

## **President's Report**

**October 2016**

As we have reached the mid-point of October, the College has settled into a predictable tempo. Students have settled into their schedules, figured out where to park, and where they will spend time on campus when not in class—quiet spaces to read, write and study, or socialize with friends. Our faculty is busy assessing the learning outcomes of their students, identifying those who need extra help and immersing themselves in departmental and College initiatives by serving on governance, strategic planning and other groups.

While we have not done a formal study, it appears that more students are using the common areas within our academic buildings. The Beaubien Family Rotunda in Building D is a very busy new space on campus; students also continue to gather in the common areas of the Canning Center and the Avanté corridor. The Starbucks and Subway locations are constantly busy. Some of this may be attributable to the Library's new temporary location in Building D. In any case, our Campus Master Plan identified the lack of student gathering space and our new facilities seem to be addressing this need.

Our student athletic teams are having a very good fall season. The Women's Volleyball team is ranked number one in the country among peer institutions and our Cross Country teams share high rankings. Earlier today, our Men's Soccer team advanced in their regional playoffs. The Water Polo team continues to impress. The team hosted a tournament on October 8 and 9 and finished second overall winning three of four games, beating several notable universities including Creighton, DePaul and the University of Minnesota/Duluth.

I attended two very important meetings on campus during the past few weeks. One focused on the development of a scaled advising and counseling model, and the other identified initiatives that will be pursued by our strategic goal teams. I must say, in both cases, I was impressed with the planning that went into the development of the meetings and the outcomes sought by our various faculty and staff in attendance. It is clear to me that we are taking our student success priorities seriously and with a sense of urgency. It is very pleasing to be a member of a professional community so dedicated to the students we serve.

Over the last several months we have been engaging the services of Pearson Education to assess our student enrollment processes and related support functions. We have received their report and it was gratifying to learn that we do many, many things that are aligned with best practices in these areas. We also learned there are opportunities for improvement. We are planning to brief the Board on this initiative in November, and will ask colleagues from Pearson to join in the briefing.

The campus had a very busy month since the Board last met as is highlighted below.

## ***Student Success***

- On September 14, Admissions Outreach represented Harper College at the District 211 First Generation Student Symposium. This was an event for high school students and their parents to hear from a panel of representatives from a number of colleges throughout the area. In total, over 500 people were in attendance.
- Harper College Water Polo Club finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place during this year's first American Collegiate Water Polo League tournament held October 8 and 9. Harper College competed against teams from several large universities including Marquette, Indiana, and Iowa State.
- Enrollment Services staff has been working to support several students impacted by the ITT shutdown. Some ITT students are prepared to move immediately into "enrollment mode" while others need time and guidance to rebuild a life plan. One comment from a student says it all: *"Harper is legit on all levels. Thanks for helping me patch together my next steps."*
- Plans to promote the 2017-2018 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are under way. This year the application is available starting October 1, 2016. This new FAFSA release date is three months earlier than in past years, and communication to students and families is critical. The message being sent to students and families is:
  - It's EARLY! File starting October 1, 2016!
  - It's EASY! File using 2015 income tax information!
  - EVERYONE should apply!
- On September 14, Admissions Outreach, along with the Health Careers division, hosted an information session for over 160 prospective students. Those in attendance learned more about program information as well as career and educational opportunities in the health care field.
- On September 21, Admissions Outreach led a series of information sessions at Barrington High School. This was an opportunity for over 70 students to learn more about Harper College programs and the support services that it provides to students.

## ***Facilities Management***

- Phase II of the Building D Renovation project reached substantial completion on May 11. Faculty and staff have submitted post occupancy furniture requests and miscellaneous service requests.
- Classroom X-228A in Building X will be converted into a new Surgical Tech Suite for the Nursing Department. The existing Virtual Hospital will be renovated to address sound and observation requirements. The project has been bid, contractor selected, and construction is scheduled to start November 2016.
- The scope of work for the Building B Boiler Room project includes the replacement of one deaerator and two economizers. Construction is in progress and scheduled to be completed by October 31, 2016.

- The Building P Chiller Plant is being expanded to serve Buildings A, C and W, in addition to the currently connected Buildings F, L, P and R. Construction is in progress and will be completed by September 30, 2017.
- The scope of work for the LCC Chiller Replacement project includes the removal and replacement of the chillers at the facility. The existing units require replacement as they have exceeded their life expectancy and are no longer reliable. Construction is in progress and is scheduled to be completed by April 30, 2017.

### ***Information Technology***

- Five new Cisco Core VoIP Switches were installed at the HPC and the LCC over the Labor Day weekend. These new switches are better equipped to support the Harper VoIP network with faster speeds and dual power supplies which make them more resilient to power loss. Several upgrades and patches were applied to Cisco Call Manager, Unity Connection, WebEx, Emergency Responder, and InformaCast over that weekend. These services provide the groundwork for the Harper VoIP service including phone configuration, voice mail, web conferencing, 911 location services, and Emergency Alerting. The upgrades and patches addressed security bugs and provide additional functionality.
- An upgrade of AccuSQL to version 2016 was completed in September. Harper was running AccuSQL version 2014, which will no longer be supported after the 2016 calendar year. The upgrade provides enhancements in error recording and improves user security settings.
- Academic Advising and Counseling requested a new eSARS web page for first year students to use in order to request workshop appointments via the web. The Information Technology Student Systems team created and installed the new eSARS appointment web page.

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

- Sodexo has been providing dining and catering services at Harper for almost three years. In addition to operating our main cafeteria and the Common Grounds coffee bar in the Canning Center, they were instrumental in the build-out of our Subway and Starbucks, which they operate for the College. Sodexo understands the importance of student engagement and the value of student workers. Of their 36 total employees on campus, 16 are Harper students, with 6 of them being international students.

### ***Advancement and Marketing***

- On October 12 the Alumni Committee hosted a “Stand Up and Be Counted” event at Weber-Stephen Products. More than 25 Harper Alumni attended the recognition and greeting. This is a great opportunity to recognize the employers in the community who employ Harper graduates.
- The Foundation launched a new Scholarship Ambassador program. Students who received a Donor Sponsored Scholarship through the Educational Foundation are invited to become a Scholarship Ambassador. These individuals help spread the word during March and April to students to apply for Donor Sponsored Scholarships. The Ambassadors speak at Scholarship Application Workshops, Scholarship Recipient Orientations, and to their peers in their classes and clubs. The Scholarship Ambassadors are also invited to Harper’s

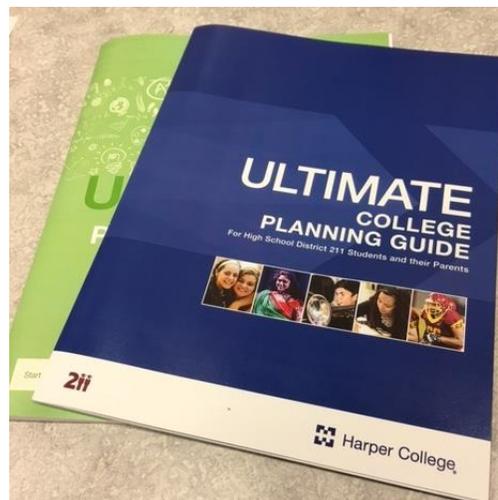
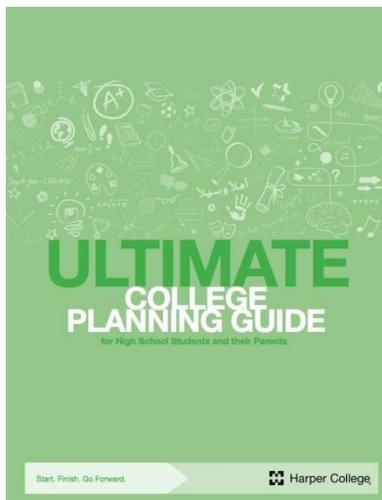
Educational Foundation Alumni and Donor Events. Once a Scholarship Ambassador transfers to a four-year institution or career, they stay engaged with Harper through the Alumni communication and engagement opportunities.

- Harper College has published the *Ultimate College Planning Guide* since 2006 as a service to the community. Since that time, more than 25,000 copies of the guide have been distributed to district high school students and parents. A Spanish-language version has also been produced. The guide includes information about how to prepare for, pay for and apply to college.

A digital version of the guide is also published on the College's website. Additionally, information in the guide is shared through Harper's parent e-newsletter, parent blog, and events like the High School Open House.

This fall, Harper partnered with District 211 to produce a district-specific version of the guide with information on dual credit opportunities, the Power of 15 and the Harper Promise Scholarship. The guide also includes junior- and senior-year planning calendars.

District 211 was instrumental in not only helping to plan the content, but also in distributing the guide to its parents and students. The College is exploring similar opportunities to publish custom versions of the guide for Districts 214 and 220. In the meantime, the original guide, now in its fourth edition, continues to serve all community parents and high school students.



Quick links to the Parent page and blog:

<http://goforward.harpercollege.edu/start/parent/futureparent/index.php>

Online Ultimate College Planning Guide:

<http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/69253222#/69253222/1>

- Upcoming Foundation and Alumni events
  - Alumni Engagement event October 20 – Bears vs. Packers viewing party at Dirty Nellies in Palatine (Pre-game Meet and Greet: 6:30 p.m. / Reconnect and/or meet fellow Harper alumni)
  - Introduction and engagement luncheon with all Wintrust branches within Harper College's district – October 24.

- Distinguished Alumni Event November 3 from 6 – 8 p.m.
- Donor recognition - Pippin Theater event November 11– stewardship event for donors who contributed \$100.00 or more over the past two years.
- The foundation staff is hosting the Duchossois Family Foundation tour on November 14.

### ***Workforce, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness***

- On October 27, Harper College will be hosting a Registered Apprenticeship Accelerator Conference sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor and the Registered Apprenticeship College Consortium. Harper College has become a recognized leader among community colleges in how to create registered apprenticeships, and this event is designed to specifically help other colleges rapidly develop their own apprenticeship programs and register the programs as sponsors. The conference will feature John Ladd, Administrator of the Office of Apprenticeship and Training Administration, and will be held at Harper's Learning and Career Center in Prospect Heights.
- The College hosted the fall conference of the National Coalition of Advanced Technology Centers (NCATC). Dr. Ender provided the keynote address at the opening session. More than 100 individuals from across the country attended and toured our various technology-enabled labs.

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

- The D&I Dialogue Workshops are underway on campus and 34 Harper College employees have participated to date; nearly 120 other employees are scheduled to participate in sessions throughout this fall semester. These dialogue sessions are designed to ensure that every Harper College employee understands that they are instrumental in creating a campus climate that is inclusive of cultural differences and respectful of all constituents.
- This year we will feature a series of campus conversations centered on the President's Student Artwork Selection: *We Serve and Protect, Laquan McDonald Memorial*. The first event will feature the student artist Kevin Coderre, Art Department faculty Stephany Rimland and Charlie Roderick and Dr. Ender. The event will be held on Tuesday, November 29 in the Wojcik Conference Center. These events are being sponsored by the Office of the President, the Office of Diversity & Inclusion, the Office of Human Resources, the Center for Student Involvement, the Harper College Police, The Academy of Teaching Excellence and Faculty from the Criminal Justice department. This collaboration will provide our campus with the opportunity to provide a space for courageous conversations and intellectual discourse centered on topics such as "race, authority, projection, respect, social justice, and other critical themes in society."
- The annual Diversity Symposium will be held on Veterans Day, November 11 and those who have served in our military will be honored. All are invited to this half-day celebration featuring keynote speaker Kristin Beck, former Navy SEAL, followed by a number of breakout sessions. The Symposium will take place in the Wojcik Conference Center.

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

- College representatives met with incoming 27th district State Senator Tom Rooney. Tom is the former mayor of Rolling Meadows and is replacing Matt Murphy. The state budget crisis and pending funding for the Canning Center were discussed.
- President Ender hosted a meet and greet meeting with Raja Krishnamoorthi, who is a candidate for the District 8 representative seat, replacing Tammy Duckworth.
- Since mid-September, Community Relations has hosted over 500 Elementary and Middle School students for campus tours from Holmes Junior High, Friendship Junior High, Rupley Elementary and Salt Creek Elementary. All schools are from District 59. Students participated in activities in graphic design, career exploration, college readiness, architecture, manufacturing, fashion, world languages, business, nursing, sustainability and astronomy.
- Over the last couple weeks, Community Relations has conducted career exploration workshops with 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Holmes and Friendship Junior High as well as 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Brentwood and Devonshire Elementary. Sara Mikula from the Career Center and Amie Granger conducted the workshops at the participating schools. The goal is to help students identify different career clusters they may want to explore.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a front-page centerpiece on the Promise program and how 55 percent of freshmen met all criteria to continue on to a second year. The article examined how community service ended up being the stumbling block for many students, and how schools plan to better connect students to service opportunities in the future.
- *Reflejos* ran the Promise article, and the *Illinois Community College Trustees Association* distributed the article to its listserv.
- The *Daily Herald Editorial Board* wrote a piece imploring students and parents to meet the Promise criteria and not let the opportunity to earn up to two years of free tuition slip away.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a guest column on its Opinion page by Director of Student Financial Assistance Laura McGee, who offered tips on navigating the new FAFSA filing process.
- *Quintessential Barrington* ran a two-page spread on Harper's Promise program and the HOPE Giving Circle awarding its first \$10,000 scholarship to student Kayla Karbowski.
- A *Daily Herald* election story about U.S. Rep. Tammy Duckworth included her call to expand free tuition programs such as Harper's Promise program.
- The *Hechinger Report*, a national education news publication, ran a comprehensive article on how the United States is working to expand apprenticeships to fill white-collar jobs. The report highlights Harper's insurance apprenticeship with Zurich.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Harper student Andrew Wurtz of Palatine receiving the Key-Lime Cove Scholarship.
- A *Daily Herald* election story on Illinois' 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional district included candidate Raja Krishnamoorthi's desire to see a national vision of something similar to Harper's Promise

program.

- The *Business Ledger* ran an article about the manufacturers' forum at Harper. Dr. Mary Beth Ottinger, dean of Career and Technical Programs, moderated the event.
- The *Daily Herald* and *chicagotribune.com* ran an article about Nursing Simulation Coordinator Caitrin Sobota being selected for the Illinois Nurses Foundation's 40 Under 40 Emerging Nurse Leaders Awards.
- The *Daily Herald*, *chicagotribune* and *Patch* ran articles about Harper's sonography programs seeking volunteers for free ultrasounds.
- The *Daily Herald*, *chicagotribune* and *Patch* ran an article about Harper's fall Open House.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a front-page centerpiece about how students and taxpayers are having to make up for declining state funding for community colleges.
- The *Daily Herald*, *chicagotribune* and *Patch* ran an article on the Observatory continuing its open viewings through November.
- A front-page *Daily Herald* article highlighted a Northwest Community Healthcare program that helps educate Latinos on health-related issues. The article featured Harper alum Ana Flores, who works for the organization as a Promotora de Salud, or promoter of good health.
- The *Northwest Herald* ran a short article about Harper's women's volleyball team defeating McHenry County College.

## President's Priorities Update

1. First Year Seminar and Education Plan
  - The over 700 students participating in First Year Seminar courses and other Start Smart programs are signing up to attend educational planning workshops to learn more about building an educational plan to completion. Once they attend a workshop, the students will meet individually with a counselor to begin building their individualized plan. Attendance at a workshop and the individual meeting are required features of these courses.
  - The Academic Support Centers, Library, and the Job Placement and Resource Center have been working with First Year Seminar and Start Smart coordinators to plan and present workshops for students. One of the outcomes of the courses is to provide students with the resources they need to be successful college students. The workshops will share information about the support services on campus as well as help students identify when to seek assistance.
  - Attendance has been strong in each of the four sections of the newly piloted weekly OMD 101 seminar which is a Start Smart offering for first year Scholars participating in the One Million Degrees program. In this seminar, topics covered include professional development, goal setting, time management, overcoming barriers and more.
  - Planning for spring 2017 First Year Seminar courses and other Start Smart programs is near completion. While fewer students begin their college journey in the spring

semester, sections of the First Year Seminar course will be offered to help students receive the support and guidance they need.

## 2. Advocates for Students

- A one-day retreat organized by Sheryl Otto and facilitated by Michelé Smith was held to more clearly define a vision for providing every credential-seeking student with an advocate. Twenty individuals from across campus participated, including Dr. Ender and Dr. Marwick. At the retreat, the group determined Harper will move forward with a system that utilizes both advisors and counselors. A small team, led by Sheryl Otto, is being established to further develop the plan, using recommendations generated at the retreat.
- Academic Success Coaches—During the month of September, 120 unduplicated (128 duplicated) students were seen by the Success Coaches. 159 appointments were made resulting in an 80% show rate by students. This number is not inclusive of other means of communication with the students (i.e. email, phone, and text); 120 students represent roughly 30% of the total student population within the coaching pilot.
- Counselors Through Completion – Students have been identified for the Counselors' caseloads and have been loaded into the Starfish system to facilitate communication. Counselors have begun making initial contact with their students, using a newly developed “welcome back” email template. They will begin meeting face-to-face in the upcoming weeks. The team created a list of key tasks, events, and dates to be used for timely reminders to students.
- One Million Degrees—106 One Million Degree students have been assigned to professional coaches for one on one coaching once per month on a Saturday morning. OMD students have had the opportunity to participate in Wisdom from the Workplace events hosted by United, Allstate, Lurie Children's Hospital, Motorola, and United Cancer Treatment Centers of America.

## 3. Completion of Buildings F, M and the Canning Center

- The relocation of the library from Building F is complete. Construction documents are completed and out to bid.
- Construction documents for the Building M Renovations and Addition project are 50% completed.
- The State of Illinois has put the Canning Center project on hold. The Capital Development Board plans to lobby for this to be re-appropriated during the fall veto session.

## 4. Promise Program Funding

- Promise Program Funding year- to-date is \$8,474,500 (85% of goal). More than 319 individual donors have contributed to the Promise Scholarship Program.
- A quarterly update will be mailed in late October to all the contributors and business partners of the Promise program informing them about the class of 2019 cohort status and our current fundraising status.

In closing, I wish to thank Trustee Bill Kelley for attending the national ACCT annual conference with me and participating in two conference sessions. Our work with Zurich North America apprenticeships was highlighted as well as our successful NECSS partnership. In both cases, Bill did a splendid job outlining the role of the Board in supporting these programs. I heard from many fellow presidents who were very impressed with his presentation skills and his approachability.

Soon it will be Thanksgiving with winter to follow. Enjoy this warmer weather!

*Ken*