

President's Report

August 2013

The clock is ticking down to the start of the Fall 2013 semester. The summer months have certainly passed by quickly. We have had a very good summer indeed.

The weather has enabled us to proceed with planned construction projects with limited delays. The frame of the new addition to D Building is literally coming out of the ground, and H Building has been entirely gutted, the roof opened up, and the transformation has begun! To date, both projects are on the schedule we assumed when ground was broken.

Summer onboarding of new students has also been very successful. We implemented a new process with the fall freshman class and it has gone very well for the students and the institution. We started this orientation process much earlier than in years past and made it more personalized. This is the beginning of a larger transformation we envision for the orientation and planning processes for our students. We are off to a good start.

Our fall enrollment is currently exceeding our projections. This is noteworthy as we have been through the process of dropping students for non-payment, yet we are still experiencing positive enrollment numbers. We suspect the College will be a percentage point or better above projections for the fall. We have invested significant resources in marketing efforts to attract new students to the institution. We must now enroll and guide them so they can succeed.

Earlier this month we were delighted to learn that our application to join the ranks of "Leader Colleges" for the Achieving the Dream (AtD) network has been accepted. We are now formally a Leader College for AtD. This is wonderful validation of our work on student completion, partnerships with our feeder school districts, and our willingness to work hard when we have the data to support a need for change. This will be a continuing challenge as we work in an environment that is demanding better outcomes for more students with shrinking resources. We will be challenged to develop clearer and more supportive educational and career pathways as we advance our work.

Below please find a summary of the highlights from across the campus for the last month.

Student Success

- The Career Programs area has been split into two new divisions beginning with the new fiscal year. Career and Technical Programs will be led by Dean Mary Beth Ottinger while the Health Careers Programs will be led by Dean Kimberly Chavis.
- Welcome to Dr. Michael Bates and Dr. Jack Henderson who will be leading efforts in the Center for Adjunct Engagement.
- Valerie Walker, Program Coordinator & Faculty, has been selected as a 'Senior Reviewer' for professional development proposals for the National Organization for Human Services Annual Conference, which will be in Baltimore, MD in October 2013. Seven Senior Reviewers are selected from across the United States, to evaluate proposals for this internationally attended conference.
- Please join us in congratulating Human Services Faculty colleague Ellen Belluomini for her recent publication and editorial position. Ellen currently teaches "Crisis Intervention" and "Law and Ethics" in our Human Services program.
- Joanne Leski served as Team Chairperson for the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission Site Visit to Yakima Valley Community College in Yakima, Washington. The purpose of the accreditation visit is to evaluate the nursing education unit by clarifying, verifying and amplifying program materials as presented in the Self-Study Report. Based on this data, the site visit team will make a recommendation relative to the accreditation status of the program.
- Carole Bomba has been selected to present at the American Psychiatric Nurses Association annual conference in San Antonio, TX October 9-12, 2013. Her topic title is: "Using Simulation Activities to Enhance Psychiatric Nursing Skills." Carole had to submit an abstract of her proposal, a summary of her presentation, and educational objectives. Her submission underwent a peer review process by the APNA Scholarly Review Committee.
- Jim Edstrom, Harper librarian, has contracted with the University of Illinois Press to publish his first book, which is tentatively titled *Avenues for Navigation: Illinois's Transformation from Territory to State, 1817-1818*. He will complete the manuscript for publication by January 2016.
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skoot has been selected by the One Book One Harper committee as the 2013 – 2014 book. We will be having many events and speakers on campus this year to discuss aspects of the book and hope that everyone on Harper's campus will read the book and participate in the discussion.
- Harper College co-sponsored An Information Session: Getting a Job with the State of Illinois on August 1. This initiative from the Office of the Governor had seven State Departments represented with over 80 students and community members attending.
- The first Student Employment Expo was held on July 16. Approximately 200 students had the opportunity to meet with representatives from 20 campus offices.
- REACH Summer Bridge Program welcomed 107 incoming students. The students were on campus for four weeks beginning July 25 participating in reading, writing and math workshops focused on getting them ready to re-take the COMPASS placement exam.

Workforce and Strategic Alliances

- The Continuing Education area hosted a CE instructor dinner and training. The event provided instructors a chance to sharpen their skills and network with colleagues.
- Dr. Rebecca Lake has successfully led the Illinois Network for Advanced Manufacturing (INAM) in developing common terminal objectives for entry-level manufacturing certificates statewide. This work has been acknowledged by the Illinois Manufacturers' Association as well as The Manufacturing Institute in Washington D.C.
- The Workforce Certification Center is taking form. Staff changes have been made to support this important function which will help students and community members earn (via testing) industry-recognized credentials.
- The Workforce and Economic Development area has worked collaboratively to develop intake processes for students pursuing coursework at Harper via Workforce Investment Act (WIA) training vouchers.

Physical Plant

- Work will be completed prior to the start of the semester on the sloped metal roof replacements on Buildings E, L, and P, with the exception of the north slope of Building E. That portion has been postponed to perform further structural analysis on the existing conditions. An atypical design detail with the ceiling in E106 has been identified and resolved. E106 will remain off line until the start of the spring 2014 semester so the room can be fully restored. Fall classes scheduled for this room have been relocated.
- The addition of interim parking spaces and relocation of the hammer/discus throw area will be completed prior to the start of the semester and is required to offset parking spaces that will not be available due to ongoing east campus construction work. Lot 1 will gain 138 additional spaces on the west side, and 30 parallel parking spaces will be added along a currently unused portion of Kris Howard Drive. Additionally, a new staging area has been constructed at the former hammer/discus throw area for trades' vehicles and materials so they do not take up parking normally reserved for students, faculty, and staff on campus. A new hammer/discus throw area has been constructed immediately west of the existing softball field. As a result, the College will have more parking available than in past years.
- Construction continues to move along swiftly on all projects in the campus master plan. Building D foundations are near completion for the east side addition, and structural steel work should be starting soon. Building H demolition is near completion, along with masonry restoration work. New punched window openings can be seen on the north elevation and the opening for the new two-story clerestory atrium has been cut out of the existing roof structure. The new east campus parking structure project will break ground in mid-September. All of these projects remain on schedule for completion before or during the Fall 2014 semester. Work is also moving along quite well with regard to the new One-Stop/Student Center project. The schematic design phase is complete and currently being presented for approval to the College and then to the Capital Development Board. The design development phase will occur next and continue through the balance of 2013, which upon approval, will initiate the architects to start construction documents.

Information Technology

- Completed the development of a new employee onboarding form in the E-Business Suite system. The new form consolidates many disparate documents and processes into one location for onboarding a new employee. The requestor now has one place to go to obtain necessary access to systems, keys, a computer, and other resources a new employee requires.
- Completed the project to convert student records stored on microfilm and paper to an electronic form. The information was converted to electronic files, stored on Information Technology's file systems, and was organized such that it can be quickly referenced by an authorized College employee.
- Partnered with Marketing to complete the project to provide a dashboard view of the progress towards the College's Institutional Effectiveness Measures (IEMs). The dashboard provides the progress towards achieving the objective of each measure, and drilldown capability where additional information can be found for each measure.
- Completed the project to convert the database technology of the College's student information system to WebLogic, Oracle's strategic platform for managing large-scale Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems like Banner.
- During July, the Servers and Network team upgraded 105 servers with software updates from Microsoft and HP. To speed the response to any major system outage, the Servers and Networks team deployed offsite system monitoring tools. These tools automatically notify the team in the event of any problem that limits access to our critical systems such as the Banner Student Information System, Oracle E-Business System, as well as student and employee portals.

Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- Planning and Institutional Effectiveness is launching communication of the comprehensive Student Success Report during fall orientation week. The report is presented in hard copy and as an interactive tool on the employee portal. The report provides faculty, staff and administrators access to meaningful data that will inform efforts to improve student success at Harper.
- In early August, the Strategic Plan dashboard was deployed. This dashboard provides community members, the Board of Trustees and Harper employees with the status of our progress towards the strategic goal targets. Beneath the high level overview provided on the front page of the dashboard is supporting information on the activities of all goal and strategy teams – accessible with the click of a mouse.

Advancement

- The foundation reported a total of \$5,129,786 received in gifts, gifts in-kind, interest income or [gifts](#) raised through events for the last fiscal year. Total dollars raised include an in-kind gift of graphic arts software valued at \$3,028,000, interest income of \$605,585, and \$530,000 pledged in future planned gifts. The foundation supports students and faculty in their efforts; \$437,269 was awarded in scholarships and grants.

- Foundation activities for the month of June included a reception for prospective donors at the home of Jack and Linda Lloyd. Approximately 30 attendees heard a presentation by Dr. Ender about Harper College. Future receptions are scheduled in September and October. These receptions in Foundation members' homes or businesses have continued throughout the year for the purpose of bringing people in the community to a small reception to introduce them to Harper College through the comments of the President and the Board members hosting the events.
- The 25th annual golf outing was also held with one hundred golfers enjoying the day on the course and supporting Harper College students through a scholarship appeal at the dinner; \$75,000 was raised from this event.
- The Educational Foundation Professional Advisors Committee hosted a breakfast and presentation on the "Affordable Care Act: Employer/Employee Impacts" at the Wojcik Conference Center on August 8th. Approximately 70 small business owners and area professional advisors attended this event. Keynote speaker and panel moderator Brian Cheney from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois was the featured presenter.
- Campbell & Co. has conducted 25 interviews of district individuals and business representatives to gauge awareness and interest in supporting programs and projects at Harper College. The report from this feasibility study will be available in September and will guide future efforts of the foundation.
- Faculty and staff returning for the 2013/14 academic year will receive a Harper College license plate frame as a gift from the foundation to celebrate the start of another successful year in educating students and launching their careers.

Legislative Relations

- A bi-partisan Illinois House/Senate pension committee is continuing to work on a bill to fix State pension plans which are underfunded by an estimated \$100 billion. Illinois' pension system is the most underfunded public pension system in the country. The committee is waiting on savings estimates and a full actuarial analysis of a proposal developed by the University of Illinois' Institute for Government and Public Affairs and backed by several state university presidents. One of the provisions of the proposed plan includes a severe reduction in the "Effective Rate of Interest" or ERI for SURS employees whose benefits are calculated using the cash balance option. Community college presidents are concerned the ERI reduction could trigger a wave of retirements since employees would have to work longer to receive the same retirement benefits if the new pension bill becomes law.
- Primary campaigns for the November 2014 election cycle are well underway. Below are key dates for campaigns:
 - 9/3/13 First day to circulate nominating petitions for the Primary Election
 - 11/25/13 First day to file petitions at State Board of Elections for Primary
 - 12/2/13 Last day to file petitions at State Board of Elections for Primary
 - 3/18/14 Primary Election
 - 11/4/14 General Election
- Candidates for Governor have been on the campaign trail for the past several months. Bill Daley is challenging incumbent Patrick Quinn for the Democratic nomination. Kwame Raoul, a state senator from Chicago, is also considering the Governor's race. On the Republican side, three previous candidates are running again, State Senator Kirk Dillard, former

Republican nominee State Senator Bill Brady and State Treasurer Dan Rutherford. Also running is Chicago businessman Bruce Rauner.

- Under new legislation that takes effect during this election cycle, there won't be a separate category for Lieutenant Governor. Each candidate will select their own running mate and they will appear on the ballot jointly.

Community Relations

- Community relations focus group sessions, as directed by the joint Board of Trustees/Harper Foundation Task Force, are close to wrapping up. The College has held input sessions for mayors, small businesses, not-for-profit institutions, K-12 leaders and community college and university leaders. This week the College will hold an input session for large employers. The attendees are below.

Larry Ferranto	Director of Manufacturing Operations, Northrop Grumman
Linda Hanks	Director of Program Mgt, Radio Products and Accessories, Motorola
Bryan Molinsky	Unit Sales Manager, Pepsico
Rich Nielsen	Director of Engineering, IMS Buhrke Olson
John Walker	Vice President, Human Resources, Camcraft Inc.
Jerrold Williams	Dir. Human Resources Supply Chain, US Foods
Jeff Otten	Executive General Manager, Amada America, Inc.
Craig Amedeo	Sales General Manager, Amada America Inc.
Katy Weber	Regional Director Human Resources, Comcast

The focus group sessions wrap up next month with sessions with health care providers and state lawmakers. Input from the focus groups will augment a broader telephone survey of community residents and businesses held earlier this year. The task force will then examine the data and input and begin the process of recommending new strategies for community outreach.

Media Relations

- An article in the *Wall Street Journal* featuring Harper College's fast growing certificate programs
- Stories in the *Daily Herald* and the *Chicago Tribune* on the College's new job placement task force recommendations
- A *Daily Herald* story about plans for the parking structure
- A *Barrington Courier* story about "Adelante" which is Harper's bridge program for Latino students

In closing, I want to share that I will be back in the classroom this fall. I will be team-teaching with Professor Dowd in a new freshman seminar, "From STEM to STERN" a coupling of Chemistry 121 and the Freshman Seminar. Obviously, I am more equipped to help Tom (and the students) with the latter; however, I anticipate learning a little more about Chemistry! The College is rolling out 20 different sections of our "contextualized" advising and counseling process through these courses. We will be supported by professional staff in the Library and

Student Development throughout the term. We expect to learn much from this experience as we continue to take our personalization experience for students to scale.

I will be taking the week of Labor Day off as Cathy and I head to the Virginia Mountains for a little rest and relaxation. I look forward to returning to the College with my “batteries recharged” for an exciting fall semester!

Ken