payment Deadline emails continue each weekday.
- These efforts are in addition to one-to-one communication and follow up from various enrollment offices depending on prospects'/students' status.

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

- We have just completed our fifth Community Survey. Results were shared with the Board in May and will be shared with the campus community when faculty return in the fall. Every three years, since 2004, Harper College has solicited information from a representative sample of the property taxpayers within Illinois Community College District 512 (northwest suburbs of Chicago). Beginning in 2013, we have also collected information from employers in our district. This community survey is used to determine the extent to which the College is achieving its mission and meeting the needs of the community and to determine the expectations regarding its relationships with local employers and providing services for students related to career development and job placement.

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

- Harper hosted and participated in a multi-state Department of Labor Roundtable Conference. Workforce and education leaders from Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio attended a two-day conference on implementation of the Workforce Opportunity and Investment Act. Harper's work with apprenticeships was highlighted as a best practice.

- Continuing Education (CE) has formed a new partnership with the Hoffman Estates Park District to co-market classes. As part of the agreement, Harper will be offering classes at several of their sites. This is a great opportunity to expand our CE personal enrichment offerings.
- The CE course schedule will be mailed the first week of July, ahead of schedule. This is a valuable tool for building awareness for professional development and personal enrichment classes which are available in a variety of modalities including classroom, online and blended.
- InZone, Harper's youth summer experience, began in June. Enrollment is up 8.9% from FY15. These youngsters bring a great deal of energy to the campus!
- Dr. Rebecca Lake was invited to attend the Clinton Global Initiative in Atlanta to highlight Harper's approach to apprenticeship programs. Harpers' approach known as, "Apprenticeship on Demand" is known nationally as a best practice.

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

- Michelé Smith represented Harper's Promise program at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) America meeting in Atlanta this month. Harper's Promise program is one of several commitments that are part of CGI and the Promise Program was invited to be featured in an exclusive video announcement during meeting. The video announcement of our Commitment to Action will be uploaded to the CGI's YouTube channel and made available for use by the college for marketing purposes. The Harper Promise program is serving as a national demonstration project for many other communities across the nation and this exclusive invitation was extended to us because of the enormous success we have had so far with our program. We are modeling through our efforts that communities really can grow stronger as more students gain access to a post-secondary education.

### ***Community and Legislative Relations***

- On May 17, Maggie Geppert participated in Tarkington Elementary (D21), "Come as you are going to be" event. Students selected specific career fields, researched their selected careers and dressed the "part." Professionals from various fields were on hand to discuss their career fields with students. Maggie talked with students about careers in science.
- Throughout the 2015-16 academic year, Community Relations has hosted over 4,100 students from area Elementary and Middle Schools including District 15, 21, 26, 54, 59, and 220. The goal of the tour program is to inspire an early interest in college in 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students. For many students the tour is their first visit to a college campus. Prior to their visit, college may have seemed impossible and sometimes "scary." Students are exposed to the college environment through fun and interactive activities that help them understand that college is indeed possible. This year students participated in activities led by faculty and staff in areas such as Marketing, Financial Aid, Music, Theatre, Manufacturing, HVAC, Fire Science, Law Enforcement, Library Services, Fashion, Business, Student Involvement, Admissions, Sustainability, Astronomy, Chemistry, Math, Electronics, Speech, Nursing, Athletics, Graphic Design, Architecture, Campus Police, Linguistics, the Career Development Center, and the Harper Mobile Unit. A very big thank you to the 100 plus faculty, staff and students who participated throughout the year and helped make the tour program a success.
- The June/July issue of the *Community College Journal* prominently features the professional journey of Dr. Kenya Ayers, who effective July 1, will become vice president and board chair of

the Northwest Educational Council for Student Success. The six-page cover story, "The Mentorship of Kenya Ayers," explores the idea that no one becomes a leader on their own; it takes a system of mentors and sponsors who help guide, counsel and support. Ayers, who's finishing an American Council on Education fellowship, highlights several of her mentors including Michelé Smith and Dr. Ender.

- The *Daily Herald* wrote an article about the Rotary Club of Schaumburg/Hoffman Estates donating \$200,000 to the Harper College Educational Foundation to start the Fishing Well Scholarship. It will support adult students who live or work in Schaumburg Township, who have financial need, and who have a desire to change the trajectory of their lives through education. VP Laura Brown told reporter Eric Peterson that many people are trying to get back on their feet after the financial downturn and other personal setbacks, and that continued education is the way to advance; "A lot of people after the recession got jobs, but did they get the right job?"
- The *Daily Herald* covered Harper's graduation, highlighting commencement speaker Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle. Reporter Bob Susnjara produced a nice video that can be viewed at [dailyherald.com](http://dailyherald.com).
- Special Assistant to the President for Diversity and Inclusion and Assistant Provost Michelé Smith was quoted in a *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* article about the American Association of Community Colleges' annual convention.
- The *Business Ledger's* main feature article "Why are high-end suburban homes so hard to sell?" featured Harper instructor Dan Sarrett, who offered his take on the issue.
- The *Daily Herald* ran another article about students winning two culinary competitions.
- *School Library Journal* ran an article about incoming student Blake Spoerry, who created a library app for District 214. Blake plans to study computer science.
- The *Daily Herald* and the *Arlington Post* ran an article about Harper's InZone summer enrichment and sports camp.
- The *Daily Herald* wrote an entertainment article about Harper alum Jeff Dudan, CEO of AdvantaClean, appearing in the popular CBS show "Undercover Boss." The episode ended up being delayed until fall.
- Harper appeared in reports by the *Daily Herald* and *CBS 2 Chicago* about layoffs taking place at Elgin Community College.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about the Fast Track program.
- The *Chicago Tribune* wrote about former Harper instructor Gertrude Kerbis, who died June 14. She was the first female president of the Chicago chapter of the American Institute of Architects and a trailblazer in a male-dominated profession.
- *Daily Herald* readers voted Harper the Best Community College for the newspaper's annual Best of the Best celebration.
- *Today.com*, the website for NBC's Today Show, ran an inspiring article about a Rolling Meadows High School senior with multiple sclerosis who managed to walk across the stage for graduation. It mentions his plans to attend Harper.

- The *Daily Herald* ran a short item promoting an information breakfast overviewing Harper's apprenticeship program and the opportunities for businesses to get involved.
- *Daily Herald* columnist Kerry Lester included an item on former Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. To accompany the article, the paper ran a photo of his visit to Harper.
- The *Daily Herald* ran digests about the Continuing Education class "The Chopra Center for Mind Body Health Program" and the Small Business Development Center class "Exit Planning for Small Business Owners."
- The *Northwest Herald* ran an author spotlight on Harper alum William J. Palmer.
- The *Chicago Tribune* ran a sports article about Glenbrook South senior Bobby Wos planning to pole vault at Harper.
- The *Daily Herald* wrote a sports roundup that included updates on alumni Bradley Reibel and Andrew Skinner.
- The *Daily Herald* wrote a sports article about softball coach Scott Plaza returning this season.

As I close the June report, I wish to comment on the President's Priorities which will be met over the next three years, at the culmination of this presidency. These critical outcomes are highlighted to assure the student success agenda is well positioned going forward.

- Ensure that all students pursuing a credential complete a first year class/experience that results in the development of an educational plan and guided pathway of courses to get them to completion;
- Develop an advising system whereby all credential seeking students are assigned to a professional staff person who will assist them in navigating their experience at Harper;
- Complete the build-out of the 2010 Campus Master Plan, (Canning Center, Library/Academic Support Services, and the Wellness Center); and,
- Fully fund the Promise Program at a minimum of \$10 million dollars.

There will be many short term milestones that will be established and met over the next three years leading to the accomplishment of these four major outcomes. The Board will receive correspondence soon outlining those intermediate milestones.

Last, I would like to formally thank and recognize Dr. Shelia Quirk-Bailey for her leadership and service to William Rainey Harper College over the last 24 years. Sheila's work will serve Harper for many years to come. I have known her for the past seven years as a trusted partner, colleague, and friend. She's the real deal and Illinois is fortunate that she has decided to assume her first presidency in our state. Illinois Central College will be well-served with her vision, leadership, and courage. We wish her well and profoundly thank her for her contributions to our College.

*Ken*