

## **President's Report**

### **November 2010**

As we compile this report, the College has progressed through the mid-term of the semester and the activity level remains very high. Students are looking forward to the Thanksgiving Break even though they may be completing assignments and papers. In addition, faculty are busy assessing work and learning outcomes that need to be completed prior to the extended holiday break beginning in late December. Staff is engaged in budget assessments for the first half of the fiscal year, as well as assessing annual operational objectives which are to be completed during the spring term. November is always a busy time of year on a college campus!

With regard to budget, we continue to monitor enrollment trends for the fall semester and the dispersion of State funds. Our enrollments continue to lag expectations. Although enrollment has increased over Fall 2009 levels, the increase is approximately 1.5% under what we had anticipated. We are also seeing quite a lag in State payments with regard to our annual appropriation. To date, Illinois community colleges have only received 1/12 of the funds due; our only payment for this fiscal year arrived in July and we are uncertain if other payments will be received. Also, the College is due approximately \$800,000 from the State of Illinois for Veterans, Adult Education, and Student Success grants. We will examine the budget revenue and expense lines very carefully following initial spring registrations to determine if adjustments will be necessary. That review will occur in mid-January.

The items below highlight some new and ongoing initiatives.

#### ***Information Technology***

- Oracle Business System – The upgrade to the latest version of the E-Business Suite was successfully completed. This included implementing and testing Human Resource, Finance, Payroll, Benefits, Purchasing, Self-Service, Discoverer and additional modules.
- Radio Streaming for WHRC – A project to allow streaming of the Harper College radio station was successfully completed which allows listeners to enjoy the radio station via the Internet.
- Compass Tests – A project to upload Compass test scores for high school students into Banner was completed. As this was deemed urgent, it was completed in a short time.
- E-Mail Student Statement – The E-mail statement to students' project was completed. This provides an e-mail notification/billing statement to students from Banner whenever a change to the student's account occurs.

### ***Physical Plant***

- New Chiller Plant - Final testing and balancing is in progress. The contractor is providing training to Harper personnel.
- HPC HVAC and Roof Replacement – The project is substantially complete with punch list work in progress. Previous roof leak areas have been tested and corrective action taken.
- J-Theater Renovations - Final stages of construction are proceeding with painting and lighting fixtures being wrapped-up shortly. Scaffolding will come down within the next two weeks.
- B-Building Boiler Number 2 Re-Tubing – Asbestos abatement is in progress. The new boiler tubes have been fabricated.
- Elevators – I and M building elevators are on schedule to be completed by the start of spring semester.

### ***Campus Police***

The department received \$62,995 from the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation in support of Renewable Energy Training Equipment/Alternative Electrical Energy Certificate Training.

### ***Audit***

The annual Independent Auditor Report of Harper's financial statements for fiscal year ended June 30, 2010 was issued in October. The college received an "unqualified opinion", which means the financial statements presented are free from material misstatements and are represented fairly in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. In addition, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) encourages government entities to go beyond the minimum requirements of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and prepare a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) that supports the spirit of transparency and full disclosure. For fiscal year ended June 30, 2010 Harper prepared its first CAFR and has submitted it with the GFOA for consideration of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

### ***Outcomes Assessment***

The Outcomes Assessment Office has been busy implementing the new software system, TracDat. User guides have been created for Career Coordinators and Student Support/Administrative Units. Training commenced on November 1, 2010 and will continue throughout November. To date, 88% (29/33) of the career coordinators have been trained. Two group training sessions have been completed for Student Support/Administrative users with four additional group training sessions scheduled. Upon completion of the six training sessions, 81% (26/32) of the non-instructional staff will be trained.

### ***Student Success***

- The Grand Opening of the Northeast Center Reading Room took place on Wednesday, October 20, 2010 from 4-8 pm. The event commemorated the opening of the first-ever satellite library for Harper College. The event was attended by over 300 people including NEC faculty and students, administrators and community members. Reading room hours are Mondays through Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- A very successful International Week occurred on campus, November 1-4, 2010. The week featured over 30 programs such as the Hunger Banquet and exceptional guest speakers such as Princess Zindie, from Africa, who is in the Midwest working on Garden Links, an organization working with organic farmers in the Midwest to teach African

women how to become independent agricultural business owners and self-sufficient farmers. Hundreds of students, faculty and community members participated.

- Campus Radio Station WHCM is now streaming 24/7. Listeners can find a link on the HarperCollege.edu Web site on the Student Activities page; also on the same page, *The Harbinger* has an on-line version of the campus newspaper.
- Growth in student success services this Fall: (a) Student enrollment in Access and Disability Services will be approaching, for the first time, 1,000 registered students by the end of the Fall 2010, and (b) During Weeks 1 through 6, the Tutoring Center served 1181 individual students. These numbers represent a 6% increase in student contacts compared to the same time period from Fall 09.

### **Recognitions**

- Mike Alsup has been elected as President of the Northwest Association of Chiefs of Police effective January 1, 2011.
- The Harper College Campus Activities Board won the 2010 Educational Program of the Year Award from The National Association of Campus Activities Mid-America Conference. Harper was in competition with other two-and four-year schools in the Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, and Michigan region. This was the second win in three years.  
The award-winning program is the “Becoming Aware Series” which provides students exposure to “hot topics,” as well as an opportunity for Student Activities to collaborate with faculty while providing content that ties into curriculum.
- Veronica Mormino received the 2010 Distinguished Teaching in Social Studies Award, from the Illinois Council for Social Studies, at the ICSS Fall Conference on Friday October 15.
- Joan Kindle received the 2010 Outstanding Community College Professional Award, from the NASPA IV East Region – a student affairs in higher education professional association – on November 7, 2010.
- Seema Kurup’s entry on Postmodernism and Kurt Hemmer’s entry on the Beat Generation have been published in *Postwar Literature, 1945-1970* (Fact On File 2010) edited by John Cusatis.

### **Notable Events**

- The Nursing Program had a site visit from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC), Oct. 12 – 14. Accreditation is a voluntary, self-regulatory process that recognizes educational programs which have been found to meet or exceed standards and criteria for educational quality. The site visitors recommended that the Harper Nursing Program receive continuing accreditation with a review in eight years.
- In October more than 100 local firefighters from three local fire departments used Harper facilities for training to rescue fallen, lost, or trapped colleagues in large buildings. The firefighters used the currently empty buildings G and H for their exercises.
- The Harper Ensemble Theatre Company’s fall production of *Bury the Dead* by Irwin Shaw, directed by Laura Pulio Colbert, Professor of Speech & Theatre, opened this past weekend.

### **Athletics**

- Three fall athletic teams won Regional Championships and advanced to the NJCAA Division III National Championships. Congratulations to the Women’s Soccer team, the Men’s Cross Country team, and the Women’s Cross Country team. Women’s Soccer Coach Dwayne Cruz was named Region IV Division III Coach of the Year, and Cross

Country Coach Paul Paynter was named Region IV Division III Coach of the Year. The Men's Soccer team finished Region IV Runners-up.

This week we hosted the initial meeting of the Northwest Educational Council for Student Success. Each of our superintendent partners from Districts 214, 211, and 220 were in attendance and excited about the work we are undertaking. As a group, we determined that a strong focus on math improvement would be the leadership agenda for our start-up activities. This would be followed by English. We can envision many high school seniors either spending their senior year catching up in these two critical areas, or, speeding up with early college credit. This represents a wonderful beginning for our work together.

In the last several weeks I attended the College Board's Community College Presidents Advisory Panel (CCAP) and the AACC's mid-year Commission meeting. Both of these meetings devoted considerable time reviewing the "Completion Agenda" promulgated by President Obama and supported by AACC, ACCT, and the College Board. I was delighted to learn that we at Harper College are one of the few community colleges in the country that are providing leadership with respect to articulating a completion goal (our number is 10,604) and integrating that goal into our strategic plan. We can anticipate many requests for more information about our plan, progress, and potential to assist other colleges interested in pursuing a similar path.

Finally, with Thanksgiving rapidly approaching let me wish each of you a pleasant holiday surrounded by family and friends. Cathy, the dogs and I are traveling to Virginia for the Thanksgiving week. We will spend time on the mountain top, and travel to Richmond to celebrate Thanksgiving with family. We will return November 29<sup>th</sup> for the final push to the end of the year.

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Ken*