

President's Report

July 2010

There is a buzz of activity across the campus as the College moves into the middle of the summer. Summer enrollment continues to build, students are arriving daily for orientation sessions for the fall semester and many, many young people are engaged in our InZone (summer youth) program. In addition, our physical plant personnel are taking advantage of the summer weather and the smaller groups of faculty and students on campus to attend to many building projects and campus moves.

During the past month, we moved a number of key campus administrator offices. Ron Ally is located in the southeastern section of the third floor of the Wojcik Conference Center, in close proximity to Mia Igyarto and Patrick Bauer. Judy Marwick has been located in Building D and shares an office suite with her associate Joan Kindle. This move puts another key administrative official in the center of campus with easier access to faculty and students. Maria Coons, Cathy Brod and Phil Burdick have each moved to locations immediately across from the President's Office. In all, we relocated 45 individual offices. This includes moves associated with the newly renovated Building D instructional wing and other moves that promote better access and teamwork. Join me in thanking Nancy Savard and her associates for a job well done.

We have now completed the official end-of-the year enrollment report. Overall, credit FTE for the College was 23,516.30, a 7.1% increase from Fiscal Year 2009; credit headcount was 27,645, a 5.5% increase from Fiscal Year 2009. These are very impressive numbers. It should be noted that the College is serving these additional students with an employee count that has been reduced since 2006. I anticipate additional personnel may be needed in many of our student support functions. The FY11 budget reflects some of this need with the funding of additional financial aid personnel, as well as tutorial and other hourly support services staff.

The ICCB joined us in June to conduct a "Recognition Visit." This visit is required by the Community College Act and basically serves as an audit of our compliance with ICCB rules and regulations. We are working with ICCB to schedule the conclusion of the visit very soon. Harper's Certificate of Recognition as been extended until December 31, 2010, allowing time to complete the process. A copy of the Certificate is included in Correspondence.

We hope to learn more about our current capacity to serve students through participating in a pilot study The College Board is conducting to develop the Community College Learner Enrollment and Achievement Diagnostic (CC-LEAD). The College Board is developing a tool to assist community colleges in analyzing their capacity to help students get ready, get in, and get through post-secondary education. The College Board visited our campus in July and met with academic leadership, financial aid, enrollment and admissions, and the President's office. By participating in this pilot, we also hope to learn more about improving our processes and assisting students with persistence and completion.

On July 14, the College hosted a regional forum sponsored by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. Deputy Secretary Jane Oates led the forum and the College was honored to participate. The forum focused on adult learning strategies for workers in transition and specifically considered whether methods of assisting adults in transition in the past are still relevant in today's economy. This is the second of these national forums; the first was conducted in Seattle, Washington last April. We were pleased to have been asked to host this forum and honored to participate.

Cathy and I recently hosted two college events at our home. On July 8, we welcomed 50 of our International students to a backyard picnic. We enjoyed the fellowship of these students and were treated to a love song performed by a young student from India. And, on July 18, we hosted three couples from our community who have been very good friends of the College and Foundation. Joining us in hosting these donors were Lane and Patty Moyer and Cathy Brod. We look forward to hosting the Board of Trustees and the Executive Council of the Foundation Board at a reception in mid-August. In late August, we will be hosting our new faculty at a reception as a way of welcoming them to Harper.

Every year, the College welcomes approximately 100 international students who have selected Harper to either expand or begin their college studies. Students come from 32 countries, and speak at least 30 languages (many speak more than one). Currently, the greatest representation of students comes from the Republic of Korea and India. All international students are served through the International Student Office, which is Harper College's link with the United States Departments of State and Homeland Security. This office works closely with the Admissions Department to ensure that the College remains in compliance with U.S. immigration requirements. Approximately 20% of Harper's international students study in the Intensive English Program, a fulltime English language program that is accredited by the Commission on English Language Programs Accreditation. The remaining 80% are pursuing a major area of interest that may range from business management and computer information systems, to hospitality, to the biological sciences. The ESL Department sponsors the International Students' Club and Conversation Café, which offer social and cultural activities as well as opportunities for improving oral language skills. All Harper students and community members are invited to join these weekly international gatherings.

On July 15, I traveled to Washington D.C. with Phil Burdick to build support for our student success agenda. While in Washington, we met with Matt Dembicki the editor of the *Community College Times*, Lexi Saudargas who is a higher education staffer to U.S. Senator Richard Durbin, U.S. Representative Melissa Bean, Amy Laitinen of the U.S. Dept of Education, Glenn Cummings from the U.S. Dept of Education, Frank Chong the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges, and Brad Wolverton the Senior Editor of Money and Management for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. We briefed these officials on the College's strategic vision and plan, and our collaborative work with our K-12 school districts.

Certainly a highlight for this summer was a visit to China! I was invited to participate in the 4th Educational/Cultural Mission to China sponsored by The College Board, China's Hanban Institute, and the Confucius Language Institute. I will forever describe the trip as one that I would never miss and one that I would not repeat. Our delegation numbered 415 secondary and post-secondary educators. Two of our colleagues from District 214 and 220 were in attendance. We convened in Beijing on June 23 where we received an orientation and formal welcome by the Hanban officials. We were then separated into groups; Cathy and I were assigned to the post-secondary group where we traveled approximately 500 miles south to the Province of Henan, in central China.

While in Beijing we visited Tiananmen Square, the Yonghe Temple, the Confucius Temple, the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and Silk Row. We also visited a local university and several schools. In China, kindergarten children report to school at 9:00 am and leave at 6:00 pm. You can just imagine

what a vocational or university day may be like! We were visiting a university on a day of exams and graduation—it was quite a charged atmosphere.

In the Province of Henan, we were hosted by the Vice Director General of Education for the Province and treated to a formal welcoming banquet. Because of my role as a President of a prominent American college, Cathy and I were seated at the hosts' table. The food was delicious. We toured the Province for three days before returning to Beijing for closing events. While in Henan we visited the International School, the Henan Museum, the Longmen Grottoes and the World Cultural Heritage, Luoyang Normal University, the Zen Music Shaolin Grand Show, the Shaolin Temple and the Songshan Shaolin Wusu Vocational Institute where we were treated to a Kongfu demonstration by students.

Throughout the entire trip we found our Chinese hosts and guides extremely gracious and friendly. In the Province, we were a real curiosity for other tourists who do not encounter many westerners. I left impressed by the countries contradictions—its vastness and density, its cities that are both modern and ancient, its economic might even though many citizens struggle economically, its large and rigorous education system and the number of college educated persons without jobs, and its centuries old civilization that is struggling to become a “developed” country. The contradictions are endless. China, just in its scope, must be treated as a serious global presence. It is my hope that as a result of this trip, Chinese language educators will visit our institution and opportunities will become available for our students to study in China. Both of these outcomes are highly likely.

Looking forward, August will be a busy month for the Board of Trustees. In addition to approving the final FY11 Budget, the Board will receive the **Outcomes Document for FY10** which summarizes key operational achievements. The **Operational Plan for FY11** which includes tasks, targets, lead personnel and budgets for critical initiatives will be distributed. The final version of the **Strategic Plan** will also be presented (see attached Planning Structure Chart for more information). In addition, a Campus Master Plan input session is scheduled for August 19. September will be busy, as well. Institutional Effectiveness measures will be presented and discussed and a second Campus Master Plan session will be held on September 13. The Board is also scheduled to complete its self-evaluation.

We continue to monitor fall enrollment levels which appear to be strong as we encourage students to complete orientation and enroll earlier. Current fall FTE enrollment is about 15% higher than last fall. This number will change as students are dropped for non-payment or not establishing payment plans.

Facilities Updates

- Harper Professional Center (HPC) – HVAC and Roof Replacement
Old ductwork has been removed and new ductwork is 80% complete. Old air conditioning units remain connected to provide temporary cooling. The new HVAC rooftop units are scheduled for placement July 23 pending resolution of the crane operators strike. Structural steel framing for rooftop screen-walls has been installed. The roof replacement is scheduled to start in early August and is expected to take five or six weeks. This is currently on schedule for a mid-September completion.

NOTE: Recent rains, structural penetrations, and deficiencies in the old rooftop units have led to serious roof leaks in the center portion of the building. Leaks caused some disruption to classes and office personnel. Roofers have now overlaid the temporary roof areas with a second membrane and the rooftop units have been serviced or decommissioned where

possible. Interior de-humidification continues, and environmental conditions will be surveyed by an independent agency to determine the extent of remediation work.

- New Chiller Plant
Delivery of one air-conditioning unit is temporarily delayed due to the crane operators strike. The cooling tower, chillers, pumps, and piping have been installed. Installation of controls and wiring are in progress. The exterior enclosure is nearing completion, and site restoration will start in a couple of weeks. This project is on schedule for completion in August.
- J-Theater Renovations
Bids are scheduled for approval at the July 21 Board Meeting with plans to start work by August 1. The scope of work includes partial ceiling removal, extension of the catwalk system, reinforcing existing catwalk supports and adding second means of egress, correcting sprinkler deficiencies, new aisle lighting, new efficient ceiling lights, upgraded audio cabling, black-out painting, acoustical reflectors, and minor HVAC work. The project is expected to be complete by early December.
- Y-Building Emergency Generator
Design-development plans are in progress for bidding in August. The scope includes a new back-up generator and screen wall. The diesel-powered generator will provide power to critical cooling equipment in the Data Center that runs campus-wide computer systems. The screen wall design will be compatible with the Avanté architecture and will hide the generator from view.
- T-Building Fleet Shop
Construction is substantially complete. This in-house design-to-build project added a separation wall between the Roads and Grounds shop and the Vehicle Maintenance shop. A lockable parts storage room and small mechanic's office were added. Electrical panels were relocated and welding outlets added. The old kiln room was demolished to create additional space to service/store various campus vehicles. Power-washer connections were also added for the adjacent trash-compactor area.

Information Technology Updates

- Blackboard Extracts for New Health Career Sites
Created a new batch enrollment system for each Health Career area so that all students enrolled in specific Health Career courses can then be batch enrolled into the correct Blackboard course site.
- Enterprise Data Warehouse System
The Enterprise Data Warehouse module (a Banner sub-system that is used for strategic reporting) was completed and will capture key institutional snapshot data.
- System Patches
Over 60 Windows-based servers were patched this month. These systems support several business critical functions including: e-mail, print accounting, and ID cards. The application firewall and load balancers also received requisite patching. These systems are the gateway into Harper's applications, provide protection from intrusion attacks and allow segregation between application and database tiers.

- Green Document Retention (Software Library)
Over 7,000 pages were scanned, filed onto a server and hard-copy documents destroyed. There continues to be additional consolidation, categorization and alphabetizing of CD-media materials.

Recognitions

- Liz Golle, a student-athlete participating in women's soccer this year, will be recognized for her academic accomplishment of a 4.0 GPA in the summer edition of the JUCO Review, a magazine produced by the National Junior College Athletic Association.
- Harper College Police submitted an application to the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police *Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge*. Today a letter arrived announcing that Harper College took First Place in the Campus Police category and will receive the First Place Award at a breakfast honoring all winning police departments on August 11, 2010 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center at Rosemont, IL.
- Harper received a national "Military Friendly School" designation. In earning this designation, the College was judged on recruitment and support of veterans, academic programming and accreditations.

Notable Events

- The 39th Dinner and Jazz Concert was held on a beautiful night under blue skies on June 30. A total count of 410 Harper College and community members attended this popular annual event. It was a great night of good food, great company and relaxing entertainment.
- Other summer fun included: 320 attendees at the "Tributosaurus Becomes the Rolling Stones" on June 24; nearly 150 people attended the **Avatar: Behind the Scenes** event with film actress Julene Renee on June 14; and a sold-out excursion to cheer on the first place Chicago White Sox was held on July 7th.

Student Success

- This summer, two of the Student Success Initiatives focused on assisting students with college-readiness have been launched, Choice Scholars and REACH Summer Bridge. Additionally, on Friday, July 16, many faculty and staff involved with the Student Success Initiatives were gathered on campus for a workshop. Strategy teams will now begin work on strategic planning and implementation plans related to FY11 objectives.

As you can see, the summer continues to be busy and productive.

Ken

Planning Structure Chart

	Institutional Effectiveness Measures	College Strategic Plan	College Operational Plan	College Budget and Capital Plan	Department Annual Plan
Cycle	Ongoing	4 year	Annual	Annual	Annual Plan (Depart /Admin)
Contents	Set of Measures including rollup measures over time	Strategic Directions Goals Strategies	Function Task	Budget Analysis Category Project Cost Estimate	Strategic Department Personal
Reporting	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual
Description	Measures of Effectiveness that are key to our mission; benchmarkable with other community colleges and provides targets for performance.	Sets the College's direction and delineates goals that will move our agenda forward. Cannot be accomplished by a single organizational unit and requires College-wide commitment.	Lists the institutional level tasks to be completed each year including performance targets.	Defines budgeting processes that tie planning to budget and delineates annual capital plan.	Departmental Planning by Administrator. Administrators develop goals in three categories. Strategic (if they are working on a strategy team) Departmental (what their department will accomplish for the year) and Personal, what they want to accomplish including professional development.