

President's Report

December 2016

We are in the midst of finals—although it seems as though we were just launching the Fall 2016 semester! If it wasn't for the snow and particularly the cold, this time of year would truly be a joy. When we have significant weather events, our Facilities staff arrives on campus in the wee hours of the morning. I want to thank them for ensuring that the parking lots, sidewalks and roads are clear and ready for us when we arrive on campus.

Canceling the annual holiday concert and reception was a difficult decision—but I believe it was the right decision. Many of our guests responded that it was wonderful that we were making that decision for them, because traveling to campus during the snow storm would have been a challenge. I wanted to ensure everyone's safety and felt this was in the best interest of our guests. I am hopeful that next year's performance will go on without a hitch!

There has been quite a bit of conversation about the impact the recent election will have on immigration policies. The College has signed an open letter to President-Elect Trump requesting that he continue the executive order which protects undocumented students referred to as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). I joined a group of 500 college presidents in this regard. Other colleges have passed resolutions to become a sanctuary place for students. This is a common action for cities or municipalities, however there is little history regarding colleges taking such action. We must be mindful that many of our students rely on federal financial aid as a means of paying for their education at Harper. Thus, we must be vigilant in preserving this funding source as we search to understand the effects of sanctuary status.

Funding from the State continues to be a challenge. Although the Monetary Award Program (MAP) was not funded, Harper is covering these grants for our students with the hope that the State will fund them at some point this year. So, although we have received \$3.6 million of the \$5.7 million we budgeted from the State, there is still a deficit in this line. I will continue to work with the Executive Council to identify savings so the College will at least break-even this fiscal year.

Recently, colleagues from the Sacramento City College came to visit and learn about our work with pathways, developmental math, our Promise Program and other initiatives. During the debrief at the end of the day, I was struck with how impressed they were—not with the campus, although they commented it was beautiful—but with the talent at Harper College. Staff and faculty alike were open and honest in explaining our journey to bring these programs to our students and community. We are blessed in many ways!

We continue to be a busy College. Below are some wonderful accomplishments and highlights since last month.

Student Success

- Harper College hosted the 11th Annual Upper Midwest Regional Ethics Bowl, a qualifying event for the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl Championship, to be held in late February. The event hosted 26 teams, coming from as far away as Mississippi, engaged in discussions of current events that give rise to moral questions. Students discussed issues ranging from a proposed tax in the UK on beef consumption to the recent decision by the University of Texas to allow for guns in the classroom. The event also hosted over 50 moderators and judges for the day. Brett Fulkerson-Smith, faculty from the Philosophy Department, organized the event with support from the Interdisciplinary Programs Office.
- Mukila Maitha and Sarah Mikulski are the 2016 winners of the Glenn A. Reich Memorial Award given to faculty for innovative use of technology. Maitha is an Assistant Professor of Geography and Mikulski is an adjunct faculty in Liberal Arts and Language Lab Coordinator/Student Development Specialist. They will be presenting their winning projects during spring orientation week.
- During November, students in the Honors Program and Phi Theta Kappa were exemplary in their commitment to civic engagement. The groups combined to host a large campus event on the election, with nearly 100 attendees. The group also sent 20 students to Feed My Starving Children, with another 10 attending a lecture as part of the Chicago Humanities Festival. Finally, students, faculty, and staff associated with the Honors Program teamed up to buy gifts for 40 children living in a group home in Chicago.
- Office of Student Financial Assistance and the Admissions Outreach Department contacted 314 Veterans students and the dependents of Veterans using benefits to wish them a Happy Veterans Day and also to personally thank each of them for their service and sacrifice.
- Paula Hanley and Crystal Loggins from the One Stop Center conducted a presentation titled “Telling Your One Stop Story, Let the Data Do the Talking” at the Institute for Student Services Professionals Annual Conference. 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 Testing Center was awarded “Test Center Certification” by the NCTA (National College Testing Association). This certification is awarded to testing centers that are able to prove through an extensive, multi-step evaluation that they are adhering to industry established “best practices” for test security and integrity. The Harper College Testing Center becomes the fifth school in Illinois to earn this certification. Many thanks to the entire Testing Center staff as well as Eric Bohman and Martha Karavitis for their contributions.

Human Resources

- A Holiday Open House was held on Thursday, December 8. Faculty and staff enjoyed refreshments made by the Culinary Arts students. Faculty member Greg Herriges and fellow musician Rick Vittenson performed at the event. Drop boxes were available for those who donated unwrapped toys, books and clothing items for students and families of one of Harper’s ambassador schools, Salt Creek Elementary School.

Facilities Management

- Grants have been received to convert meeting room A137a into a space for student veterans. Design is complete and the construction is scheduled to be completed in February 2017.
- 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. The simulation hospital work is scheduled to be substantially complete by January 13, 2017 and the surgical tech suite is scheduled to be substantially complete by January 31, 2017.
- Classrooms X236A and X236B will be converted into a new Physical Therapy Lab for the Health Careers Department. Design is complete and the project will be bid in December 2016. The project is scheduled to be substantially complete by May 2017.
- 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 has completed the underground piping and is currently rerouting hot water piping.
- The scope of work for the Biology nature deck replacement includes a new deck constructed of sustainable materials to meet the current program and accessibility requirements. The decking is complete and the railings are being installed. Weather has delayed the project and the construction is expected to be substantially complete by December 19.

Information Technology

- Over Thanksgiving break the telecommunications team updated six phone system services including basic phone configuration, call recording, voicemail, call queuing for call centers, 911 services, and the main line telephone operator call routing system. These updates resolved firmware bugs experienced on older model desk phones and provided additional functionality including the ability to start conference calls from off campus, improved security on all services, and better reporting. Harper's public network, which supports all wireless connections, was also migrated to a new switching platform over the break. This new platform allows for significantly greater management capabilities, especially in the area of security, a 10-fold increase in throughput, and will position the College for future growth.
- Information Technology developed and implemented Student Check-In software for the One-Stop Center. This software provides a check-in process and queue display, as well as a queue management method for students using the One-Stop.

Advancement and Marketing

- The Foundation participated in Giving Tuesday for the second year on November 29. Activities prior to the day included a series of posts on social media, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and emails, sent out between Tuesday, November 8 and Tuesday November 29. Each included a student video about the impact that receiving a scholarship has made on their life. A generous \$5,000 matching gift was provided by Derrick and Joni Hamilton. On November 30, A video was sent to all donors thanking them for their support.

The following are the highlights of the results:

- Total raised \$27,015.00 – compared to \$3,823.88 from last year.
 - Number of donors increased from 37 last year to 53 this year.
 - Largest gift - \$10,000.00
 - Average gift - \$323.63
 - This included 9 new donors with gifts totaling \$1,385.00
- Harper College is working with WGN TV on two “integration” segments for the morning news. Integration segments are paid media opportunities. These take the place of or augment traditional types of advertising. Each program will air on WGN TV in the 9-10 a.m. hour. While the segments will highlight Harper programs and/or services, the focus will be on providing information of value for the audience and positioning the College as an expert community resource. On Thursday, December 1, Laura McGee, Director of Student Financial Aid will discuss the importance of completing the FAFSA, the new early FAFSA opportunities, and resources provided by Harper to help students and parents complete the FAFSA, including the Tuesday, December 6 Paying for College information session. On Friday, December 2, Maggi Franks, Fast Track Program Manager, will discuss degree and certificate options for adults offered by the Fast Track program. Key themes will be access, affordability, and tips for returning adults. The Wednesday, December 7 Fast Track information session will also be promoted.

This project, led by Donna Harwood in Marketing Services, involved a tremendous amount of collaboration from the interviewees, other team members in academics and enrollment services, Kim Pohl in media relations who prepped the interviewees, and the graphics and web teams. Following the broadcast of each segment, Marketing Services will receive clips from WGN that can be shared on Harper’s social and digital channels. Along with any direct response to the events promoted in each segment, social and web traffic, shares and other engagement metrics will also be tracked once the content is shared on Harper channels. Messaging for each segment is consistent with and advances Harper’s 2017-2019 communication themes of awareness, affordability and accountability.

Workforce, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- Continuing Education has partnered with the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) in their Second Chance program to offer CDL Permit Training. The classes are being offered to a specific group of employees who need a second chance at job preparation. Students include men and women that have backgrounds that often make the hiring process challenging. To date CE has held three classes in collaboration with the CTA.
- The Fast Track Program held its Graduation Celebration on Monday, December 5. The College conferred 112 credentials to 81 graduates that evening; 28% of the graduates were on the Dean’s List, and 15% were on the President’s List. There were over 100 people in attendance for the festive occasion. Fast Track was recently featured on WGN Morning News. A clip of the segment can be seen here: <https://youtu.be/fZFujXjLSM>.

Diversity and Inclusion

- On November 29, 2016, the first in a series of four campus events was held to engage the campus in conversations sparked by the Student Artwork selection: We Serve and Protect, Laquan McDonald Memorial. A total of 47 Harper employees attended this session which can be viewed online via this link: <https://youtu.be/Mv0SFQSyYOQ> . An overview of Harper’s Art Department and its curriculum was provided by Stephany Rimland, Associate Professor and

Charlie Roderick, Assistant Professor. The student artist, Kevin Coderre, then provided a very personal and compelling explanation of the circumstances that motivated him to create the piece. The session ended with an open Q&A session and questions were responded to by a panel which consisted of Rimland, Roderick, Coderre, and Dr. Ender. The session was very well received and several participants expressed gratitude to the speakers for creating a safe space for thoughtful dialogue and engagement.

- The D&I Dialogue Workshops offered this semester caused participants to think about privilege, inclusive behaviors, and how to engage in cultural conversations. The sessions also gave employees a chance to get to know their colleagues across job classifications, departments, and divisions. Of the 147 employees who participated in the D&I Dialogue Workshops this fall, many expressed thanks for having a safe space to engage in these courageous conversations. Seven additional sessions will be offered during the spring 2017 semester.

Community and Legislative Relations

- In an article about Harper's apprenticeship programs, the Daily Herald highlighted the success of students, such as Andrew Splett, are having with the "learn-and-earn" model. Andrew shared his experience in the industrial maintenance mechanic program thus far, saying he has been learning the ropes at his company, Herrmann Ultrasonics, and is feeling at home. He says: "My friends are completely astonished that I'm already working in the field I want to work in. My mom told my little brothers that I've set the bar pretty high."
- Laura McGee, Director of Student Financial Assistance, and Maggi Franks, Manager of the Fast Track program, appeared on *WGN TV's Morning News show* for paid media opportunities known as integrations. In addition to highlighting the programs and services that Harper College offers, the segments positioned McGee and Franks as experts in their field and community resources.
- Dean Mary Beth Ottinger and consultant Tom Erbach discussed Harper's advanced manufacturing program on the Elk Grove Village-based *Strictly Business* podcast, which bills itself as the official podcast of the nation's largest industrial park. They discussed the program's overhaul and resurgence, partnerships with area businesses, improved curriculum and increased enrollment. Listen at <https://soundcloud.com/strictly-business-podcast/ep-10-harper-college-gets-its-groove-back>
- The Educational Foundation was included in a *Daily Herald* article about Giving Tuesday, a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Vice President and Chief Advancement Officer Laura Brown touched on the benefits of the initiative, saying "People who normally never give are giving. You're diversifying your outreach on Giving Tuesday. It's just another avenue to really strengthen your mission in what you're doing." In the end, the Foundation raised \$27,015, or more than six times its goal.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about the success of Harper's 16th annual Latino Summit, which promotes the value of higher education to hundreds of area high school students.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a front-page article about Wheeling native and Harper alum Charlie Kirk, who created a nationwide "watch list" of professors he says "discriminate against conservative students and advance leftist propaganda in the classroom." The *Washington Post* did a follow-up article on Kirk's efforts.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about the HOPE Giving Circle launching its mentoring program with a panel event featuring Dr. Kenya Ayers, NECSS Vice President and Michelé Smith, among

others. The Educational Foundation formed the HOPE (Helping Others through the Power of Education) Giving Circle last year to connect charitable-minded women with a common goal of empowering women to reach their full potential. The program provides financial support, ongoing mentoring and leadership development for female students who are completing their final year at Harper and continuing on to a four-year college.

- Chicagotribune.com, *Patch* and the *Daily Herald* ran articles previewing the Clay Guild pottery sale.
- Chicagotribune.com, *Patch* and the *Daily Herald* ran articles previewing the Festival Chorus concert.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about the Educational Foundation honoring grill giant Weber-Stephen for its Stand Up and Be Counted program.
- Chicagotribune.com and the *Daily Herald* ran articles about British biographer and cultural historian Barry Miles visiting Harper.
- *Daily Herald* columnist Kerry Lester mentioned Harper in a column about Illinois community college presidents urging state House and Senate leaders to come up with a budget. So far, there's been little progress toward a budget agreement.
- Amie Granger was appointed to the GOA Regional Business Association Board of Directors on Thursday, December 8. The GOA Regional Business Association provides businesses with essential advocacy, valuable networking opportunities, and enlightening educational seminars. The GOA Region is located in Cook, DuPage, Lake, McHenry, Kane, and Kendall Counties, north, west and south of the city of Chicago. It is comprised of more than 80 communities in Northeastern Illinois with a diverse workforce and a dynamic mix of commercial, retail, industrial and financial businesses.
- On Wednesday, November 30, Harper hosted multiple activities at the Jane Addams Elementary Science Night. More than 400 students and their families participated in activities in chemistry and engineering. The mobile unit was also on hand conducting an activity with the Jane Addams families. A very big thank you to Dr. Maria Coons, Dr. Ken Ender, Julie Ellefson-Kuehn, Karen Dailey, Chris Athanassopoulos, David Lavan, Festus Johnson, Linda Regan and all the student volunteers.



- December 9 was the final school tour of the fall semester. Students from John Jay Elementary, Forest View Elementary and Juliette Low Elementary participated in activities in Manufacturing, Fashion, Business, Marketing, Sustainability, Career Exploration, World Languages, College

Readiness, and Library Services. This semester Harper has hosted 1,600 students through the Elementary/Middle School tour program.

- Legislative leaders have yet to discuss a stop-gap budget. Republicans say they are willing to work on a stop-gap budget, but only if a property tax freeze and term limits are included. Democrats again insisted that reforms should be independent of budget discussions.
- There's more talk about businessman and philanthropist J.B. Pritzker, who is gauging support for a 2018 gubernatorial run as a Democrat.
- The State Senate overrode Governor Bruce Rauner's veto of the "bailout" sending \$215 million to Chicago Public Schools, but the House adjourned for the year. Rauner said any bailout money was conditional upon pension reform.
- Rep. David McSweeney introduced a bill that opposes any income tax increase being passed during a lame duck session (January 1 through January 11, 2017). The House passed it overwhelmingly. Although non-binding, some think the bill's bipartisan support makes it less likely a tax increase would happen.

President's Priorities Update

1. Advocates for Students

- Since the beginning of the coaching pilot, 324 unduplicated (426 duplicated) students were seen by the Success Coaches. The coaches are averaging an 81% show rate by the students; 77% of the total student population within the coaching pilot. This number is not inclusive of other means of communication with the students (i.e. email, phone, and text). During the month of November the coaches met with 49 new students (meeting students for the first time) while meeting with 115 unduplicated students.
- Of the 62 students being case managed this fall via Counselors Through Completion, 34 have met face-to-face with their counselors thus far. A total of 52 face-to-face contacts, 35 phone contacts, and 216 email contacts have been made.
- All One Million Degrees scholars received ongoing support from their assigned program coordinator. Required midterm meetings were conducted for the purpose of receiving feedback on academic performance as well as their current standing in One Million Degrees. An official performance evaluation will be conducted with scholars in February.

2. Year Seminar and Educational Plan

- More than 700 students participating in First Year Seminar courses and other Start Smart programs have been meeting with counselors to complete their educational plans. Every student in a Start Smart program works jointly with a counselor to create an educational plan to completion. Data is being collected and will be available in the next report.
- Attendance continues to be 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. This month, 25 OMD students participated in a "Wisdom in the Workplace" event. Participants heard from an employee panel that shared their personal career journeys, and offered professional advice about developing themselves as leaders while in college.

- Start Smart programs for the spring of 2017 will be offered to students who begin their college journey in the spring semester. Sections of the First Year Seminar course will be offered to help new students explore college and career options while providing them with the support and guidance they need to be successful at Harper.

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

- Building F Renovations – Asbestos abatement has been completed and demolition is 80% completed.
- Building M Renovations and Addition - Construction documents for the Building M Renovations and Addition project are 90% completed. Northwest Community Healthcare has approved the design for their leased space. The temporary spaces needed for Building M programs have been identified.
- Canning Center – 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 November, 85% of the \$10 million needed to fund the Promise Program has been received. The chart below provides details.

Promise Funds As of November 30, 2016

Total Contributions Raised	\$ 7,092,585.87
Verbal Pledges	1,100,000.00
Interest Income	<u>273,463.61</u>
Total	<u>\$ 8,466,049.48</u>
Goal	\$10,000,000.00

Program to begin Fall 2019
3 years left remaining before Fall 2019
334 donors

As we do every year, Cathy and I will travel to Florida to get some rest and relaxation in a warmer climate. It's important that we all connect with family and friends during the holidays, to recharge our batteries before we begin the Spring term. Before we know it, it will be May and graduation will be upon us. I have encouraged faculty and staff to "disconnect" between December 23 and January 2. I plan to do so, as well.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season. This is truly a special time of the year.

Enjoy,
Ken