

President's Report

September 2014

Well, we are back into the swing of things! The campus is busy, full of energy—with lots of new faces in the crowd. This is always an exciting time on a college campus!

We begin the fall semester approximately 3.5% down in FTE and 3.0% down in headcount. Again, we see a diminution in the young adult and adult market. Enrollment among traditional-aged students (coming from high school) is strong as we continue to enjoy excellent penetration. We are continuing to enroll students in 12-week and 8-week classes and expect those sessions to do well. The Board should recall that we implemented a new policy this fall that affected anyone attempting to enroll in a class after the semester began, as we adopted a no-late registration policy that is proven to enhance student success. Many students who could not enroll were thus offered 12-week and 8-week classes.

Earlier this term (late August) we kicked off our strategic enrollment task force. I met with the group and charged them with bringing us an enrollment plan that was bold and actionable. I also requested enrollment target recommendations for our various student markets. The task force is being assisted by an expert from Noel-Levitz, a well-known enrollment and retention consulting group in higher education. We are excited and look forward to receiving the task force recommendations at the beginning of the New Year.

A campus-wide group, led by Dr. Ashley Knight, is putting together a plan that will support a smoke-free campus by January 1. Professionals from across the campus are working with Ashley to build awareness of our smoke-free status through an on-going communication and marketing campaign. They will also work to assist smokers with cessation programs, and develop appropriate signage throughout the campus. This is a very large task and all involved with implementation deserve a big thanks.

Last week, we began our lead-in to the development of the College's next strategic plan. We kicked off a series of informative sessions for our faculty and staff that will focus on various themes that may impact our planning efforts. The changing social/economic demographic profile of our district was the theme of the first session. We will also be addressing student engagement issues, adult learners, and various methods for assessing prior learning, including competency-based education. The Board will receive high level briefings on these topics, and all strategic planning conference attendees will receive similar information prior to the convening of the community planning conference in March.

We are so pleased that the Board of Trustees of San Juan Community College will be visiting us in October. San Juan and Harper have been working together for the last year or so, sharing resources and ideas affecting student success strategies. We have planned a joint Board dinner for October 20 here on campus and look forward to a very stimulating evening. In advance, thank you for joining us.

Dr. David Schuler (District 214) and I have been invited to present information regarding our Northwest Consortium for Student Success to a forum of school superintendents and community college presidents in Washington DC. This event is being sponsored by the National School Superintendents Association (NSA) and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Four superintendent/president teams were invited to present and we were delighted to be asked.

As you might imagine, there is much going on across the campus, in all area. A précis of the work is presented below.

Student Success

- Staying on the right path has now become a bit easier for students with the launch of the initial version of My Plan (formerly known as Harper Map). This online resource will help guide students toward completion of their education and career goals. Its main features include tools to assist students in developing a career/academic pathway, timely tips and suggestions to help along the pathway, and information about campus services, programs and experiences that will facilitate goal achievement.
- All available openings in the fall 2014 limited enrollment programs have been filled. Nearly 300 new students have completed the steps required for acceptance into these health care programs.
- In conjunction with Marketing Services and the Office of Student Financial Assistance, Admissions Outreach conducted a “Get Started” scholarship campaign for the fall semester, which resulted in 70 + new students being awarded in excess of \$35,000 to help fund their educations. The new students registered for a total of 850+ credit hours.
- The fall 2014 Engagement Leadership Initiative to Transition Effectively (E.L.I.T.E.) Orientation was held on Tuesday, August 19. Students, parents, faculty, staff and administrators were in attendance to support the students in the E.L.I.T.E program. The orientation was a launch of the second cohort of the E.L.I.T.E. program at Harper College.
- Hullabaloo was held on Tuesday, September 9 in the quad. This annual event provided students and staff with an opportunity to learn more about clubs, events, and activities on campus. There was a constant stream of traffic for the two-hour event.
- On Tuesday, September 9, a welcome reception was held to welcome Harper’s new international students. This fall 27 new international students enrolled at Harper. The students represent several countries including Germany, South Korea, and India.
- The most recent issue of *Point of View*, a student led literary magazine, won second place in a contest sponsored by the Community College Humanities Association. Two works by students were honored. The recognized students were Benny Boyas who was recognized for his poem, “Resurrection” and Sung Yim recognized for her short story, “Shift Manager.” Both students were invited to attend an annual conference in Indianapolis on November 20 – 22 to read their work. Annie Davidovicz (English) and Karen Patterson (Art) are the faculty sponsors for the magazine.

- Jose A. Vital and Mike Mack, from the Harper College's Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Program, were among the judges for the national United Association Instructor Training and Apprenticeship Contest to honor the best apprentices in the trades. The competition promotes partnerships between community colleges, technical colleges, and the UA training centers.
- Joella Tabaka, LPN/PNC Coordinator in the Health Careers Division, was recently awarded the Nursing Excellence Award for Nursing Professionalism 2014.

Facilities Management

- An open house for faculty and staff for Building D Phase I occurred on August 21 and the project was very well received by more than two hundred faculty and staff. Math faculty has been temporarily relocated to the second floor multi-purpose area to make way for Phase II demolition, which is scheduled to commence after winter break.
- All work remains on schedule for the Building H Career and Technical Education Center for spring semester 2015 occupancy. The project also remains under budget.
- The first two floors of the East Campus Parking Structure project opened on schedule at the start of the semester. The top two floors and link to Building H will open on schedule by mid-October, or earlier, if possible.
- Lot 6 and Kris Howard Drive Reconfiguration opened on schedule for the start of fall semester. No significant traffic delays were observed and the reconfigurations of both areas appear to be functioning as intended.
- Design Development renderings for the Building A Canning Center were presented by Cannon Design. The Construction Document phase is underway and on schedule and on budget.
- The annual presentation by Sightlines occurred at the August Board of Trustees meeting. Salient points included Facilities Management's ability to continue to achieve significant energy savings, overall customer satisfaction, outperformance of staff versus peer institutions, and the need to develop reserve funds specifically designed to account for continual infrastructure needs.

Information Technology

- The Information Technology staff spent a great deal of time preparing for the fall semester. This included significant efforts related to recently completed construction projects, including Building D Phase I, the East Campus Parking Structure, and the remodel of Building E. Work included installing network infrastructure to support classrooms, office spaces, security cameras, additional wireless networking, and desktop connectivity.
- The Information Technology team completed activities to prepare the Starfish (early alert) system for a new semester; most significant was loading new student files into the system in preparation for fall semester.

Advancement

- Harper received \$60,000 grant from Motorola Solutions Foundation for scholarships supporting the Adelanté Program, Engineering Pathways and Motorola Solutions Award for Excellence.

- The Educational Foundation will be hosting the first ever phonathon targeting Harper College Alumni. The phones will be manned by current students from organizations around campus. Involving students in phonathons is a great way to generate excitement on campus and drum-up community support for the Annual Fund. Our target goal is to generate \$18,000. The phonathon will be held nightly from 5:30 PM-9:00 PM on: Oct 6-9, Oct 12-16, Oct 19-23, and Oct 26-28 in A137a. Anyone interested in helping make calls or supporting our student callers should contact Michael Adzovic in the Foundation.
- The Foundation successfully completed its annual audit for FY14 and received an unmodified audit opinion. The unmodified opinion is the purest type of auditing report, one which is unmodified by any caveats the accountant writing the report may have, meaning that they have been able to access all needed financial information and that the information has conformed to GAAP (generally accepted accounting procedures).

Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- The Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Division (PIE), presented a SWOT first draft to the Strategic Planning and Accountability Committee (SPA) to be used as a starting place for committee and campus conversations. PIE spent the summer reviewing over 15 different sources to begin the development efforts.
- The Outcomes Assessment Office partnered with the Academy for Teaching Excellence to offer a “Certificate for Teaching Excellence: Assessment in the Classroom.” Upon completion of three assessment seminars (diagnostic, formative, and summative assessment) faculty will earn this certificate.

Workforce and Strategic Alliances

- The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has been selected to participate in the U.S. Department of State’s new fellowship program: The Small Business Network of the Americas (SBNA). The program will allow Harper SBDC staff to participate in a global exchange of best practices in small business advising. Funding for the program is being provided by the SBNA.
- The SBDC advised 23 small businesses in August and is currently working with a local restaurant that has been in operation for 25 years. The owners want to sell and the SBDC is completing the valuation.
- The Fast Track Office conducted orientation for the new fall cohorts. Enrollment and interest in Fast Track programs remains high.
- The TAACCCT office received a favorable audit from the Department of Labor on the \$12.9 million INAM grant. The staff was complimented for their thorough processes and collaborative working relationship with the Budget/Grants Office.
- Mark Mrozinski and Debbie Maropis organized another stellar Harper Leadership Institute emersion experience. This 4-day workshop will be held September 16-19 and will engage 32 participants in a series of thought-provoking panels and discussions.

Communications and Legislative Relations

- The school ambassador program has begun its initial roll out with Dr. Ender meeting individually with the school superintendents of Districts 21, 59 and 15. The program appoints Harper staff

members to act as liaisons with local elementary and middle schools, especially those schools where 50% or more of the students qualify for the free and reduced-price lunch program. The liaisons help arrange Harper tours, participate in “college in the classroom” events, encourage students to attend Harper’s annual College and Career Expo and engage in an ongoing conversation between the schools and Harper about inspiring students to go to college.

- Harper will host 90 high school students for Manufacturing Day on October 3. Manufacturing Day is a national event designed to improve the perception of manufacturing through programs, workshops and tours of manufacturing facilities. Students will tour the manufacturing labs and career areas at Harper, and then tour two nearby manufacturing facilities: Toshiba Machine in Elk Grove Village and Amada in Schaumburg.
- State legislators who represent Harper’s district were on campus last week to share their thoughts on Harper’s mission. The meeting was part of a series of sessions with external groups to get input on Harper’s mission. Legislators who attended the session were State Senator Julie Morrison, State Senator Matt Murphy, State Representative Tom Morrison, State Representative Michelle Mussman, State Representative Elaine Nekritz, and Megan McCarthy, who is a staff member for State Representative David McSweeney.
- Political campaigns are in full swing ahead of the General Election on November 4. Early voting begins on October 20 and runs through November 2.
- Below are some of the news stories about Harper that appeared in the local media:
 - *The Daily Herald, Elgin Courier Review* and *Trib Local* wrote articles about the opening of the Education and Work Center in Hanover Park.
 - AACC reporter Sonya Stinson also wrote about the new Education and Work Center for the AACC Web site.
 - The *Daily Herald* ran an article about new Chief Advancement Officer Laura Brown.
 - The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Associate Professor Jessica Walsh’s involvement in the 30/30 Project, a marathon of poetry that aims to raise awareness for the literary art while benefiting a nonprofit publisher.
 - In a front-page *Daily Herald* article, officials from area colleges, including Harper, discussed economic changes which may have led to Roosevelt University’s decision to discontinue most of their programs at their Schaumburg campus.

Finally, I want to share with the Board that I have been asked to join the Corporate Board of the College Board. This non-compensated position will provide overall policy governance to the professional staff of the College Board—a global non-profit organization serving secondary and post-secondary institutions of education. As I am in the last year of my Directorship at the AACC, this was an ideal time to be invited. The appointment will take place in October and the four-year term will begin in January. The College Board administers the Advanced Placement (AP) program, the SAT exam, the college skills assessment called ACUPLACER, as well as exams that assess prior learning for college credit. Dr. David Coleman is President of the College Board and is chiefly known as one of the architects of the “Common Core Standards” advanced by the National Governors Association. Dr. Coleman has been at the Board for two years and is making some dramatic inroads advancing the cause of students of color and students in poverty. It is a very exciting time to join the Board and I look forward to the service.

Enjoy fall, it will be over before we know it!

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