

## **President's Report**

### **August 2016**

The contents of this report reflect the tremendous amount of work that has been done over the past few months at the College. Most notable are the efforts of our Facilities and IT divisions to assure a well-orchestrated occupancy and opening of Building D and the relocation of the Library staff into the swing space available in that newly renovated building. This is a tremendous logistics and physical effort that involves staff from many different departments across these divisions. Hats off and kudos to all!

We will celebrate the opening of Building D on Thursday, August 18 at 9 AM. This building was completed on-time and under-budget. The opening will not only highlight the refurbishment of this building, but it also provides an opportunity to thank our community for their continued support of Harper College.

Over these last several weeks our admissions, on-boarding, financial aid and One-Stop staffs have had their hands full providing service to the many students who are scrambling to put their college plans into motion and joining us at Harper College. As much as we anticipate this last minute rush, it is still stressful for all involved. Our front line employees are to be commended for their attention to these students during this hectic time.

Our enrollment picture is becoming somewhat clearer as the semester start draws near. We anticipate a 2-4% reduction in FTE enrollment compared to last fall. In a recent meeting with the presidents at Elgin and College of DuPage, I learned those institutions were down 4% and "double digits," respectively. Everyone is scrambling to meet enrollment targets and retain students once they enroll. Service, engagement, and personal attention are key strategies in the life cycle of retaining students. Much of our recent leadership attention is focused on these themes as a means of ensuring student success and providing meaningful learning experiences that lead to successful transitions to viable careers and four-year institutions.

Our opening session with faculty and staff this week focuses on the "why" of what we do. We provide educational opportunities for students. That's the "what" of our work. The why is about providing individuals with the tools to build successful lives for themselves and their families. We invited Catherine Sanchez to share her story with our colleagues as it is so symbolic of the "why." She came to us after finishing a GED in 2008. In the last six years, after many starts and stops, she completed her associate's degree and is heading off to Stanford after achieving a perfect 4.0 grade-point-average in mainly honors courses, as well as being inducted into Phi Theta Kappa. Her story is heartwarming and speaks to the many faculty, staff, and classified employees who helped her while at Harper. We are so very proud of her accomplishments and were delighted that she was able to share her story with the entire campus before heading onto the next phase of her life!

## ***Student Success***

- During its annual Scholars Awards on June 21, One Million Degrees (OMD) recognized Harper's own Christian Huerta as OMD's 2016 Scholar of the Year.
- On Friday, June 17, Harper celebrated the achievements of 92 students who earned their High School Equivalency. Nearly 45% of these students have enrolled or applied to enroll in college credit courses in the fall.
- In July, Harper celebrated the successes of 114 Fast Track students during the Fast Track graduation ceremony. The adult students earn a combined 200 credentials. This graduating class is a group of high achievers; two-thirds of the students were on the Dean's List and nearly half were on the President's List.
- The Track and Field Coaches Association recognized Harper College teams and individual student athletes as members of the 2016 All-Scholar Teams. The men's track and field team finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation with a team GPA of 3.223. The women's track and field team finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation with a team GPA of 3.599. Four men and nine women received the individual track and field Scholar All-American recognition with 3.4 GPA or higher.
- The American Volleyball Coaches Association recognized Harper College Volleyball with the Team Academic Award. The team GPA was 3.31.
- Harper College's One Stop experienced over 118, 500 interactions during the 2015-2016 academic year. The One Stop staff continues to learn about students' needs and develop systemic solutions to improve the student experience and as well as operational efficiencies. The One Stop Lab provides new students with a holistic experience where they register for classes, get financial aid and scholarship assistance, and information regarding payment plan options.
- The 45th annual Summer Jazz Concert was held on Wednesday evening, June 29. The Ken Spurr Quartet played to a crowd of nearly 200 who came from campus and the surrounding community to enjoy the new outdoor Pavilion.
- Keith O'Neill, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, attended and completed the 2016 Donald D. Gehring Academy for Student Conduct Directors. The annual Gehring Academy is the premiere national training institute for student conduct professionals, and was sponsored by the Association for Student Conduct Administration (ASCA).
- Nursing Simulation Coordinator, Caitrin Sobota, has been recognized as a "40 under 40 Emerging Nurse Leader." This award is sponsored by The Illinois Nurses Foundation. Caitrin was nominated by a panel of her peers recognizing her leadership in the nursing profession. An award recognition event will be held at Rush University Medical Center Searle Conference Center.
- Hu Friedy Mfg. Co., the largest dental instrument manufacturer in the world, headquartered in Chicago, has partnered with the Harper College Dental Hygiene Program to offer five, three-day "Educate the Educator" workshops in the dental hygiene program space. These workshops introduce dental educators and clinicians to new technology in dental biofilm management. Eighty-eight dental and dental hygiene faculty representing forty-three universities and community colleges across the U.S. and Canada have participated in the Hu-Friedy workshops held on Harper's campus this year. As a result of participation in this workshop our program has introduced this technology into the dental hygiene curriculum in June.

## ***Harper College Police Department***

- An Active Shooter Exercise was conducted at Harper College for local first responders on Friday, August 5, 2016. Participants included the Harper College Police, Palatine Police and Palatine Fire Departments, as well as dispatchers from Northwest Central Dispatch. A critical part of the drill was to enable members of the police and fire departments to practice a new concept called “Rescue Task Force” (RTF). In the past, victims in an active shooter incident would wait for long periods of time to be treated by paramedics until the police could completely secure the scene. In the RTF concept, the police provide armed protection for the paramedics to enter “warm zones” to treat and rescue the wounded. This was the first time the concept had been drilled in the Northwest suburban area. While there were some lessons learned from the exercise, the event was successful in getting the police and fire departments to practice working together to provide faster urgent care to wounded victims.

## ***Facilities Management***

- The Building D Renovation Phase II project reached substantial completion on May 11. The furniture installation and move in will be complete by August 15, in time for the fall semester.
- Classroom X228A will be converted into a new Surgical Tech Suite for the Nursing Department. The existing Virtual Hospital will include renovations to address sound and observation requirements. The construction is scheduled to be complete by December 2016.
- The relocation of the Library has begun and is scheduled to be completed in September 2016. The construction documents for Building F renovations are expected to be completed in September, with demolition scheduled to start in October. Construction is scheduled to begin in December 2016 and be completed by May 2018.
- The construction documents for Building M renovations and expansion are expected to be completed in January 2017, with construction scheduled to begin in March 2017 and be completed by July 2018.
- The scope of work for the Building B boiler room project includes the replacement of one deaerator and two economizers. The construction is scheduled to be completed by October 2016.
- The Building P chiller plant will be expanded to serve Buildings A, C and W, in addition to the currently connected Buildings F, L, P and R. This project has been bid and is pending Board approval. The construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in September 2016 and be completed by September 2017.
- The Learning & Career Center (LCC) Chiller Replacement includes the removal and replacement of the chillers at LCC. The existing units require replacement as they have exceeded their life expectancy and are no longer reliable. The construction is scheduled to be complete by April 2017.

## ***Information Technology***

- The Information Technology team partnered with the Office of Institutional Research to complete the development and implementation of data freezing capability needed for governmental reporting, thus retaining the data for future reference. This work allows Institutional Research to

have the ability to reproduce ICCB submission reports that were previously created, so they can then cross check or change these submissions.

- The Enterprise Systems team completed a project that provides a web-based application on the portal for students to have self-service ability to schedule assessment testing in ESL.
- The Telecom team installed two new VoIP services to enhance performance and provide redundancy for on-campus phone services, voicemail, emergency broadcast, and 911 calls. The team supported the installation of the VoIP infrastructure and cable installation for the move into Building D. Also in support of Building D, the Telecom team worked with the Liberal Arts division to design the phone configuration for the new division office.
- Forty wireless access points were installed in Building D as part of the renovation project. Offices for 64 faculty and staff in Building D were completed, with new computers installed and configured for all offices. The move of 14 library staff and faculty from Building F to Building D was also completed.

### ***Human Resources***

- Harper continued its annual celebration and recognition of the College's classified staff with a Classified Staff Appreciation Luncheon on July 20. Harper students from the Culinary program contributed to the event by preparing made-to-order sweet and savory crepes.
- Travaris Harris, Dean of Student Affairs, Keith O'Neill, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Beverly Riley, Employee Relations Manager, and Roger Spayer, Chief Human Resources Officer, attended a two-day Title IX training session on July 18 and 19.
- Paula Saltzman has been named Interim Chair of the Advisory Council for the Greater Chicago Midwest Higher Education Recruitment Consortium (GMC-HERC). GMC-HERC is a non-profit consortium of colleges, universities, hospitals, research labs and related non- and for-profit organizations who share a commitment to hiring the most diverse and talented faculty, staff and executives.

### ***Advancement***

- Juan Trigueros is the first recipient of the Beaubien Family Scholarship. Juan is from Carpentersville, and a graduate of Barrington High School. In Juan's scholarship essay he writes, "Being raised by undocumented parents has at times felt like a disadvantage. Since they were unable to receive an education, they have always embedded in me the importance of receiving a higher education after graduating high school. Like many immigrants my parents came to this country seeking the American Dream - not only for themselves but for their future children. They both worked in agricultural fields picking an assortment of fruits and vegetables throughout their back-breaking years.

I have always viewed my education as an opportunity for me to become greater in life, and beat out all the stereotypes I might come across. I will transfer in the Fall of 2017 to pursue my educational career in International Business. I am considering many in-state four-year schools to transfer to after graduating from Harper College. International Business has always been of interest to me, and every day I have more motivation to push myself to achieve this goal. This career will serve as a realization of a dream for my



family and me that I achieved despite hardships. Helping my family will be the greatest outcome I will accomplish with my career.”

- A Harper College Educational Foundation Resource for Excellence Grant was awarded to the InZone summer program to provide access to grade school children who experience housing instability.

Pictured to the right are two grade school students who are attending Harper College's InZone Camp program through a grant from the Harper College Educational Foundation's Resource for Excellence Program.



InZone is Harper's enrichment and sports camp for ages 8 to 14, which provides students with summer fun *and* learning. More than twenty students were chosen in School District 21 based on their family's low-income status and housing instability. The idea to give InZone access to students in the Harper District, who otherwise could not afford it, originated as a 2015 Harper Leadership Institute project.

The InZone Camp Access students and their families participate in an orientation where they learn about the program and opportunities. They then work with an advisor to select classes which range in options from launching a rocket, dunking a basketball, learning to cook, or mastering math challenges. Students take classes, are provided with lunch, and have the opportunity to make new friends and take advantage of all the benefits InZone offers. Students in the InZone Camp Access Program learn that Harper is a viable option for attaining higher education. Students also learn about the Promise Scholarship in multiple programs, and they have lunch with Dr. Ender. One of the students in the program explained that, “My mom and I decided we really need a house and we are going to put all our money towards that. This program lets me go to camp and not have a boring summer.” Resource for Excellence grants are made possible by generous donations to Harper College's Educational Foundation.

- Kayla Karbowski considers herself pretty fortunate; after all, she's found her calling at just 19 years old.

The second-year Harper College student has no doubt she's meant to work with individuals who have special needs, a realization she came to over the past year working at the Northwest Special Recreation Association.

Karbowski's commitment to helping others – on top of a 4.0 GPA and induction to the Phi Theta Kappa honors society – made her the natural choice for the HOPE Giving Circle's inaugural \$10,000 scholarship.



Once she graduates from Harper next spring, Karbowski plans to put the balance of the scholarship toward tuition at Illinois State University, where she hopes to double major in elementary and special education.

“This is a very substantial scholarship that makes a bachelor's degree more accessible and affordable,” said Kathy Gilmer of the HOPE Scholarship Awards Committee.

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

- On August 1, 2016, Achieving the Dream (AtD) recertified Harper College as a Leader College for an additional three years. Harper was selected as a Leader College based on its commitment to and multi-year improvement of student success. As a Leader College, Harper is provided with exclusive professional development and peer-learning opportunities as well as priority when opportunities arise for competitive grants within the AtD network.
- The FY16 Accountability Report was completed and will be available via the website after the August Board meeting. This report summarizes the College's efforts in the following areas: Operational Plan, President's Priorities, and Strategic Plan.

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

- As was reported above, more than 20 students, chosen by District 21 based on their family's low-income status and housing instability, were given the opportunity to participate in four weeks of InZone programming this summer. InZone is operated out of the Continuing Education area and provides meaningful summer learning experiences for youth in the community.
- After a robust July graduation ceremony, Fast Track has been busy enrolling students for the fall term. The HIT Medical Coding Certificate is in high demand and has three cohorts scheduled to begin the fall. Other cohorts will begin in the AAS Business Administration, Human Resources and Supply Chain programs.

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

- On July 22, Community Relations hosted a college focused scavenger hunt for the Partners for Our Communities iCompete summer program. More than 100 students ranging in age from 6-12 years participated in the event. Students received clues that led them to different departments on campus including Admissions, CNSO, Financial Aid, Student Involvement and Athletics. Students had to complete tasks or find answers to questions pertaining to college readiness and student life. This is the second year that children in the iCompete program visited campus. This year, 35 volunteers from Zurich also participated.
- On August 13, Community Relations Manager Amie Granger hosted a Harper table at School District 59's Welcome Back to School Family Meet and Greet Event. Harper student volunteers helped distribute school supplies and information about Promise, College Readiness, Adult Education and other community services. The event was hosted at the Oasis Mobile Home Park in Des Plaines and serves families that live in the Willow Way, Blackhawk, and Des Plaines Mobile Home Parks. Representatives from District 214 and other community agencies were also in attendance.
- The *Daily Herald* wrote a glowing editorial and produced a video about Harper's plan to partner with Palatine Park District and Northwest Community Healthcare to transform aging Building M into a state-of-the-art community health and recreation center. Dr. Ender and representatives from the park district and hospital met with the newspaper's editorial board shortly before the public announcement to provide an overview of the project, which is years' in the making. The headline says it all: "Collaborating for greater good – Three-way agreement shows how public can be served when agencies cooperate."

- *Daily Herald* reporter Doug Graham wrote a front-page article about Palatine Park District's Board of Commissioners approving the Building M partnership.
- *Community College Daily* ran an article highlighting Harper's involvement in a new Achieving the Dream initiative geared toward engaging adjunct faculty as active contributors to student success efforts. Harper is among six community colleges tapped for the two-year, \$160,000 grant.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article and video on the Schaumburg Business Association's recent breakfast event, which featured keynote speaker Dr. Ender discussing the Promise program with area business leaders.
- Economics Professor Getachew Begashaw appeared on *WBEZ's* Worldview program to discuss ongoing protests in Ethiopia by the Oromo people, the country's single largest ethnic group, which has been facing discrimination and persecution.
- *Daily Herald* columnist Burt Constable wrote a front-page article about former Dean Bruce Bohrer, who became a Wrigley Field usher after retiring from his position at Harper. Bruce wrote a book, "Best Seat in the House! Diary of a Wrigley Field Usher," capturing many of the fun stories he's racked up from those memorable summers.
- *Community College Daily* ran an article on a new American Association of Community Colleges initiative called Field Notes. The two-page guides contain local student data and are meant to make it easy for college leaders to present facts and figures to their lawmakers. Dr. Ender is quoted as saying, "The report provides an informative snapshot of our district and underscores how diverse student populations have diverse needs. These concise data points will help us talk with state and federal policymakers about supporting workforce development and keeping community college accessible and affordable."
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about the HOPE Giving Circle awarding its inaugural \$10,000 scholarship to student Kayla Karbowski.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Harper student Brandi Sperry, a single mother who shares her inspiring journey from homelessness to a GED and then a scholarship.
- *Daily Herald* reporter Norrine Twohey wrote a column about recent Harper graduate Christian Huerta being named the 2016 Scholar of the Year by One Million Degrees, a pioneering organization that serves community college students.
- The *Chicago Tribune* wrote an article on Harper alum Angela Acierno, a former Chicago police officer who left her job as a patrolman to become a dental hygienist.
- *Currents* magazine, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education's bimonthly publication, highlighted the Harper College Educational Foundation in its July/August edition. The issue, which focuses on stewardship ideas that thank and recognize donors and cultivate them for future giving, highlighted a couple of Harper's successful practices.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Harper's ICAPS program.
- The *Daily Herald*, *Arlington Heights Post* and *Patch* ran an article on the Lifelong Learning Institute's upcoming program preview.

- The *Daily Herald*, *Barrington Courier-Review* and *Patch* ran an article about the Fast Track program.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about the Golf Open raising record funds.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a Page 3 digest about Harper holding a seminar, “Pathways to Careers for English as a Second Language Students.”
- *Fra Noi*, a monthly publication that bills itself as the journal of record for the Chicago area’s Italian-American community, ran a profile on retired criminal justice professor Peter Puleo, who wrote “Cop on the Scene: Life and Death on the Street.”
- The *Journal and Topics* ran an article on retired professor Michael Bellito, whose fourth book details life after his stroke.
- Harper is losing a key ally in the Illinois Senate. Senator Matt Murphy announced last week that he is leaving the Senate to work for a local public relations firm. Matt, who is a former Harper Trustee, was one of Governor Rauner’s top legislative leaders in the Senate. Matt joins four other Harper legislators who have left the General Assembly recently. They include former senators Dan Kotowski, Dan Duffy and Michael Noland and State Representative Ed Sullivan.

In closing, I want to extend an invitation to Board members to visit the President’s Office and view the “President’s Art Selection Award” for 2016. It will be displayed outside my office door for the academic year. Student artist, Kevin Coderre, uses digital images that speak to political and/or social issues. The image Kevin developed is the infamous picture of the Laquan McDonald/Chicago Police encounter that ended the life of McDonald. It is a piece that will prompt discussions about race, authority, projection, respect, social justice, and other critical themes in our society. It is a difficult image to view and one that should prompt deep thought. It will be used to promote institutional and individual thinking about these issues. Our offices of Diversity and Inclusion, Harper Police, the Academy of Teaching Excellence, along with the Center for Student Involvement will offer formal opportunities for small and large group dialogue about these topics over the academic year. Laquan McDonald’s death was no doubt a tragedy. We have an opportunity and an obligation to not let it be just another death of a young black man. Our lives will be enriched because of meaningful discussions surrounding this unfortunate incident. Let us work to that end.

*Ken*