

## **President's Report**

**November 2014**

The fall semester has flown by! It seems as if we were just greeting new students, faculty and staff. Over the last three months we have opened two new structures on campus, rolled out the One Million Degrees Program, drafted a new mission statement, hosted and presented national presentations with colleagues from New Mexico, begun a steady ramp up to a new Strategic Plan and experienced weather events covering three seasons: summer, fall and winter. Whew! And those are just top-of-mind events!

I was delighted to participate in a joint presentation with Chair Hill and the president and vice chair of San Juan College (New Mexico) at the annual Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) conference in October. The presentation outlined partnership and mentoring opportunities that occur between community colleges. It was also an honor to have our very own Trustee Bill Kelley, who is currently serving as president of the Illinois Community College Trustees' Association, open the conference which was held in Chicago (see photo at the end of the report).

We are working on many projects that have many of our faculty and staff engaged. Project Discovery is nearing completion with the HarperMap, data warehouse, dashboards, and data analytics all coming together. We will pilot many sections of the First Year Seminar course so that student career and educational programs can be developed, inserted into the HarperMap and tracked. Our Strategic Enrollment Management Task Force is headed to a timely completion with a series of recommendations that will impact adult enrollment. We are beginning to work with program committees for the Library (Building F) and Building M. Legat Architects and Pepper Construction will assist with the former and Cannon Design the latter. For Building M, we are actively pursuing equity partners across the spectrum with a host of potential partners. The building has the opportunity to be a unique college/community asset with the right partners. We will explore all alternatives in an attempt to leverage as much use out of the building as possible.

The Harper Promise program is into an intense infrastructure development phase and we can anticipate a public announcement of the program in mid-late January. Regarding the Harper Promise Program, we wish to acknowledge the on-going support and involvement of our three superintendents from Districts 211, 214, and 220. Without their leadership and support this program would not be possible. The consortium we have formed, the Northwest Educational Council for Student Success (NECSS), continues to evolve with new and innovative projects. This work has been recognized regionally and nationally. The relationship we have with our school superintendents is envied by many of my peers. It is a delight to work with them as colleagues and friends. The four of us are excited about our first joint Board dinner and workshop in early December. I hope many of our Board members will attend.

During the past few days, I have been reminded of the effort and excellence brought forth by our students, faculty and staff. The Men's Cross Country Team finished first in the country among community and junior colleges, our women came in second. Students, coaches and counselors all deserve praise for this outstanding accomplishment. Last night, our fall production of "Fiddler on the Roof" opened to a full house. It was a delight to watch students, faculty and community members on the stage. Our faculty director, our professional technical staff, set designer, and costume curator all deserve special thanks. What a wonderful night for Harper family and friends! We are blessed with talent, energy and passion all around!

These are just a few of the highlights of the campus over the last several weeks. Below is a complete campus report.

### ***Student Success***

- On October 25, three RAC program Students, Zachary Drakert, Chris Langowski, and William Sprengell participated in the First Annual HVAC/R Competition for Vocational/Junior College Students held at the Pipe Fitters' Local Union 597 Training Center in Mokena, IL. The students were accompanied by Jose Vital, HVAC/R Program Coordinator, and adjunct faculty member Gary Kane. The contest included a 50 question exam, an electrical wiring schematic reading, and a piping/soldering project. The Harper students received the highest combined score on the 50 question exam, and Zachary Drakert won second place in the overall competition.
- The fall 2014 Open House was held on Thursday, October 9, from 5 - 7:30 p.m. in the Wojcik Conference Center. Nearly 650 RSVPs were received for the event. The open house featured a distinguished group of Harper's faculty on a panel; Dr. Thomas Dowd, Dr. Stephanie Norris, Dr. Joanne Leski, and Mr. Carl Dittburner. The panel was facilitated by Vicki Atkinson.
- Two Fashion Design students from Harper College won first and second place in the annual Hand and Lock design competition in London. First place honors went to Myra Chung and second place honors went to Meta McKinney. The students were mentored by adjunct faculty member Beata Kania who has won previous competitions at Hand and Lock.
- The Accounting Club took 10 students to the Institute of Management Accountants Leadership Conference in Indianapolis, IN on November 7 and 8. Students had the opportunity to explore career paths in accounting, as well as learn about ethics and leadership within the accounting profession. Students also had the opportunity to network with other accounting students and accounting professionals.
- Accounting Faculty Lisa Busto and 30 accounting students were recognized recently for their volunteer efforts with the Ladder Up organization, a nonprofit that trains and deploys more than 1,200 volunteers to offer free financial services to low-income families in and around Chicago. During the 2014 tax season, Harper volunteers returned an estimated \$381,695 in tax refunds to hardworking clients through Ladder Up's Tax Assistance Program.
- Center for New Students and Orientation (CNSO) conducted its annual 'welcome call' campaign – contacting the nearly 3,000 new students for fall 2014 to offer support, assistance, and reminders about the Tutoring Center, Writing Center, Success Services, the Library and more. Our Orientation Leaders (who are the folks primarily making the calls) are overwhelmed by how much of an impact their simple outreach is having for their fellow students.

- The Early Childhood Education department was accepted to participate in the Gateways to Opportunity Family Childcare Credentials Pilot. The department was awarded a stipend of \$5,000 to move forward with the pilot. This opportunity will benefit Harper Students, offering them an additional opportunity for a credential.
- The National Association of Community College Teacher Education Programs invited scholarship winner Zam Nalubega to be a guest at their 13th annual national conference, *Revolutionizing Community College Teacher Education Programs*, March 6-8, 2015, in Boston, Massachusetts. Conference costs will be covered by the NACCTEP.
- The Testing Center has increased availability of CLEP (College Level Exam Proficiency) testing from once a week to three times per week for Harper students and community members. This student-centered process improvement benefits students and supports the College commitment to Student access, success and completion. CLEP testing provides students with credit for prior learning, makes a positive difference to students' financial challenges, and recent research from the College Board as well as the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning shows that students with prior-learning assessments have better learning outcomes. In one study, the test-takers self-reported that CLEP made a difference in helping them complete their degrees.
- In September, Elizabeth Pagenkopf, CNA Coordinator, represented the Health Careers Division at a fair hosted by High School Districts 214, 211 & 220, St. Viator High School and Harper College to showcase post-secondary school options for students with special needs. Northwest Educational Council for Student Success (NECSS) arranged the fair with the goal of providing all students access to opportunities that help them reach their full potential.
- Julie D'Agostino, Director of Nursing, has been appointed to the Board of Directors for the Illinois Organization of Associate Degree Nursing for the fiscal year 2015.
- On October 24<sup>th</sup>, Ashley Knight, Paul Lebreck, Caryn Levington, Eric Rosenthal and Scott Friedman presented on various programs and policies related to campus safety, served on a panel, and facilitated a tabletop exercise for over 50 community college counselors as part of a workshop on campus safety at the Community College Counselor Consortium meeting at Harper College. The workshop was organized by LaVonya Williams.
- Debbie Reuter, Access & Disability Services, was selected to participate in the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Presenters' Academy. The Academy was offered by the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST), which is the leading organization to promote the use of UDL principles. Participants strengthened approaches for delivering UDL content and focused on building UDL professional development capacity.

### ***Facilities Management***

- The Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact recently awarded Harper College an Achievement Award at the Bronze level. Many thanks to Amy Bandman, our new Sustainability Coordinator, as well as the Green Committee, and other faculty, staff, and students who are heightening environmental awareness throughout the College and surrounding community on behalf of our institution.

- Steam tunnel repairs were successfully completed over the weekend of October 18-19. This work was necessary before our steam system could be transitioned over to high-pressure delivery for winter heating months.
- Studio V was successfully relocated to a much more visible retail space outside the J Theater and adjacent to Building H, our newly renovated home for Career and Technical Programs. The new space has been very well received by all.
- A new entry vestibule was recently completed at the west entry of Wojcik Conference Center. The revolving doors, which were very difficult to maintain, were replaced with new interior and exterior swing doors and a vestibule pedimat which keeps snow, ice and dirt from tracking into the lobby space. The vestibule also acts as a much more efficient means of keeping temperature consistent inside the lobby. New motorized solar-efficient shades were also added above the vestibule, as well as new exterior doors on the other entries to the Conference Center.
- The Canning Center project has reached another important milestone. Fifty-percent completed progress drawings have been submitted to the Capital Development Board and Harper College for internal reviews. The project remains on schedule and budget
- Newly renovated accessible restrooms are now available for use in Building P.
- Roads and Grounds is currently preparing for the winter months. All snow clearing vehicles are being fitted with plows and ice melting equipment.

### ***Information Technology***

- Information Technology and the Office of Communications partnered to complete the design, development, and implementation of a new employee portal called the Harper Intranet Portal (HIP). HIP intends to provide a more engaging and informative user experience through advanced communication capabilities, simplified search functions, and an intuitive approach to organizing the content, making it easier for employees to find the information they need.
- Harper implemented a new emergency notification system. All employees and staff are automatically enrolled in this system. Community members may register to receive alerts. In the event of an emergency, Harper Alert will provide information about the nature of the emergency, what to do, and where to get additional details.
- The Networks and Server team deployed new servers in support of Degree Works, updated servers that include systems for Continuing Education, Banner student system, and the Student Portal system. In addition, new architecture was deployed to provide increased reliability and capacity for the student portal systems.

### ***Human Resources***

- On Tuesday, November 11, Harper held a Veteran's Day Observance program to recognize its employee veterans. The guest speaker for the event was John Patrick Roche, a World War II veteran and former Harper student.

In addition to Mr. Roche, five WWII veterans from the Garlands in Barrington attended the event. The event was held in conjunction with the "One Book, One Harper" program which selected Tom Brokaw's "The Greatest Generation" as this year's book. Mr. Roche shared his "greatest generation" experiences with the Harper Community. State Representative Tom Morrison was also in attendance at the event.

- On Friday, November 7, eight Harper College employees participated in the Northern Illinois Network (NIN) of Community Colleges Staff Exchange. As part of the HR Professional Enrichment Program for 2014, this one day event at Moraine Valley Community College was a great opportunity for members of our support staff to network with counterparts from other community colleges, share ideas, and problem solve. The NIN has been sponsoring this event for over 20 years with its mission being to focus on professional and personal growth opportunities for employees of northern Illinois community colleges through networking activities that create contacts between college employees, engaging them to enhance work performance and student learning.
- An on-line "exit interview" (Web-Exit) product is being implemented to assess departing employees' experiences during their employment with the College. This replaces the current manual exit interview process. The new on-line software program will provide flexibility for departing employees to respond and a more robust report writer function that will allow the College to investigate employee turnover through a variety of lenses.

### ***Advancement***

- **Save the Date - Economic Update Breakfast** featuring Jack Ablin on January 21, 2015 - Jack Ablin, Chief Investment Officer for BMO Private Bank U.S., will lay out his global macro strategy for navigating the uncertainty surrounding the ever-changing investment markets and the global economy. Looking at the world from 30,000 feet, Mr. Ablin evaluates the economic landscape, addresses public policy and together with market valuation, will lay out an easy-to-understand investment strategy.

Drawing upon his investment experience spanning nearly 30 years, Mr. Ablin provides a unique blend of quantitative techniques and common sense intuition to formulate his investment perspectives. He also draws on examples that we hear of everyday to bring his approach to life. The result will be clear, easy to understand strategies for traversing the world we live in today.

- **Financial Highlights**
  - 100% of scholarships awarded for fall semester for a total of \$202,452.53 to 255 students.
  - As of October 31, 2014 the Foundation received \$195,757 in contributions.
  - The Promise program received additional funding from some Foundation board members and Harper College administrators in the amount of \$56,057.
- **New Endowed Scholarships Established -Thomas E. Irwin Chemistry Scholarship**
  - Foundation Board member Bill Kesler and Shelia Kesler established the Thomas E. Irwin Chemistry Scholarship in honor of Shelia's father. The support generated from this fund is intended to be used for:

- Harper College students who will pursue Chemistry as their field of study;
  - Harper College students with a minimum GPA of 3.0; and
  - Students with financial need.
- Peter and Beatriz Bandemer established the Future CPA's from Harper College *endowed scholarship*. The support generated from this fund is intended to be used for:
    - Harper College students whose focus is accounting;
    - Harper College students with a minimum GPA of 3.0; and
    - Students with the goal to sit for the CPA Exam.

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

- Strategic Planning dialogue sessions continue to be engaging and informative. The October 31 session, Approaches to the Adult Market, was attended by over 120 Harper faculty and staff.
- The Annual Institutional Update was submitted to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).
- Refocused IEMs were drafted and are currently being vetted by representative constituent groups prior to formal recommendation.
- The HLC Reaccreditation Team was selected. Over 70 volunteers, representing all employee groups, will work collaboratively to collect evidence and produce an effective assurance argument for Harper's reaccreditation.

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

- Maggi Franks participated on a panel during the Strategic Planning Dialogue Session focused on adult students. She offered insights into the many ways Fast Track supports the unique needs of adult students—which contribute to the 75% completion rate in those programs.
- The Career Skills Institute reported that 8 of the 13 students in the second year program have found jobs!
- The INAM office recently hosted a statewide two-day conference of the 21 colleges involved in the TAACCCT advanced manufacturing grant. Best practices were shared in flipped classroom techniques and prior learning assessment.
- The College hosted over 300 guests from Regions V and VI for a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Town Hall meeting. The meeting was designed to gather input on the benefits and challenges of the new legislation which modifies the long standing Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

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

- Dr. Ender was our first employee to experience the 360 feedback process as he received feedback from the Board chair (as his supervisor), several of his peers, and several of his direct reports. Other members of our administrative team will be engaged in a similar 360 feedback

process during the spring 2015 semester. This 360 feedback process is instrumental in helping Harper College to become a more inclusive work environment as we seek feedback with regard to our leadership from multiple directions within the organization.

- The College President, the Special Assistant to the President for Diversity & Inclusion, and both of our Faculty Fellows were all interviewed by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* regarding the Harper College Faculty Fellow program. *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* is a flagship publication for Diversity and Inclusion practitioners. It is a 30-year-old newsmagazine that has been dedicated to bringing focus to issues of access, equity and opportunity throughout higher education.

### ***Communications, Community and Legislative Relations***

- Illinois' Governor-elect Bruce Rauner is beginning to put pieces in place for his new administration after defeating Pat Quinn in the mid-term election earlier this month. With a new Governor, it's likely many current directors of state agencies will be replaced and new leaders will also be appointed in the Governor's office to oversee areas such as education, budget and finance and economic development. Rauner, who is a Republican, will have to deal with veto-proof Democratic majorities in both the House and the Illinois Senate. The Governor's inauguration is scheduled for January 12. Harper's legislative delegation will not change. All of the incumbents who ran in our area were re-elected.
- The General Assembly's veto session is scheduled to take place November 19-21 and December 2-4. There is also a possibility of a "lame duck" session in early January. Neither session is expected to produce any major legislation.
- On October 10<sup>th</sup>, Harper hosted the first school tour of the year. We welcomed 120 students and chaperones from Plum Grove Junior High in District 15. The students participated in informational activities with Architecture, Fashion Design, Manufacturing, the Performing Arts Center and Athletics.
- As part of the celebration for National Manufacturing Day, Harper hosted Barrington High School and Elk Grove High School (approximately 70 students total) as well as 30 general public attendees for an on campus event that highlighted our Advanced Manufacturing program as well as the changes happening in the Manufacturing industry. Participants received tours of the CNC lab, welding lab and saw a robotics demonstration. After the lab demonstrations, the high school students headed to three area manufacturers (ACME, Toshiba-Machine and Sandvik) for tours and demonstrations.
- The College has identified 30 schools to participate in the School Ambassador programs. Dr. Ender and Community Relations Manager Amie Granger met with five district superintendents to introduce the program. We also introduced school principals to the program and heard their feedback regarding the needs of their schools. Currently we are in the process of pairing Harper Ambassadors with the schools.
  - Stories about Harper in the local media included:
    - A **Daily Herald** article about Dr. Ender's meeting at the White House with President Obama and the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership Steering Committee 2.0. The **Business Ledger** picked up the manufacturing article as did the **Chicago Chronicle**. The **Daily Herald** ran an editorial pointing out that today's excellence in education also focuses on high-performing students

interested in manufacturing and industrial technology; the editorial used Dr. Ender's work on the steering committee as its main example.

- **Daily Herald** reporter Katlyn Smith and photographer Joe Lewnard attended the Distinguished Alumni reception. The article highlighted the important role Harper played in putting the recipients on a path toward success.
- **Daily Herald** reporter Katlyn Smith also profiled Richard Keyworth, who retired after 40-plus years as an instructor in the Fire Science program.
- **Daily Herald** reporter Katlyn Smith wrote a preview of Harper's annual DeaFest, a celebration of deaf culture and pride. DeaFest was also previewed in **TribLocal** and **Patch**.
- The **Daily Herald**, **TribLocal** and **Patch** previewed an art exhibit featuring the work of Catherine Clarke, the inspiring alum of Harper and the Rita and John Canning Women's Program.
- The **Journal and Topics** wrote an article about Mount Prospect choosing its centennial logo, which was designed by Harper students.

In late October, I had the honor of representing Harper's good work at a White House meeting with President Obama. I was a member of a Steering Committee that reported the results of a yearlong effort to define initiatives that will continue to foster a strong advanced manufacturing presence in the U.S. As we reported out to President Obama on the findings, I was bursting with pride for our College. I thought of the good work of Assistant Professor and Coordinator Kurt Billsten, Dean Dr. Rebecca Lake, and Vice President Dr. Maria Coons. It was their collective work for the College and our State that led to our involvement in a national conversation. It was an honor to represent them and the College. I must confess, as I entered the appointments gate on the northwest corner of the White House and made my way up to West Wing to the Roosevelt Room (see photos below), my thoughts were filled with my family—parents, grandparents, great grandparents. I was humbled. Originating from abroad, the family is a true testimony to the American Dream. That walk up the White House drive just further solidified my resolve to keep that "Dream" alive forever. William Rainey Harper College is a pathway to that "Dream." We must be firm and resolved in our commitment to make it a reality for all.

Perhaps this is a good time to wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving. Clearly, we have much to be thankful for. Cathy and I hope that each of you spend several days with family and friends, reveling in each other's company as you maintain and build traditions that bind you in friendship and love. For us, this is what Thanksgiving is about—we will enjoy this time immensely and hope you will, as well.

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Ken*



Dr. Ender visits President Obama at the White House with other members of the Steering Committee to discuss the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (AMP 2.0) recommendations.



Harper Trustee Bill Kelley, President of the Illinois Community College Trustees' Association, opens the 2014 ACCT conference in Chicago.