

## President's Report

December 2010

The College is full of activity as the Fall term comes to an end. Students, faculty and staff are looking forward to the upcoming break, and the entire College employee community will enjoy the week-long break between Christmas and the New Year. This week-long pause to enjoy family and friends is a long standing tradition at Harper and one that will continue to be observed in the years ahead.

We have experienced enrollment growth during the Fall semester. Specifically, the College's credit FTE enrollment has increased 3% as compared to a year ago and budget projections are aligned with this enrollment growth. Currently, Spring enrollment is 11% above what we experienced last year at this time. As critical payment dates approach for students, this growth will change and lessen, however the trend line is very positive.

As the new term begins in January, we will be finalizing our employee search processes for the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Executive Director of Facilities. These two senior management positions report to Dr. Ally and he has organized the search processes and recruited excellent search teams. He has asked Sheila Quirk-Bailey to lead the CIO search and Maria Coons to lead the Executive Director search. David Newton is serving as an advisor to the facilities search. This will most likely be the last major assignment David will have with us. He has contributed greatly to our facilities planning efforts for over a year.

The College has hosted and led a very important initiative in a regional workforce development effort over the past few months. We have brought together 16 northern Illinois community colleges and 7 workforce systems that are associated with those institutions and have formed the Northern Illinois Workforce Coalition. This group is committing its members to a regional *College Completion Agenda* aligned with high demand employment sectors. The group should be positioned nicely to leverage its efforts with foundation and federal funding opportunities.

In a broader initiative than the one described above, the College has joined a network of community colleges over a five state region in the Midwest in what is referred to as the Auto Communities Network. This group is designing its work around individuals who have lost employment in the auto sector and companies that have historically been part of the auto industry supply or service chain. We are looking for ways we can assist these individuals and companies with re-training and other employment issues. The Consortium will seek to have a broad regional impact that will spark employment and economic growth.

There is substantial work being done on the strategic plan via the nine goal teams. The goal leaders will meet in January and I look forward to briefing the Board in February on their progress. We will also continue with the refinement of the institutional effectiveness measures and will brief the Board in the early part of the New Year.

Much has happened on the campus over the last month and a representative sampling is presented below.

### **Student Success**

- On December 3, 2010, Latinos Unidos celebrated its annual cultural event, *Sabor Latino*, with 265 students, faculty, staff and community members participating – including students from Rolling Meadows High School.
- On December 10, 2010 the Black Student Union celebrated Kwanzaa with 151 students, faculty, staff and community members participating – including students from Wheeling High School.
- Representatives from Harper College and Fremd High School have met this month to design a leadership training program involving Harper leaders serving as mentors for high school leadership students as part of the Harper College *Leadership Challenge*.

### **Events**

- The Campus Activities Board hosted two screenings of the Academy Award-winning documentary, *The Cove* (November 22 and 23), and a program featuring the film's director, Louie Psihoyos on November 23; 126 people attended the two film screenings and 268 people attended the lecture.
- The *Electronics Engineering Technology Department* received an *Illinois Clean Energy Grant* in the amount of \$63,000. Proceeds from this grant will be used to purchase solar and wind power generation systems for laboratory instruction of the new *Alternative Electrical Energy Certificate* introduced this fall.
- The English as a Second Language Department met with District 211 ESL teachers from Schaumburg HS, Palatine HS, Hoffman Estates HS, Fremd HS, and Conant HS to discuss curriculum, tour facilities on campus and examine pathways for student success.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Edible Book Contest was held on Friday, November 19 on the first floor of the Library. This year 16 creative edible book entries were presented and judged.

### **Athletics**

- As reported last month, three fall athletic teams won Regional Championships and advanced to the NJCAA Division III National Championships. At nationals, the Women's Cross Country Team took 5<sup>th</sup> place, the Men's Cross Country Team took 7<sup>th</sup>, and the Women's Soccer team took 8<sup>th</sup> place. In addition, two student athletes from fall sports were named NJCAA All-Americans: Jackie LaRocco from Women's Soccer is a First Team All-American, and Ryan Wojdyla from Men's Cross Country is a Second Team All-American.
- In winter sports, the men's basketball team is currently 7-1, and the women have a record of 4-4. The teams will begin their conference season on January 4<sup>th</sup> at Joliet Junior College. The conference home opener is January 18<sup>th</sup> against Madison College.

### **Information Technology**

- *Business EdVantage Program* – Implemented an enhanced systematic process in Banner for Business EdVantage enrollment, verification and maintenance. The new process enables

Admissions Outreach, Registration, and the Business Office to have a single source for recording and processing student requests for in-district tuition when they live out of district but work in-district.

- *Student Technology Task Force* – The following actions were taken by IT in response to student suggestions:
  - Blackboard now shares common authentication credentials with the student portal
  - Phased out Group Studio collaboration tool and removed the Group Studio icon
  - Added the Campus Printing channel
  - Added campus office hours and phone numbers document
  - Send a monthly informational e-mail to students
  - Added “Jobs on Campus” channel
  - Added a link to the Harper radio station for streaming radio
- *Student Printing Statistics* – The Print Green initiative (duplexing and printing numbers combined) has been a success in that Harper has saved 122 boxes of paper so far this semester. The total savings is approximately \$5,854.

### **Physical Plant**

- *New Chiller Plant* – Final adjustments and balancing will occur in the Spring. Cooling systems have been shut down for the winter season.
- *HPC – HVAC & Roof Replacement* – Both prime contractors are substantially complete and working to complete open issues and prepare closeout documents.
- *J Theater Renovations* – All catwalk, ceiling, and overhead work has now been completed. Remaining work includes the new aisle lighting and aisle carpet inserts. Completion of the project is expected by mid-January.
- *B-Building Boiler No.2 Re-Tubing* – Asbestos removal has been completed. Contractor is making steady progress dismantling the boiler and has already cut out most of the 680 old boiler tubes. The new tubes have been fabricated and delivered to the Contractor. Completion of the project is expected in March 2011.
- *Y Building Standby Generator* – The plans and specs are now out for bids.
- *G & H Remodeling Project* – CDB is continuing contract negotiations with the construction manager and the architect.
- *Elevators* – M building elevator is ahead of schedule and expected to be completed before the end of the year. I building elevator will be completed on schedule by the start of spring semester.
- *C Building Toilet Rooms* – The construction is underway for the first and second floor toilet rooms. The new toilet rooms will be ADA accessible. In addition to refurbishing the existing toilet rooms, two family bathrooms will be added, along with a lactation room. This project is scheduled to be completed by the start of spring semester.
- *PTK office* – We have identified Room J249g. Furniture will be installed this week.

### **Recognitions**

- Harper College received 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the College/Campus Police category for the State Police Traffic Safety Challenge, which was reported in “Command” magazine.
- In November, the Harper College Fashion Students participated in The Fashion Group International of Chicago Career Day. Competing with university programs, five Harper students were finalists: Jackie Caudillo, Hang Dong, Amy Ziegler, Kathy Grzesik and Michelle Szella. Kathy Grzesik and Michelle Szella won two of the five top prizes.

- A Community College Partnership, Illinois Green Economy Network, selected Colleen Waldoch, a Harper College student, as the winner of their graphic design logo contest, her entry is presented below.



Finally, Cathy and I wish all of you a family- and friend-filled holiday season. We will be traveling to Sarasota, Florida to visit with family and friends and to get a brief respite from the winter weather. I have asked our staff to relax and turn off all electronic communication devices during the holiday break. We will begin anew on January 3.

Enjoy the holiday season.

*Ken*