

Your Community's College

2023 COMMUNITY REPORT





Our Mission

Harper College enriches its diverse communities by providing quality, affordable, and accessible education. Harper College, in collaboration with its partners, inspires the transformation of individual lives, the workforce, and society.

On the cover: Igniting Paths to Success scholarship recipient, Stacie Hemley.



President's Perspective

What does it mean to be the “community’s college?” For Harper it means:

- Delivering on the promise of education to improve the lives of people in our community.
- Closing equity gaps and making a college education accessible and affordable for more people.
- Ensuring more students succeed, complete, and continue to experience a brighter future.
- Providing educational opportunities that meet the needs of people throughout their career and life course.
- Engaging in partnerships with businesses, community organizations, and higher education peers to innovate, improve, and meet the rapidly changing demands of students and employers.
- Creating a campus community that welcomes and supports all students and reflects how we strive to live our values every day.

In this report, we will share the progress we’ve made and set the stage for what comes next. For example, we achieved a record high graduation rate of 43.7% in 2023. While we recognize this progress, we know our work is only the beginning. That’s why our strategic plan targets three key measures by 2024:

- **5%** increase in credentials conferred
- **10%** increase in graduation rate
- **20%** reduction in equity gaps

It is imperative that Harper College continues to provide sound stewardship, cultivate partnerships, and pursue breakthrough innovations so that we are prepared to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

This report is also an invitation for you to join us as a student, alum, donor, employer, or partner as we continue to fulfill the promise of education to create opportunities, solve problems, and enrich lives so our students can soar to their futures.

Forward Together,

Dr. Avis Proctor
President, Harper College

Harper named as a 2023 Top 25 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence semifinalist



Harper College was selected as one of 25 semifinalists for the 2023 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, a milestone in the award selection process for the nation's signature recognition of community colleges that are achieving high, improving and equitable outcomes for students in and beyond college.

"Harper becoming a semifinalist for the Aspen Prize is an incredible achievement and a true testament to the dedication and innovation shown by our extraordinary faculty and staff to help more students achieve their dreams," said Dr. Avis Proctor, president of Harper College. "To have our commitment to excellence and equity in student success recognized by such a respected organization is a tremendous honor."

Awarded every two years, the Aspen Prize honors colleges with outstanding performance in five critical areas: teaching and learning; certificate and degree completion; transfer and bachelor's attainment; workforce success; and equitable outcomes for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds.

The Aspen Institute invited 150 community colleges to apply out of more than 1,000 institutions nationwide based on data showing strong and improving student outcomes in key areas such as retention, completion, transfer and equity.

Harper was previously eligible to apply for the 2017 honor, as well. Harper is one of two Illinois schools to be named a semifinalist; nearby Elgin Community College was also named.



Harper recognized by Achieving the Dream as a 2023 Leader College of Distinction

Harper College has been designated a Leader College of Distinction by Achieving the Dream (ATD), a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing community colleges as hubs of equity and mobility in their communities.

ATD created the Leader College of Distinction award in 2018 to recognize colleges that have pursued and met challenging student success goals, often earning Leader College status several times. Leader Colleges of Distinction must show improvement in three or more student outcome metrics, including at least one lagging indicator such as completion or transfer with an earned baccalaureate. Leader Colleges of Distinction are also required to show they have reduced equity gaps in at least two metrics for at least two student groups. These requirements recognize and motivate sustained and proactive reform efforts that result in greater improvements in student success and equity.

Harper is part of the ATD Network, made up of 300+ colleges committed to advancing equity and supporting student success at their institutions and throughout their communities. Harper has been a member of the ATD Network since 2009 and has held Leader College status since 2020.

Additional Harper College Achievements

Launched the
FY2021-2024
Strategic Plan
**with the theme
Forward Together.**

Received the Illinois
Community College
Trustees Association's
**2023 Equity and
Diversity Award**
for outstanding DEI efforts.

Received an
\$18 million gift
the largest in Harper's history, from
philanthropist MacKenzie Scott.

These funds were used to launch the Igniting Paths to Success scholarships for 1,600 students and provide grants to five local nonprofits whose missions support the advancement of equity, diversity and economic mobility for underserved and marginalized communities.



Additional Harper College Achievements

Established a college-wide goal **to close equity gaps by 20% by 2024**

Awarded more than \$21 million to students in emergency financial grants from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds. More than 18,000 awards were made to students.

More than \$163k from the U.S. Department of Education received by Harper College's Office of International Education for a group study project in Kenya and Uganda.

The Harper College Police Department has been recognized by the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ILEAP). Harper's police force is only the second community college police department in the state to achieve ILEAP accreditation from the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP).

Created new continuing professional education courses in collaboration with the Palatine Fire Department to bring instruction closer to local fire districts.

Raised more than **\$29.5 million**

through the Inspire Campaign and created 50 new, mostly endowed scholarships.

Provided scholarships for students to complete Google's Professional Certificates Program on Coursera. This online, self-paced program allows students and staff to obtain world-class, industry-recognized skills training that can help prepare learners for high-growth, in-demand jobs.

Launched Healthcare Apprenticeships as a result of strong partnerships developed with AMITA Health and JourneyCare.

Created a virtual mentoring program in collaboration with Harper's Alumni group pairing alums and students with industry leaders and experts in their fields for a unique one-on-one virtual mentoring experience.

Collaborated with Rush Medical Center to create a Medical Assistant Apprenticeship Program.

Harper's Innovation Accelerator is implementing a new Business & Industry Leadership Team (BILT) advisory council that engages technical executives, technicians, and other industry professionals to actively co-lead the program's focus and curriculum in three new programs: cybersecurity and information assurance, artificial intelligence, and cloud infrastructure.

Student Success

Approved 16 student success initiatives

allocating \$6.2 million to address student needs and enhance opportunities for success. Those initiatives are:

Childcare Fees Grant, Emergency Relief Fund, Equity in Technology Access, Finish Line Grants, Hawks Care, Honorlock FY22 Subscription, IDEAShop Discovery, Last Dollar Scholarships, Logistics Certificate at the Learning and Career Center, Open Educational Resources (OER), Reducing Differential Tuition, Short-term Training Scholarships, Summer LAUNCH Bridge Program, Sustaining Promise, Tuition Relief, Women's Program Scholarships.

Prepared more than 250 faculty for online instruction through courses and supported additional faculty through workshops. The Academy for Teaching Excellence also responded to more than 700 requests for online instruction design or support when the college moved to a remote learning environment.

Reduced textbook and course material costs for students by implementing Open Educational Resource (OER) course materials in an additional 222 course sections. More than 5,000 (duplicated) students used OER materials with an estimated total savings of \$450,000.

Established new Institutional Effectiveness Measures (IEMs) focused on leading and lagging student success measures and aligned with the college's SOAR framework (Search, Onboard, Advance, Realize). The SOAR framework explores student milestones and outcomes for each phase of the student lifecycle and serves as an organizing framework for the IEMs.



Fiscal Year 2022

21,370

Credit Students
(Unduplicated Annual)

7,935

Continuing Education Students
(Unduplicated Annual)



Fall 2022

31.4%

Full-Time
Students

68.6%

Part-Time
Students



74% of fall 2021 students
returned in spring 2022



5,023 Dual Credit Students
were enrolled in Fiscal Year 2022

Harper Radio WCHM was named **Best Community College Station in the nation**

by Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS) in
February 2023. Nina Stoner and Chris Smith, hosts of
Streaming Verse heard on WCHM (and seen on YouTube)
also won the IBS Award for Best Talk Program.

Harper's Speech and Debate Team **earned it's first national championship**

at the 2023 Phi Rho Pi National Tournament.

Harper's Women's Track and Field team **wins national championship**

for the second time in school history at Mohawk Valley
Community College.



Harper College won the **2022 NJCAA Division III Women's Cross Country Championship**

in Westfield, Massachusetts. This marks the fourth national championship in the program's history.



Providing resources for early childhood education students

Harper College understands the importance in investing in early childhood education. That's why Harper is a member of the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE), a program created by the Illinois General Assembly in 2021 to address the shortage of qualified early childhood educators, advance racial equity and improve accessibility to the childcare workforce pipeline by removing barriers to credential and degree completion.

As one of ECACE's 60-plus member institutions, the college received \$1.4 million in grant funds to help recruit and support students in the incumbent workforce looking to upskill their qualifications and pursue degree or certificate programs in Harper's Early Childhood Education (ECE) program.

"Harper and ECACE perfectly align on the importance of identifying and removing barriers to success for early childhood education students and for incumbent workers looking to advance in the field," said Dr. Avis Proctor, Harper College president and a member of the ECACE Advisory Committee. "We understand that improved access to education can be critical for students, local employers and our community – especially given the positive lifelong impact that our ECE graduates have on young learners."

Seeking to remove barriers, Harper's Early Childhood Education (ECE) program has deployed ECACE grant funds in many ways – adding support staff, scholarships and resources while strengthening relationships with area childcare providers. The program's added support positions include an early childhood support specialist, an early childhood academic coach and a designated early childhood academic advisor.

These key support networks have been able to work closely with ECE students to ensure they are on the path for success while pursuing degree or certificate programs.

Harper's ECE program is using the ECACE grant in a variety of ways to remove barriers to student success. One method is the creation of a lending library for students taking courses in early childhood education. Harper's leadership, faculty and staff understand that textbook costs pose a financial barrier for students and this lending library allows them to take courses without the worry of additional textbook fees.

Additionally, the program offers all students enrolled in an early childhood program of study a free Chromebook for the spring 2023 semester to use and keep. Many ECE students don't have a computer to complete their coursework and this Chromebook will break down another barrier to their success.

With ECACE grant funds, Harper's ECE program also created stipends for students completing an early childhood practicum. Harper also offers retention stipends to cover the cost of a course after the student has completed 75% of their program of study.

"It is absolutely necessary to invest in early childhood education because these teachers and caregivers are the ones providing the building blocks of physical, social/emotional and cognitive development for our youngest of learners," said Lauri Marmorstone, Harper's Early Childhood Support Specialist. "The impact of high-quality early childhood education prepares children for future success."

2023 Graduation Profile

3,500 graduates, ages **15-99**
from **7** states and **9** countries

1,271 first-generation students

187 Promise scholars

301 Igniting Paths to Success scholars

220 Finish Line Grant recipients

825 first-responders

195 student-athletes

9 all-Americans

45 apprentices



4,419 Total Credentials Earned
1,920 Degrees
2,499 Certificates

Fiscal Year 2022

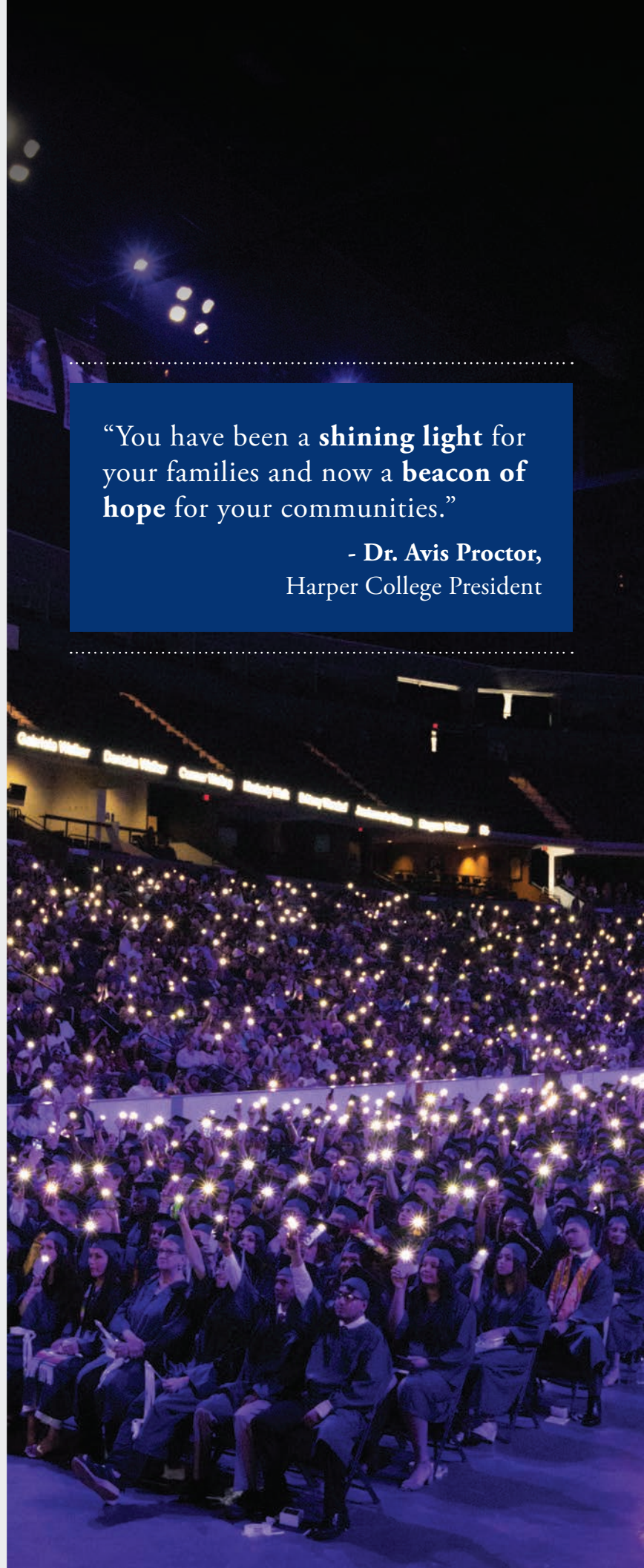


38% Graduate Rate
21% Transfer Rate

2018 IPEDS Cohort

“You have been a **shining light** for your families and now a **beacon of hope** for your communities.”

- **Dr. Avis Proctor**,
Harper College President





University Center

4 Partners for Students to Earn

13 Degrees through the University Center
(12 Bachelor's and 1 Master's)



Increased partnerships in the **University Center**

by signing an agreement with Southern Illinois University (SIU) allowing students to complete bachelor's degrees through the Saluki Step Ahead program. These programs are in Accounting, Paralegal and Public Safety Management.

Roosevelt University

to add an MBA program and two new majors – graphic design and human resource management – to the University Center on Harper's campus beginning in fall 2023.



View the Investiture highlight video at
harpercollege.edu/investiture



Harper College celebrated the investiture of its sixth president, Dr. Avis Proctor, during a formal ceremony and swearing in on October 6, 2022.

Dr. Proctor, the first African American president and first woman president to lead Harper, assumed her role in July 2019. Community service was a cornerstone of Dr. Proctor's investiture. Harper partnered with several local organizations to provide volunteer opportunities for faculty and staff throughout the week and beyond.

Employees took part in a variety of activities including habitat restoration at the Craig Stettner Prairie on campus; assembling cold weather and new apartment kits and setting up shelters for Journeys: The Road Home; and helping at the Roots Community Garden at Partners for Our Communities. Other organizations faculty and staff volunteered at include Kenneth Young Center, Meals on Wheels, All Saints Lutheran Church Food Pantry, Second City Canine and WINGS.



Transportation

Harper partnered with Pace Suburban Bus

to start a new bus route (697) that brings students to the main campus more efficiently to and from the Northwest Transportation Center in Schaumburg. Since August 2022, the route 697 bus provided more than 6,000 rides.

The Harper College Lyft Pass program

offers students \$10 off each ride for up to eight rides per month. 96% of students surveyed said they felt using the Lyft program has contributed to their success as a student at Harper.



Harper launched its bike share program

in summer 2022 in partnership with the Village of Palatine and Koloni. On-campus bike rentals allow students and staff to access bikes through the Koloni app. From June through October 2022, there were more than 200 bike rides, 328 miles ridden, and more than 13,000 calories burned.

The Harper College Educational Foundation granted \$100,000 to five, local, nonprofit organizations



In June 2021, MacKenzie Scott bestowed \$18 million to Harper College through her mission of donating funds to “high-impact organizations.” To align with her equity-focused mission, the Harper College Educational Foundation launched the Community Innovation Fund Grant Program in April 2022.

The new program provides one-year grants to nonprofit organizations whose missions support the advancement of equity, diversity and economic mobility for underserved and marginalized communities in Harper’s district. The program’s goals align with Harper’s efforts to reduce the college’s equity gaps by 20% by 2024.

The five organizations that received a Community Innovation Fund Grant include:

Partners for Our Communities, Palatine – \$50,000 grant to support Skyward Bound: Encouraging Marginalized Students & Their Families to Reach for the Sky. This program will offer access to one-on-one therapy for under-resourced young adults (ages 18-22) and their families. Skyward Bound’s goal is to remedy a mental health equity gap that exists after high school students graduate, but before they enroll in college. POC seeks to help young adults struggling with growing up and away from family, higher education, and finding employment.

GiGi’s Playhouse, Hoffman Estates – \$15,000 grant for the Math and Literacy Program for people with Down syndrome. The proposal funded by this grant will create new, advanced program curriculum and increase the capacity for free math and literacy one-on-one support at GiGi’s, with the goal of improving achievement and access to community opportunities for those with Down syndrome.

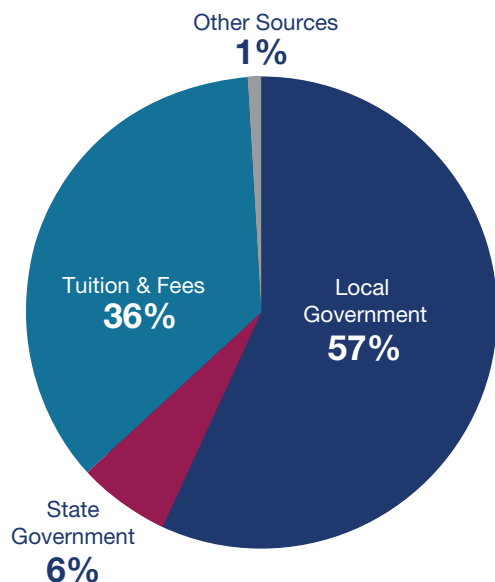
WINGS, Palatine – \$15,000 grant for the Suburban Rapid Rehousing Program, which will provide 40 households (approximately 160 people) with housing units and support services. The grant will fund supplies and educational/employment training assistance to serve the ultimate goal of breaking the cycle of domestic violence. WINGS assists clients in securing permanent housing and gainful employment upon exiting the program.

Fellowship Housing Corporation, Hoffman Estates – \$10,000 grant for Transitional Housing and Wrap Around Services, seeking to remedy equity gaps for a diverse group of single mothers and children. The programs goals include providing safe, affordable housing for these families, along with case management, financial education, counseling, debt matching and career training for single mothers, as well as school supplies and warm clothes for their children.

Barrington Area Development Council, Barrington/Carpentersville – \$10,000 to support InZone for Sunny Hill program, which will allow underserved students in grades four and five to attend the InZone Summer Enrichment and Sports Camp on Harper’s campus. The project is targeting 25 students at Sunny Hill Elementary School who will be able to choose from more than 150 courses that are structured to introduce college life and prepare them for the future.

Harper College Profile

**Tax-Capped Funds
FY 2023 Budgeted Revenues**



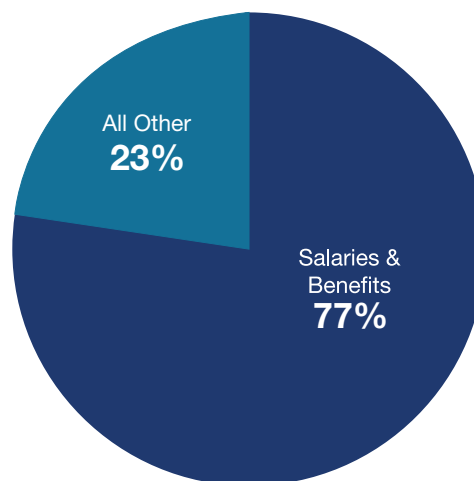
Local government represents 57% of the total budgeted revenues for the Tax-Capped Funds.

Tuition and fees make up 36% of total budgeted revenues.

State funding represents 6% of total budgeted revenues.

Other sources make up 1.0% of total revenues.

**Tax-Capped Funds
FY 2023 Budgeted Expenditures**



Salaries and benefits represent 77% of the College's expenditures.

All other expenditures, which include contractual services, materials and supplies, travel and meeting, fixed charges, utilities, capital outlay, contingency and other.



Harper's District is comprised of **528,355** people



Main Campus

23 Buildings

200 Acres

Locations

Main Campus

1200 West Algonquin Road, Palatine, IL 60067

Learning Career Center (LCC)

1375 South Wolf Road, Prospect Heights, IL 60070

Education and Work Center

6704 Barrington Road, Hanover Park, IL 60135

Financial Health

Harper College maintains top Aaa rating

Harper College has maintained its Aaa bond rating from Moody's Investor Services, the bond credit rating company's highest possible rating.

"Maintaining our Aaa rating is a testament to the college's sustained commitment to sound fiscal practices and the community's ongoing support as we continue offering quality, affordable and accessible education to our students," said Dr. Avis Proctor, Harper College president.

In a February 2023 report assigning its Aaa rating to Community College District 512 (Harper's district), Moody's cited the college's large and diverse tax base, strong and stable financial reserves, and moderate debt burden. The rating also reflects the college's low reliance on operating aid from the state.

In addition, Moody's assigned a rating outlook of "stable" based on the district's financial position and a stabilizing enrollment trend.

The Aaa rating enables the college to obtain lower interest rates in bond sales, refinancing and refunding initiatives, benefiting taxpayers. Moody's latest issuance was a required step as Harper prepared to issue about \$5 million in bonds to fund capital projects at the college.

Harper also recently learned that the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded the college with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for Harper's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. According to the judges, Harper's report meets "the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive spirit of full disclosure to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report."

Year to date for FY23, Harper College has been awarded \$5,026,619 in competitive grants and \$2,049,683 in state-agency-allocated grants for a total of \$7,075,302. These grants range in size from \$1,000 to \$1.8 million.



9 Registered **Apprenticeship** Programs
4 Customized **Apprenticeship** Programs



26+ **Local** Companies
Hiring Apprentices



Communities Served

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

For more information, please contact the Office of Institutional Research at oir@harpercollege.edu.
Updated January 2023

Leadership

HARPER COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Schaumburg

Walt Mundt
Vice-Chair
Palatine

Dr. Nancy Robb
Secretary
Inverness

Gregory Dowell
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Diane Hill
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President

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Vice President of Strategic Alliances and
Innovation/Board Liaison

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Executive Vice President of Finance and
Administrative Services

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Provost

Jeff Julian
Chief of Staff and Legislative Affairs Liaison

Dr. Tamara Johnson
Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Darlene Schlenbecker
Vice President of Planning, Research and
Institutional Effectiveness

Dr. Michelé Smith
Vice President of Workforce Solutions

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President
Financial Elements, Inc.

Georgeanna Mehr, Treasurer
(Retired) President
Hoffman Estates Community Bank

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Past President
President
Chartered Consultants, Inc.

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Vice President
Cedar Creek Investments, LLC

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Director, Hospital Programs
Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital & Condell
Medical Center

W. Bradley Stetson,
VP Development
Chairman / CEO
Barrington Bank & Trust Co., N.A.

Mark W. Cleary,
VP Programming
(Retired) Vice President of Supply Chain Management
Northrop Grumman Corporation

Ella Liberman,
Member at Large
Assistant General Counsel — Regulatory
Markel — Legal & Regulatory

Dr. Avis Proctor, Ex-Officio
President
Harper College

Diane Hill, Trustee Liaison,
Ex-Officio
(Retired) Northwestern University,
School of Communication

Laura J. Brown, Ex-Officio
Vice President, Harper College
Chief Advancement Officer,
Harper College Educational Foundation

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Chief Operating Officer
Beacon Power LLC

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Zurich NA

Joe Martin
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Pepper Construction Company

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Susan Rogers
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Director
Northern Trust

Melanie Witt
President/Attorney
Witt Law, P.C.

Forward**Together**

**Harper College invites you to follow our progress on behalf
of our students and our community and share your feedback.
Visit harpercollege.edu/communityreport to learn more.**

President, Avis Proctor, Ed.D.
Vice President and Chief Advancement Officer, Laura Brown
Director of Marketing Services, Mike Barzacchini
Manager, Creative Services, Sandra Minich

Art Direction and Design

Megan Ohlsen

Photography

Mike Hubatch
DMS Photography



harpercollege.edu

Forward**Together**

Harper College Main Campus

1200 West Algonquin Road
Palatine, Illinois 60067

Learning and Career Center

1375 South Wolf Road
Prospect Heights, Illinois 60070

Education and Work Center

6704 Barrington Road
Hanover Park, Illinois 60135

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