

HARPER COLLEGE

# COMMUNITY REPORT

SPRING 2018



Where  
**BELIEVE**  
Meets  
**ACHIEVE**



HARPER COLLEGE  
**50**  
*Years*

**PROUD PAST  
STRONG FUTURE**  
1967 - 2017

## 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.



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Harper College presents this  
Community Report to provide updates  
on the progress we're making in service  
to our students and our community.

We invite you to learn more about  
these and other College initiatives and  
share your questions and feedback  
at [harpercollege.edu/communityreport](http://harpercollege.edu/communityreport).



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Harper College is here not just to serve our community, we're here because of our community. And we are truly grateful.

From our beginnings in March 1965, when residents voted to support an institution of higher learning in our region, to the first classes offered in the fall of 1967, through the creation of a first-class learning environment over these past 50 years, our community and its support have allowed us to fulfill our mission to provide quality, affordable and accessible education for students in the northwest suburbs of Chicago.

On April 14, 2018, we will say "thank you" by hosting our 50th Anniversary Community Day. The celebration will include a College and Career Expo for young learners in grades 4-8 and their families and an Inspire U Experience Expo for adult learners.

For our alumni, the day will also include a reunion, soccer game and art exhibit featuring the work of many of our talented graduates. There's much more to discover by visiting [harpercollege.edu/50](http://harpercollege.edu/50) and clicking on "events."

We hope you will join us on April 14. After all, it's as much your party as it is ours.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory Dowell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gregory Dowell  
Chair, Harper College Board of Trustees



## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Moments matter.

Perhaps you remember a moment that mattered to you:

- That time a parent or older sibling set an example you live by today.
- A grade school teacher who shared a lesson that still resonates.
- A boss or coworker on your first job who helped mentor you for future success.

At Harper College, we spend a lot of time thinking and talking about the Power of Moments. More importantly, we are always looking for ways to put that power into action. We're keenly aware that every student and his or her goals and dreams matter, and that every member of the Harper campus matters to that student's success.

Even the smallest interaction — from providing directions during a first visit to campus, taking time to answer a question or provide a resource and reassuring students during a challenging time in their coursework or their lives — can make a dramatic difference. Taken individually, these may each seem like small moments or actions, but they all add up.

In this and future Community Reports you will read about initiatives that may seem large and complex. Dig deeper and you will find that they are made up of many Moments that Matter. This includes initiatives designed to improve workforce development, and the continuing improvement of our campus environment to better meet the requirements of today's learners. Progress and innovations like these are created by our laser-focus on student success, guided by our mission, values and strategic plan.

I invite you to explore the Power of Moments in your own life. Reflect on a moment that mattered to your education, career and life, and how you're making the difference now for people around you. And discover more moments that mattered to our students and alumni by visiting [harpercollege.edu](http://harpercollege.edu) and searching "Harper Stories."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Ender', written in a cursive style.

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

# The Power of Moments

## in Student Success

*Adapted from a speech by Robin James, Assistant Professor, Business and Social Science, at the Spring 2018 all-campus meeting for faculty and staff.*

In a chance moment I had the opportunity to meet our alumni speaker through the One Million Degrees scholarship program.

Patricia Smith-Edmonds and I were magically matched. We quickly discovered that we both had East Coast roots, three adult children and were lifelong learners.

Pat was working on her associates degree with her eye on earning her MBA from Princeton University, and I was working through my doctoral journey.

Through our One Million Degrees (OMD) interaction, we began to form a bond and commitment to “getting it done!”

It was those Saturday morning OMD mentoring moments – when we should have been more focused on the curriculum of the day – that we began planning and strategizing the next steps.

As we began to chart a pathway of program completion, I had the opportunity to have Pat in one of my Fast Track classes. It was in that moment that I began to see Pat the student, and not Pat the mentee. Her academic preparation, dedication and commitment became a reality and not just a statement of doing.



Patricia Smith-Edmonds



Patricia Smith-Edmonds accepting her degree from President Kenneth Ender at the summer 2017 Fast Track graduation.

Over the next two years, I witnessed Pat excel at achieving every goal she set for herself – taking a full course load and working full-time, receiving a full scholarship to complete her degree at Harper, and then receiving another full scholarship to continue on to complete her bachelor’s degree at Roosevelt University, where she is a student today. I knew she was well on her way to academic success. Some months after completing the OMD program, a colleague handed me a note that I had somehow overlooked, a note which I now entitle ‘The Power of Moments’:

*“...Robin James – you taught me by your example how to keep on keeping on. Every time I felt overwhelmed and felt like an old failure, your story of rising up in AT&T while raising your family, and going back to school to earn your Ph.D. WOWED me again and again. Thank you for being such an inspiration. One day when I get my Ph.D., it will all be due to you because you showed me how...”*

I had no idea how those chance moments of sharing impacted Pat’s life, but my life will forever be transformed by the ‘powerful moments of knowing’ Patricia Smith-Edmonds’.

Learn more about One Million Degrees at [harpercollege.edu](http://harpercollege.edu), search: **“One Million Degrees”**

Learn more about Fast Track at [harpercollege.edu](http://harpercollege.edu), search: **“Fast Track”**

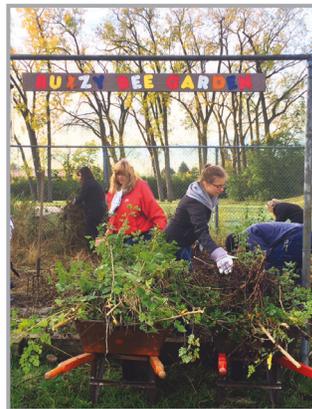
# Doing More Together

As part of our 50th anniversary celebration, Harper College faculty and staff came together in the week of October 23, 2017, to make a difference in the community, donating almost 600 hours during Doing More Together Week.

Volunteers from the College worked with more than 20 community partners and charity organizations to lend a hand with everything from assembling care packages for active duty service members to baking homemade dog treats for local shelters.

## Other highlights included:

- Transforming two wild patches of weeds into learning gardens.
- Showing area elementary students how to tap into the power of their iPads.
- Helping distribute winter coats to more than 300 children in need.
- Inspiring middle school children to explore and discover career options.
- Conducting STEAM activities for a kindergarten/5th grade buddy class.
- Donating much-needed items and putting together care kits for WINGS.
- Making blankets for people who live in local assisted living facilities.



# 50 Years of Amazing Moments



## PROUD PAST STRONG FUTURE

Harper's celebration of its 50th anniversary continues this spring. You're invited to join us on Saturday, April 14, for Community Day (read more on page 13), TEDxHarperCollege on Wednesday, April 18, and of course, our 50th Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 19, when we celebrate our students' success and welcome David Coleman, President and CEO of The College Board as this year's Speaker.

You can learn more about Harper's Proud Past and Strong Future anytime at [harpercollege.edu/50](http://harpercollege.edu/50).

- Explore our 50th Timeline.
- See how Harper has changed in our photo gallery.
- Read the *Harper College, the First 50 Years* e-book.
- View the *Daily Herald* Special Section.
- And much more.

Thank you for your support of Harper College and its Proud Past and Strong Future.

# Harper College Expands Outreach to **Military-Connected Students**, Opens New Center

## Top-Ten Program Areas Veterans Enroll in at Harper College

1. Health Careers
2. Accounting
3. Business Administration and Management
4. Computer Information Systems
5. Law Enforcement and Justice Administration
6. EMT
7. Engineering
8. Maintenance Technology
9. Paralegal
10. Welding



Board of Trustee Chair Gregory Dowell, Drew Kong, Student Veterans Association and President Kenneth Ender at the Veterans Center ribbon cutting event.

On February 8, 2018, Harper College held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the opening of its new Veterans Center. This is just the latest part of an initiative to serve more military-connected students in our community, including active duty, reservists, veterans and eligible dependents.

Many College offices have designated Veteran Services Representatives, and Harper has an active Harper Student Veterans Association that participates in a variety of community activities, including Habit for Humanity and Feed My Starving Children.

Harper hosts monthly information sessions for veterans and military-connected individuals to help them get started with their college education and make the most of the benefits. College representatives are also participating in community events including veterans job fairs, and Harper's Job Placement Resource Center offers veteran-focused resume writing and interviewing workshops.

**Learn more, including dates of upcoming Veterans Information Sessions, at [harpercollege.edu/veterans](http://harpercollege.edu/veterans)**

## HARPER VETERAN FAST FACTS

# 520

**veterans, reservists and military-connected students** enrolled in credit or continuing education classes at Harper College in the 2017 academic year.

# MORE THAN 500 VISITS

**to the new Veterans Center in fall semester 2017.**

# 69.5%

**increase in credentials** earned by veteran and military-connected students from the 2015 to 2016 academic year.

# Apprenticeships Power Student Success and Workforce Development

## Imagine graduating from college debt-free and already employed.

Harper College provides this opportunity by partnering with large, medium and small employers in a variety of industries for its Registered Apprenticeship Programs. Here's how it works: Employers interview and hire an apprentice from applicants or internal candidates. While enrolled in the program, apprentices receive a salary and benefits from their employer and the employer pays for the educational costs.

Harper's programs are registered with the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeships. This ensures a quality education by combining on-the-job training provided by the employer with related classroom instruction to prepare the student-apprentice for successful employment in a high-demand career.

The program currently serves 97 student-apprentices. The first cohort of insurance apprentices graduated from Harper in fall 2017, with the first group of maintenance mechanic apprentices scheduled to graduate this spring.

Apprenticeships are just one way Harper is helping prepare more students for a successful career, while helping area businesses meet future workforce needs.

Learn more about Harper's Apprenticeship Programs at [harperapprenticeships.org](http://harperapprenticeships.org).

## Harper's Apprenticeship Programs scheduled to start fall 2018 include:

- Manufacturing
  - Industrial Maintenance Mechanic
  - CNC Precision Machining
- General Insurance
- Supply Chain Logistics
- Banking and Finance
- Retail Sales
- Cyber Security
- Graphic Arts Print Production

## Debt-Free Education + Career Opportunities

Through Harper's Registered Apprenticeship Program, apprentices earn a salary from their job while attending college to learn a specific career.

### HARPER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

**3.57**

Average GPA of Harper's apprenticeship students (on a 4.0 scale)

**31**

Number of Companies Participating in Harper's

Registered Apprenticeship Program as of December 2017. This includes 29 manufacturing companies, two supply chain logistics companies and two insurance companies.

**88%**

Retention rate of students who participate in the apprenticeship program.

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# Increasing **Access to a Bachelor's Degree** on Harper's Campus

Through the University Center, students can now earn a bachelor's degree from a four-year university by taking courses offered at Harper's Palatine campus. The goal of the University Center is to make earning a university degree more convenient, affordable and accessible for area residents while advancing workforce development.

The Center's programs are also designed to meet community and national needs. It's estimated that by 2020, 65% of all jobs in the U.S. economy will require postsecondary education and training beyond high school.

## Program highlights

- Earn your associates and bachelor's degrees on Harper's campus.
- Take advantage of transfer pathways.
- Save money on your four-year degree.
- Enroll concurrently at Harper and the university to complete a degree program.
- Access admissions, registration and academic advising staff from the university on Harper's campus.

## Current majors and programs

- Communication and Media (BA) - DePaul University
- Information Technology (BS) - DePaul University
- Business Administration (BAPS) - DePaul University
- Educational Studies - Early Care and Education (BA) - Roosevelt University
- Criminal Justice (BA) - Roosevelt University
- Coming Soon - Northern Illinois University

The University Center at Harper College is located in Building D, Room D264

### For more information,

**Call:** 847.925.6315

**Email:** [universitycenter@harpercollege.edu](mailto:universitycenter@harpercollege.edu)



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Harper's 10-year campus master plan envisions a \$28.5 million University/Innovation Center to promote regional economic and workforce development and increase access to bachelor's degree completion programs.

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# ‘Students to Watch’ and ‘Today I Learned’ Focus on Harper Students and Their Stories

#StudentsToWatch



Saly Phom

“I have to challenge myself in everything that I do. Nobody can tell me that I can’t achieve something.”

- Saly Phom

Harper College has always made a commitment to share stories of its amazing students and graduates. During its 50th Anniversary Celebration, the College has recommitted to storytelling in a major way.

“Students to Watch” and “Today I Learned” are just two ways Harper is sharing student stories across social media and the web.

“Students to Watch” features profiles of people like Army Veteran and HVAC student Saly Phom who shared her journey from military service to Harper, along with her goals for the future.

“Today I Learned” takes an “in the moment look” at a Harper student who shares a lesson or insight from a particular experience at the College. For example, Matt Mulé, who said, “Today I learned more about digestive systems and how the human body works in my Biology class. I’m in the Nursing program so this is really interesting to me because once you know how it all works, you can begin to see how you can better analyze and care for the human body.”

To read more stories about Harper students, follow the College on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Also, visit [harpercollege.edu/stories](http://harpercollege.edu/stories) where you can read more stories, and submit your Harper story.

#TodayILearned



Matt Mulé

“Today I learned more about digestive systems and how the human body works in my Biology class. I’m in the Nursing program so this is really interesting to me because once you know how it all works, you can begin to see how you can better analyze and care for the human body.”

- Matt Mulé

Join Us for a Celebration of  
**HARPER COLLEGE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

# COMMUNITY DAY | SATURDAY APRIL 14

Harper College is opening our doors to celebrate our 50th Anniversary honoring our proud past. We invite you and your family to experience, learn, reconnect and realize all that Harper College has to offer you today and in the future. The day's events will include:

**COLLEGE AND CAREER EXPO** *FREE*

For students in grades 4–8 and their families. Career exploration through family-friendly, interactive activities.

**INSPIRE U EXPERIENCE EXPO** *FREE*

Adults are invited to a series of free mini-classes and music performances. Experience the best of what Continuing Education has to offer. Brought to you by Continuing Education and the Community Music and Arts Center.

**ALUMNI REUNION** *FREE*

Whether you've taken one class, earned a certificate or degree, or have committed to a life full of learning at Harper, we invite all former students, faculty and staff to join us for this all-class alumni reunion celebration. Visit with departments and programs that have cultivated the College's 50 years of educational success.

**ALUMNI ART EXHIBIT** *FREE*

For the first time, an exhibition will be curated from the impressive list of art alumni to celebrate Harper's 50th anniversary.

**ALUMNI SOCCER GAME** *FREE*

Former soccer players are invited to a friendly co-ed game at Harper's stadium. Student athletes will also put on a mini-clinic for kids.

**ENCORE II: A 50TH ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI CELEBRATION PERFORMANCE**

Harper Ensemble Theatre Company Alumni will revisit scenes and songs from 50 years of musical theatre, with select performances from some of Harper's most gifted performing arts alumni. Join us for this joyful reunion! Directed by Laura Pulio Colbert.

Saturday, April 14, 2018, 7 P.M.

Performing Arts Center

\$15 suggested donation.

Call 847.925.6100 to reserve tickets.

Visit [harpercollege.edu/50](http://harpercollege.edu/50) for more information about Community Day.



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[harpercollege.edu](http://harpercollege.edu)

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Schaumburg, Illinois 60173

**Learning and Career Center**

1375 South Wolf Road  
Prospect Heights, Illinois 60070

**Education and Work Center**

6704 Barrington Road  
Hanover Park, Illinois 60135