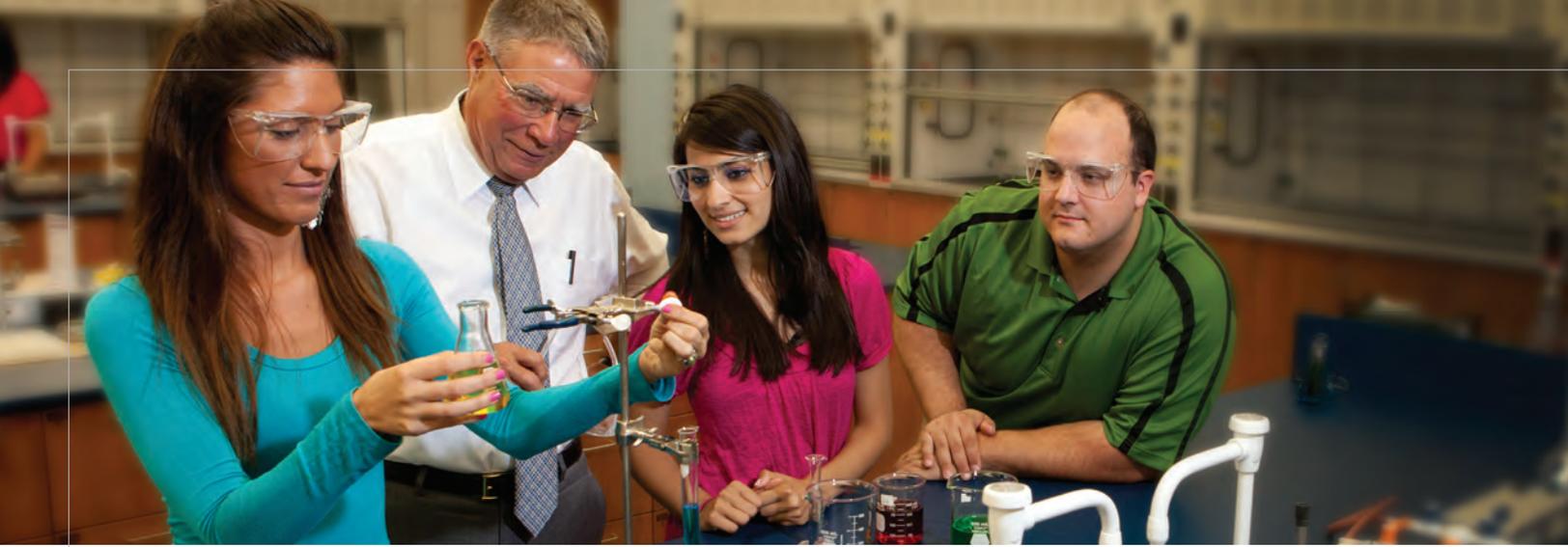


THE WORLD'S MOST SUCCINCT MISSION: **FINISH**



*Dr. Ender with chemistry students.*

## Finish What You Start.

When our namesake, William Rainey Harper, helped start the community college movement over 100 years ago, he couldn't have imagined the challenges faced by today's students and employers. Today's global economy demands a workforce equipped with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills such as technical expertise, collaborative communication and the ability to continuously learn over a lifetime of work. While more people than ever before are seeking postsecondary education to obtain these skills, the percentage of those who actually finish with a degree or workforce certificate remains stagnant.

Nationally, fewer than 25% of students who begin at a community college graduate with an associate degree within three years.\* The rate is even lower if a student starts out in remedial classes.

Students who fail to move beyond a high school diploma are likely to end up in a perpetual cycle of low-skill, low-wage jobs. Our local businesses and industries depend on a reliable pipeline of highly skilled workers to complete in a global economy. If businesses can't find skilled workers here, they will move elsewhere. Getting students to finish at Harper College benefits us all.

Harper's five-year strategic plan has a simple goal – increase the number of students who graduate with a degree or workforce certificate. Even though we've just begun, we're already seeing results. Last year we graduated the most students in Harper's history. But we need to keep up the pace to reach 10,604 additional graduates over the next nine years (see the chart.)

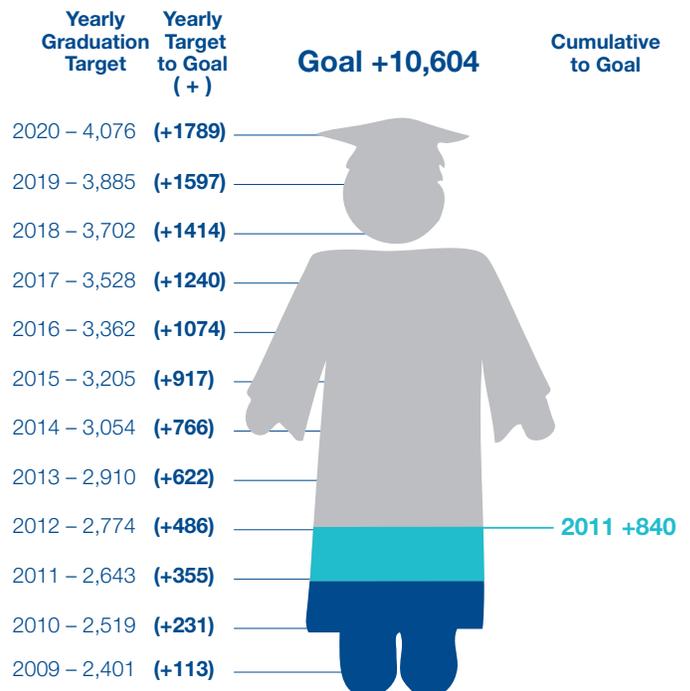
We've developed new programs and strategies that keep Harper College on the cutting edge of community college education. Every passing grade, every degree earned and every certificate achieved moves us closer to our ultimate goal: to become a model 21<sup>st</sup> century community college and to help more students finish what they start.

Kenneth L. Ender, Ph.D., President  
William Rainey Harper College

The United States once led the world in the number of young adults with college degrees. Today the U.S. ranks 12<sup>th</sup> among 36 developed nations, according to the College Board. To close the gap, President Barack Obama has challenged community colleges to produce 5 million more graduates by the year 2020.

So, we did the math. Harper's proportional share is 10,604 additional graduates by 2020. Harper graduates about 2,500 students per year, which means Harper needs to average 1,000 more graduates annually over the next nine years to meet President Obama's goal.

## Additional Graduates



\* Source: National Center for Education Statistics.

# Harper College Strategic Plan 2010-2015

## COMPLETION

Increase completion and achievement of all students with a focus on underperforming student groups.

- Increase the number of certificate and degree completers.
- Decrease student achievement gaps of developmental, young male and black non-Hispanic students, while increasing academic achievement for all.
- Increase the percentage of first-time, full-time freshmen from our feeder high school districts who begin in credit-bearing courses.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Create a culture of innovation, accountability and transparency at Harper College.

- Identify funding and leverage partner resources for innovative projects.
- Identify, monitor and publish results on institutional effectiveness measures, key performance indicators and metrics for strategic goals.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Engage in partnerships to develop programs in existing and emerging career areas that enable students to succeed in a global economy.

- Create “stackable” career and academic pathways that incorporate industry-relevant and postsecondary credentials which lead to a sustainable income.
- Integrate career readiness skills into education and training programs with an emphasis on adult education.

## INSPIRATION

Develop programs with educational partners that inspire postsecondary education and career readiness as a life goal.

- Inspire all students to seek postsecondary opportunities.
- Ensure P-20 curriculum alignment and transfer articulation.



## 10,604

President Barack Obama has challenged community colleges to produce five million more graduates by the year 2020. Harper's proportional share of additional graduates is 10,604.

## 24

Harper College has developed 24 institutional effectiveness measures which include graduation rates, transfer rates, rates of student persistence, financial performance and more. These measures can be found by clicking 10,604 on the home page of our Web site, harpercollege.edu.

## 3,833

In 2011, Harper College conferred 3,833 associate degrees or workforce certificates which represents the largest graduating class in Harper's history.



*Regina Rector, Associate Professor  
Biology*

## 78

In August of 2010 an independent research company asked residents what Harper is best known for: 78% of respondents said Harper is best known for its academic quality.



# Harper Fast Facts

## COMMUNITIES SERVED

Arlington Heights, Barrington, Barrington Hills, Elk Grove Village, Hoffmann Estates, Inverness, Lake Barrington, Mount Prospect, North Barrington, Palatine, Prospect Heights, Rolling Meadows, Schaumburg, South Barrington, Tower Lakes, Wheeling and portions of Buffalo Grove, Carpentersville, Deer Park, Des Plaines, Fox River Grove, Hanover Park and Roselle

## FACULTY

229 full-time, 682 part-time

## NON-FACULTY

508 full-time and 103 part-time

## ENROLLMENT

Credit: 27,419; Continuing Education: Non-Credit: 7,554  
(Fiscal Year 2011 unduplicated headcount)

## IN-DISTRICT TUITION

\$102.50 per credit hour

## DISTRICT POPULATION

534,984

## OPERATING BUDGET

\$106.7 million

## CAMPUS SIZE

200 acres, 24 buildings

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

8 Associate/Transfer degree programs  
40 Associate of Applied Science degree programs  
108 Certificate programs

## FOUNDING DATE

District established by referendum March 27, 1965

## OPENING DATE

September 1967



1200 West Algonquin Road  
Palatine, Illinois 60067-7398

847.925.6000  
harpercollege.edu

Harper College is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status or sexual orientation. 17458 SM10/11

