

## **President's Report**

**November 2016**

Amazing! It will be Thanksgiving in one week. The weather is beginning to feel like we are going from late fall to winter—there is certainly an edge to the wind and a chill in the air today.

This month's President's Report is full of student, faculty, and staff accomplishments. We are a busy, busy campus with an engaged community. Please be sure to read the detailed accounts after my introductory comments.

Earlier this week we conducted a joint Veterans Day/Diversity and Inclusion celebration. To celebrate our veterans, we saluted and thanked the College veteran community and heard an inspiring presentation from Kristin Beck. Kristin served for 20 years with the U.S. Navy SEALs, including with the special counter-terrorism unit called SEAL Team Six. She earned the Purple Heart for her valor and service to our country. She is transgender and now identifying as a woman. Her story is one of courage and inspiration and most would agree that she moved us in a very personal and inspirational way. The day was a true celebration of diversity and inclusion, valor and service, and care and respect. Our shared governance Diversity and Inclusion Committee planned and executed the event flawlessly. Thanks to all!

On another positive note this month, we received our payment from the State (\$3.6 million) meeting their obligation in the Stop-Gap budget. There remains a \$2.1 million shortfall in the State revenue we budgeted for FY17. We remain hopeful that those funds will come from a secondary budget process, perhaps in the lame duck session or in the early part of 2017.

Earlier this month, the College was honored by the Schaumburg Business Association (SBA) as they named Harper College "Business of the Year." It was an honor to accept the award at the SBA's annual gala, the Toast of Schaumburg, and be joined by Trustees Dowell, Kelley, and Mundt, and former Trustee Laurie Stone. We were all so proud of the College.

Below are noted accomplishments around campus over the past month.

### ***Student Success***

- Harper College students Dylan Giesel (Pre-Nursing), Patrick Nora (RN Program) and Darren Buchanan (Graphic Arts and Fashion Design), competed as a team in the AMITA Health Design Challenge at Arlington International Racetrack on October 15 and 16. The AMITA Healthcare system reached out to students to design a technology and non-technology solution to promote

wellness for the older community. Our Harper students tied for third place, selected from among the 11 teams that participated, including 4-year colleges and universities.

- Former Harper Food Service Management Student, James Payne, was the recipient of the 2016-2017 Kendall College Presidential Scholarship. This scholarship is given to two students annually.
- On October 13, Admissions Outreach held the annual high school open house event. The event is designed to provide high school students and parents an overview of the College, ask questions about financial aid and scholarships, tour campus, meet with faculty and program coordinators, and learn more about all of the support services at the College. More than 700 prospective students and parents were in attendance.
- On October 7 and 28, Admissions Outreach hosted over 100 high school counselors to provide updates on a number of topics including new programs, testing and assessment, financial aid and scholarships, dual credit, and the Promise Program.
- Paula Hanley and Crystal Loggins of the One Stop Center gave a presentation titled, "Telling Your One Stop Story, Let the Data Do the Talking," at the Institute for Student Services Professionals Annual Conference on October 25. The presentation highlighted the story behind the creation of Harper's One Stop Center, the development of the One Stop Case Management System and the successful collaboration with IT Services to leverage this low cost solution to create high-touch, high-tech experiences for students.
- The Center for New Students is launching an ongoing support group for adults on campus to provide opportunities for new and continuing students to receive support across a continuum of adult student concerns.
- The Center for New Students is offering a free workshop series to prospective and currently enrolled students in response to needs expressed by students:
  - Market Yourself - What are employers looking for? What are "soft skills" and what are employers looking for that make a difference in a job candidate? We will discuss the basics of job search including the use of social media.
  - Staying Motivated - Having trouble returning to the classroom? We can help! Attend this workshop for tips on staying focused and achieving your academic goals.
  - Career Direction Workshop - Guide your career path by examining your personality type, interests, and values. Better understand the career decision-making process and leave with free access to popular career tools to help you make the right next steps.
- Harper College Law Enforcement and Justice Administration student Darina Mussulmanova was recognized during a formal ceremony on November 7 for rescuing a small child who ran onto Quentin Road.
- Motorola Solutions hosted a group of One Million Degree Scholars on November 3 for a *Wisdom in the Workplace* event. This experience provides an opportunity for students to hear from employees from an organization about their varying career fields and tour their facilities.

## ***Facilities Management***

- Classroom X228A 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. Construction is under way and scheduled to be substantially complete by January 13, 2017.
- The scope of work for the Building B Boiler Room project includes the replacement of one deaerator and two economizers. Construction is substantially complete.
- 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. Construction has begun and will be completed by September 2017. The contractor is currently installing underground piping along the east side of Building P that will extend into Building A.
- The scope of work for the Learning and Career Center (LCC) Chiller Replacement project includes the removal and replacement of the chillers at LCC. This project is substantially complete. The contractor will return in spring to test, balance and commission the system.
- The Biology Nature Area Deck is being replaced. The scope of work includes a new deck constructed of sustainable materials to meet the current program needs and accessibility requirements. Construction has started and is scheduled to be substantially complete by November 30.

## ***Information Technology***

- Two Title III initiatives were completed during the month of October. An enhancement was made to the Student Academic Assessment Results that are posted on the Student Portal. The enhancement reorganized the Test Score tab in the Student Test History system to provide students with a high-level overview of their placement status and provide an improved student view of placement information. The second project that was completed was to implement Starfish exporter. This project completed the integration of Harper student Starfish Early Alert data into the Data Warehouse.
- Sue Contarino presented a Poster Board Session with two colleagues from Menlo College and Sonoma State University at the Annual EDUCAUSE Conference in Anaheim, California. The topic of the Poster Session was “Building Trust Across Campus: A Divergent Campus Perspective.”

## ***Advancement***

- #GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Observed on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. This year, #GivingTuesday is November 29. Like many other schools, Harper will use social media and email to promote giving in support of Harper students on #GivingTuesday. The goal is for the Harper community to come together on November 29 to raise \$4,172.00—the cost of one year’s tuition for one Harper student.

How can you help?

- Follow Harper College's social media networks and share its #GivingTuesday content with your personal network.
  - Invite others to support Harper students on #GivingTuesday.
  - Foundation Board member Derrick Hamilton has pledged to match every pledge dollar for dollar up to \$5,000.
  - Make a donation on November 29 to help us surpass our one-day goal.
- Thursday, November 3, a luncheon was held for this year's honorees of the Distinguished Alumni Award. Attendees included honorees and guests, their nominators, Drs. Ken and Cathy Ender, and representatives from the College and Foundation. The luncheon was held at Chicago Prime Steakhouse in Schaumburg and provided a wonderful opportunity for recipients to get to know each other prior to the evening awards reception.



- At the October 2016 District 3 Conference, Harper College was recognized with four Medallion Awards from the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations for outstanding achievement in design and communication at community and technical colleges. Harper's award-winning projects included:
  - The Hope Giving Circle, Silver Medallion for Fundraising Campaign Communication.
  - The High School Viewbook ("Do What's You"), Silver Medallion for Viewbook.
  - The Fall 2015 Community Catalyst ("Gratitude"), Silver Medallion for Newsletter.
  - The Community Catalyst Summer 2016 Issue ("Just as Ripples..."), Bronze Medallion for Newsletter.
- The College will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during the 2017 and 2018. There will be a soft launch at graduation 2017 (May 20, 2017), a celebration ramp up in August 2017, and our final closing celebration will be at graduation 2018 (May 19, 2018).

Five priorities have been identified. They are:

- Employee Engagement: Curriculum Infusion, Fall Kick-Off, Spirit Days
- Historical Book: Narrative and imagery chronicling the importance of Harper College in the community college movement and mission.
- All Campus Open House: Engaging founding faculty, annuitants, alumni, future students and community members on April 14, 2018.
- Giving Back Initiative: Employees engaging with local schools

- Graduation 2018: Elevated celebration with prominent commencement speaker

All institutional messaging and engagements will be branded with a 50<sup>th</sup> theme during that time.

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

- Every three years Harper College deploys a Climate Survey; this is referred to as the Personal Assessment of the College Environment (PACE) survey. The purpose of the PACE survey is to ascertain employees' perspectives about the organizational climate. The results of the survey help institutions of higher education define areas needing change or improvement and set the stage for more in-depth planning. In the PACE model, the leadership of an institution motivates each of these climate factors toward an outcome of student success and institutional effectiveness.
- In collaboration with the academic Deans, Outcomes Assessment offered workshops for faculty chairs/coordinators on the topic of student learning assessment. During these workshops, faculty shared their successes with using assessment to improve student learning. Attendees were able to dialogue with colleagues about issues such as the purpose of learning assessment and how assessment results can be used for improvement. Three workshops were held with more than 40 faculty chairs/coordinators in attendance.

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

- The Continuing Education Department cosponsored the Crime Analysts of Illinois Association (CAI) to host its first conference in the Wojcik Conference Center on October 27. The CAI is largest professional organization in Illinois for analysts and approximately 90 people attended the event. Attendees included police officers, detectives, FBI and DOJ agents from Illinois and Wisconsin.
- The Office of Apprenticeships has partnered with Aon to offer apprenticeship opportunities to employees. The program participants will earn an A.A.S. in Business Administration with a specialization in general insurance. This partnership with our Fast Track program allows the College to serve apprenticeship cohorts of various sizes in an adult-centric, high completion format.
- In July, the Department of Labor (DOL) asked Harper College to host a conference focused on how community colleges can become a Registered Apprenticeship Program Sponsor. Harper was chosen to host this conference because it is recognized across the country as a registered apprenticeship leader and is one of the first colleges to become a program sponsor. The DOL Office of Apprenticeship estimated the number of attendees at 25, however the event registration jumped to more than 70. Colleges from as far away as Alaska attended.

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

- Michelé Smith, Associate Provost and Executive Lead for the Promise Program, attended the PromiseNET conference in Washington, DC from October 24-26. The conference represented a gathering of more than 250 professionals interested in starting or refining a Promise program for debt-free college tuition. Harper College was one of the few programs at the conference that featured specific criteria that students needed to meet in order to earn their tuition at the associate degree level. A variety of strategies and approaches for launching and sustaining

Promise programs was shared.

- More than 100 Harper College employees have participated in the D&I Dialogue Workshops aimed at creating a campus climate inclusive of cultural differences and respectful of all employees; 50 additional employees are scheduled to complete the final two offerings this semester. Seven sessions are scheduled during the spring 2017 semester. The D&I Dialogue Workshops have been developed in response to requests from our campus community for more education and training around issues of diversity and inclusion.
- This year's Diversity Symposium was held on Veterans Day, November 11, and was attended by 200 Harper employees, students, and community members. The symposium's focus was on veterans and featured Kristin Beck (retired Navy SEAL). Following recognition of our veterans and a presentation by the featured speaker, symposium participants were given the option of attending two of four break-out sessions addressing a variety of topics. This year's Symposium allowed us to recognize that veterans' identity often intersects with a variety of other identities.
- *We Serve and Protect, Laquan McDonald Memorial* represents the President's Student Artwork Selection for this academic year. All are invited to join a conversation about this piece and the role of art in contemporary times on Tuesday, November 29 from 12:00 to 1:30 pm in W-218. The artist, Kevin Coderre, will be featured and he will share his thought process behind creating this piece. Associate Professor Stephany Rimland and Assistant Professor Charlie Roderick will speak about the role of art in contemporary society, and Dr. Ender will share his reasons for choosing this piece. This is the first of four such campus conversations this academic year.

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

- Recently the Schaumburg Business Association presented Harper its Brian H. Burke Business of the Year Award – the top honor of the night – while President Ken Ender received the organization's leadership award. The College works to forge partnerships with Schaumburg businesses such as the insurance apprenticeship program with Zurich North America. Dr. Ender has served as a keynote speaker for several SBA events, most recently giving a presentation on the Promise Scholarship Program to the Good Morning Schaumburg networking group.
- Harper representatives have attended multiple community events over the past month including: School District 21 Wellness Fair at London Middle School, Higgins Educational Center Trunk and Treat event, Hoffman Estates Intergovernmental Reception, Northwest Community Hospital multi-chamber networking event, Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce Women Engaged in Business monthly meeting, Palatine Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting, Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce Networks for Enterprising Women monthly meeting and weekly rotary meetings at Barrington breakfast rotary and Schaumburg/Hoffman Estates rotary.
- The goal of the Ambassador School program is to inspire an early interest in college, engaging with schools where 50% or more of the students qualify for the federal lunch program. Harper Ambassadors conduct activities at the schools to keep students excited about going to college. Students also tour Harper's campus. On September 30, the 5th grade class from Rupley Elementary School (D59) visited Harper for their tour. Students visited various departments and learned about the Promise Scholarship and the goals they need to achieve in high school to be a Promise scholar. Upon returning to school, the students discussed their experience and decided to work together as a class to achieve various goals to become Promise-ready. As part of their community service, the class decided to organize a food drive for needy families in Elk Grove Village. We learned about the food drive from this student's thank you note.

Dear Harper College Employees,

Thank you for letting us go to your school and learn what we need to do and the thing we will be doing if we choose your college.

When I grow up, I want to go to Harper. When I was young, my mom took me to Harper because I missed school one day and she wanted to show me what I needed to work for.

A lot has changed since I was there, but it still felt familiar.

My class and I are all going to try to have good grades, play in sports, and do something good for our civil and global responsibilities.

Actually, right now, all the kids that you saw on September 30th from Ripley are organizing a food drive for the needy in Elk Grove Village.

I hope to see you again soon.

Sincerely,

Junior

- The *Daily Herald* ran an article and video on student reaction to the presidential election results. A reporter and photographer visited Richard Krupa's Intro to American Government class, where they weighed in.
- The *Daily Herald* and *chicagotribune.com* ran an article on "Pippin" returning to the Harper stage 34 years after the original performance.
- A front-page *Daily Herald* election article about the candidates' plans for taxes and jobs highlighted Professor Getachew Begashaw's expertise. Photographer Bob Chwedyk also visited a Fast Track class to illustrate Begashaw's point that finding skilled workers is an ongoing challenge.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article on the front page of its business section about the Schaumburg Business Association honoring Harper and Dr. Ender with its business and leader of the year awards.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about nursing simulation coordinator Caitrin Sobota being selected by the Illinois Nurses Foundation for its 40 Under 40 Emerging Nurse Leaders Awards.
- *Chicagotribune.com* and the *Daily Herald* ran short articles previewing the Distinguished Alumni reception.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Harper placing third at the AMITA Health Design Challenge.

- The *Daily Herald* again quoted Professor Getachew Begashaw in an election article about jobs and taxes.
- A *Daily Herald* article about the WINGS organization Purple Tie Ball highlighted alumnae Denise Owens, who was honored with the David K. Hill Award for her willingness to share her story with others and serve as a mentor.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a digest about a Small Business Development Center class about using a website to convert customers.
- A *Daily Herald* election story on the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District race between ultimate winner Raja Krishnamoorthi and opponent Pete DiCianni mentions Harper's Promise Program. Krishnamoorthi said he'd like to see a national version of it.
- A *Daily Herald* article about the YMCA of Metro Chicago honoring Rita Canning with its "So Much More Than a Leader Award" mentions her longtime support of Harper's Women's Program.
- In a *Daily Herald* election story about the 28<sup>th</sup> Senate District race, state Sen. Laura Murphy points to Harper's apprenticeship programs as an example of how to meet the demands of an evolving workforce.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a digest on Harper seeking volunteers for free ultrasounds.
- The *Daily Herald* profiled new Prospect Heights Fire Chief Drew Smith, a Harper alum.
- The *Daily Herald* ran articles in its sports section about the men's and women's cross country teams, the men's soccer team, volleyball player Katelyn Sommers being selected "Player of the Week" and post-season honors for eight men's soccer and women's volleyball players.

## **President's Priorities Update**

### **1. Advocates for Students**

- The core team to develop the Student Advocate plan has been formed and has begun to meet every other week. The team members are: Sheryl Otto, LaVonya Williams, Sara Mikula, John Garcia and Vicki Atkinson. The work of this group will continue to align deliberately with the project plans for the Academic Planning/Pathways and Student Experience Strategic Goal Teams.
- Academic Success Coaches: Since the beginning of the coaching pilot, 275 unduplicated (296 duplicated) students were seen by the Success Coaches; 356 appointments were made resulting in an 83% show rate by students. This number is not inclusive of other means of communication with the students (i.e. email, phone, and text).
- Counselors Through Completion: The Starfish early alert system has been effective in facilitating communication, with Counselors having made initial and ongoing contact with their students via Starfish. Fourteen of the students have met face-to-face with their counselors thus far.

- One Million Degrees: The November monthly OMD Scholar Development workshop and coaching session will include a special presentation by the Honorable Melissa Bean, Chairman of the Midwest, JPMorgan Chase & Co., who will share her personal career journey as well as advice on how to succeed academically and professionally.

## 2. First Year Seminar and Education Plan

- Start Smart students are continuing to meet individually with a counselor to build their individualized academic plan to completion. Once the plans are completed, they will be entered into Harper's Degree Works system so students and counselors can track student progress.
- Start Smart students are engaging in workshops and activities all across campus. A feature of the Start Smart programs this year is the completion of a "Passport to Success." Students complete a Passport by earning stamps when they attend academic success workshops, library information sessions, educational planning workshops, and other campus engagement events (lectures, performances, etc.). The Passport is being piloted this semester, and the Start Smart team will assess its effectiveness for use in future semesters.
- First year scholars in the OMD 101 seminar heard from a panel of volunteer professionals in the weekly seminar. Panelists shared advice on professionalism in the workplace and at school.
- In spring 2017, five sections of the First Year Seminar course will be offered to help students receive the support and guidance they need as they begin their college experience.

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

- The construction area has been fenced and demolition has started for the Building F renovations.
- 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. CDB plans to lobby for this to be re-appropriated during the fall veto session.

## 4. Promise Program Funding

As of the end of October, 85% of the \$10 million needed to fund the Promise Program has been received. The chart below provides details.

### Promise Funds As of October 31, 2016

Total Contributions Raised	\$ 7,083,231.39
Verbal Pledges	1,100,000.00
Interest Income	<u>317,837.19</u>
Total	<u>\$ 8,501,068.58</u>
Goal	\$10,000,000.00

As I conclude my report, I would like to briefly comment on the College's post-election mood. There is a fairly wide reaction on campus regarding the results; some are elated, others despondent. An election of more than 120 million voters, separated by only a thin margin of votes, is certainly an emotional experience. There has been a lot of discussion on campus around coming together and working on behalf of all Americans and *listening* to one another respectfully as we process these results. Veterans Day gave us reason to celebrate the sacrifice of others so we remain a country that can be bitterly divided yet together to assure orderly transitions of government and power. This is an important lesson for all of us, and one that we will be reinforcing on our campus.

Thanksgiving is upon us. Let us experience the warmth and love of our families and friends as we celebrate and give thanks for the communities we live in and serve, and the everlasting spirit of America.

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Ken*