

HARPER COLLEGE

# COMMUNITY REPORT

FALL 2016



Opening Doors  
for Student  
Success



## 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

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to affirm our commitment to Harper's mission, which is to provide quality, affordable and accessible education. Together with our partners, the College works to inspire and transform lives and our society, as well as ensure a strong local workforce.

We are committed to ensuring that our students succeed – that they graduate with credentials that help them achieve their goals. The Board is firmly committed to the financial stewardship of the institution by ensuring Harper is properly financed and efficient in its operations. Finally, we are committed to making Harper College the best community college not only in our region and state, but across the country.

These commitments and their results are highlighted in this Community Report. It summarizes the results of our extraordinary dedication to student success and the amazing things our students are doing in and outside of the classroom. I only wish we could highlight them all!

Each year, the Harper College Board of Trustees is faced with many decisions. We realize that these decisions impact thousands of students, their families and our community. We are constantly looking at priorities and initiatives that will utilize our resources most effectively for the benefit of our constituents. We realize Harper College is an important resource to the community in preparing students for the next phase of their lives.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to thank the residents and taxpayers of our district. Thank you for your support and commitment to Harper College.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Dowell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "D".

Gregory Dowell  
Chair, Harper College Board of Trustees



## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Harper College Community Members and Friends,

The success of Harper College students and employees was remarkable this past year. The stories and examples we share in this Community Report provide just a few examples of this impressive work and its impact on our students.

The Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and administration are dedicated to the success of our students and our community. We understand the vital role we play in meeting not only the workforce demands of our region, but in helping students complete what they came here to start.

With this in mind, I am proud to report that for the 2015-2016 academic year, we achieved our highest graduation rate in 10 years. Our students earned 3,455 degrees and certificates. This is 93 credentials above our annual goal and puts us at 91% of our long-term goal of awarding 10,604 additional degrees and certificates by 2020.

These incredible completion outcomes are a direct result of the hard work and dedication of faculty and staff who work tirelessly to serve and educate our students. Our efforts in this regard were recognized with Achieving the Dream's 2016 Leah Meyer Austin Award, honoring Harper's outstanding achievement in creating an institutional culture dedicated to supporting and increasing the success of all students.

At the same time that we've achieved these goals, higher education continues to undergo tremendous change across the State of Illinois. The state budget impasse has had a financial impact on Harper College, but because of the collaborative and focused fiscal oversight of our Board of Trustees, we have prioritized and repurposed both operational and capital dollars to navigate these financial difficulties. The Board is firmly focused on being sound stewards of our community's resources and trust.

Partnerships are key to the work we do at Harper College and more importantly the successes we have experienced. We understand that the support we receive from our community is so important and we thank you for helping Harper College become a premier institution.

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

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

# Harper's own Jack Kent Cooke Scholars

**Over the past six years, eight Harper students have been awarded the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, the largest private scholarship in the nation for students transferring from two-year community colleges to four-year institutions. This scholarship currently provides up to \$40,000 a year for community college students to complete their bachelor's degrees.**



Amanda Muledy  
2011



Kristen Scotti  
2012



Monika Jonuskeviciute  
2012



Sean Pedersen  
2014



Tiffany Tufts  
2014



Amanda Drexler  
2016



Eri Svenson  
2016

Not pictured:  
Elizabeth Erikson  
2013

The application process can be arduous. Students must demonstrate high academic ability and achievement, determination and perseverance, leadership skills, service to others and financial need. The most challenging requirement for many of the students, though, is the autobiographical essay.

For students, reflecting on their experience and putting into words their personal journey can be daunting, but fortunately they have a champion in their court: Dr. Alicia Tomasian. Tomasian is a Harper English professor who received her doctorate from the University of Chicago. In addition to her course load, she is the advisor for the Harper chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society and counsels students on the scholarship application process. Through constructive feedback and countless rewrites, she helps them find their voice and develop a narrative for their personal journey and growth as a scholar.

“Working at a community college, we have the privilege of making a difference,” notes Tomasian. “We help students see their future and develop a path forward. Some of our students have no idea how they would be able to afford to go to school.” The Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship makes a bachelor's degree possible for the recipients, particularly at a highly competitive, often expensive, elite school. “We help our students find scholarships, either large lump sum ones, like Jack Kent Cooke, or many smaller ones that, when combined, help make continuing their education possible,” adds Tomasian. Harper students have gone on to such elite institutions as Northwestern University, Georgetown University, Stanford University, Columbia University and the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Kristen Scotti, one of Harper's 2012 Jack Kent Cooke scholars, is currently completing her bachelor's degree in material science at Northwestern University while also leading a research team that has completed four projects for NASA. Scotti, a former credit manager, decided to come to Harper as an adult because she didn't have a degree, and she was concerned about her future job opportunities. In her first semester, she took an astronomy course with Professor Bhasker Moorthy that changed the trajectory of her life. "I didn't even know I would like science or that I would be any good at it," said Scotti. Scotti recalls that, in addition to teaching astronomy, Professor Moorthy taught students how to think like a scientist and critically evaluate information. When Moorthy mentioned NASA's undergraduate research opportunity, Scotti took a shot and submitted a proposal to conduct microgravity research that was accepted. Conducting research as a first-year community college student launched her passion for research.

For Tomasian, "Helping our students succeed is incredibly rewarding and is one of the reasons I chose to teach at a community college."

.....

**"I would never have been able to quit my job to go to school full-time and run these NASA projects were it not for the Jack Kent Cooke scholarship. And I certainly wouldn't have been able to do it at Northwestern."**

**– Kristen Scotti**

.....



**Karbowski Awarded  
Inaugural HOPE Giving Circle  
\$10,000 Scholarship**

Kayla Karbowski considers herself pretty fortunate; after all, she's found her calling at just 19 years old.

The second-year Harper College student has no doubt she's meant to work with individuals who have special needs, a realization she came to over the past year working at the Northwest Special Recreation Association.

"The organization has shown me the difference I can make in a person's life and the enjoyment I get from working with children and adults with special needs," Karbowski, of Schaumburg, said. "To me, it doesn't feel like working." Karbowski's commitment to helping others – on top of a 4.0 GPA and induction into the Phi Theta Kappa honors society – made her the natural choice for the HOPE Giving Circle's inaugural \$10,000 scholarship.

For more information about the HOPE Giving Circle, contact the Educational Foundation at **847.925.6490**.

# Constructing a Modern Learning Environment



**The renovation of Building D transformed a 1969-era structure into a state-of-the-art learning environment designed to engage students and support innovative instruction.**

Harper College's Building D was one of the campus' original six buildings. Built in 1969, the building was designed to house the College's science and technology programs, including the northwest suburbs' first dental hygiene clinic, as well as general classrooms. An addition was added in 1972, and over the years the building has been retrofitted, modified and adapted to house a range of programs.

The construction, funded by Capital Referendum dollars approved by District 512 voters, was delivered on time and under budget. The College made the decision to renovate instead of demolishing and constructing a new building, thereby saving approximately 10 -15% in construction costs and supporting sustainability efforts. Bricks were salvaged and reused, environmentally friendly materials installed, 90% of the building materials

removed during demolition were recycled, and more than 80% of the materials used to build the project were sourced from within 500 miles of the campus. The building was brought into the 21st century with the introduction of natural light into every classroom. Classrooms were modernized with the latest instructional technology and acoustics were improved to better support learning.

Faculty worked closely with the architects to design spaces that enhance learning. We increased the space for students to gather and collaborate, incorporated a unique Student Study Space designed for collaborative learning, and created two special-use labs, one for English as a Second Language (ESL) and World Language and one for our American Sign Language and Interpreter Training programs.

A glass rotunda replaced a cavernous center lobby, opening up the view between the lake and inner campus and creating an inviting place for students to meet, study and learn.



Harper's tax-payer supported renovation of Building D has created a state-of-the-art learning environment for the community's students.

90% of the building materials removed during demolition were recycled and more than 80% of the materials used to build the project were sourced from within 500 miles of the campus.



Harper College President Dr. Kenneth L. Ender and Dee Beaubien. The centerpiece of Building D is a two-story, glass rotunda that creates an inviting place for students to meet, study and learn. It's known as the Beaubien Family Rotunda in recognition of Educational Foundation Board member Dee Beaubien's family's gift to support Harper's Promise program.

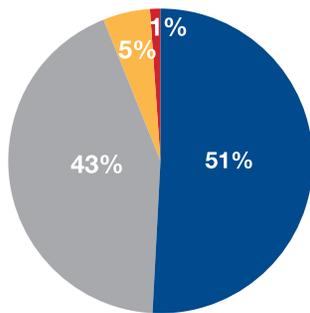


**Thoughtful planning and design helped bring this nearly 50-year-old structure into a model of efficiency and learning.**

- Cost: \$44.8 million (under budget)
- Size: 120,000 square feet
- 14,600 square feet of student study space
- 78% more square feet of windows, providing every classroom with natural light
- Twenty-nine 32-seat classrooms, with the flexibility to expand to 35 classrooms
- Two hybrid math classrooms that support traditional lectures, group work and computer work
- Developmental Math Center for individualized instruction and computer work
- Specialized American Sign Language/Interpreter Training Program Lab that provides computers and cameras for students to practice their ASL skills and record homework assignments
- Designed to LEED Silver certification standards

# Stewardship and Accountability: Financial and Facilities Review and Outlook

## FY 2017 PRELIMINARY BUDGET REVENUE BY SOURCE



- Local Government (Property Taxes) = 51%
- Tuition and Fees = 43%
- State Government = 5%
- Other Sources = 1%

Every year since 1981, state government support of Harper College has decreased. What used to represent nearly 40% of the College’s funding is now less than 10%.

## STEWARDSHIP IN SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

- In FY 2016, Harper refinanced bonds saving the taxpayers \$1.7 million.
- Harper has maintained a Moody’s Investors Service Aaa bond rating since 2001.
- Harper has received a “clean, unmodified opinion” on the financial condition of the College from independent auditors. A “clean, unmodified opinion” is the highest rating an institution can receive from an audit.
- Revenue losses from FY 2016 state budget impasse: \$5.7 million.
- A FY 2017 balanced budget, despite a budgeted 25% reduction from the last fully funded state budget, and a high bond rating demonstrate Harper’s commitment to the community to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

## CAMPUS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

**In fall 2008, community residents passed a \$153.6 million capital bond referendum, in support of the College’s Campus Master Plan. The plan, updated in 2010 and being reviewed in 2016, provides a vision for the College through 2020.**

### Campus Master Plan Projects:

- North Campus Improvements (2012)
- East Campus Parking Structure (2014)
- Fabricators & Manufacturers Association Advanced Manufacturing lab (2015)

- Renovation of Building H to create the Career and Technical Center, in partnership with the State of Illinois Capital Development Board (2015)
- Building D Renovation and Addition (2016)
- Outdoor Pavilion (2016)
- Renovation of Building F, Library and Academic Support Centers (scheduled to open 2018)
- Renovation of Building M (scheduled to open 2018)

Thank you for supporting Harper College and its mission to serve our community’s students.

# STUDENT & SUCCESS COMPLETION

## 26.28% GRADUATION RATE

In 2015-2016 Harper's students achieved the highest graduation rate in 10 years: **from 21.49% to 26.28%**

64.47%

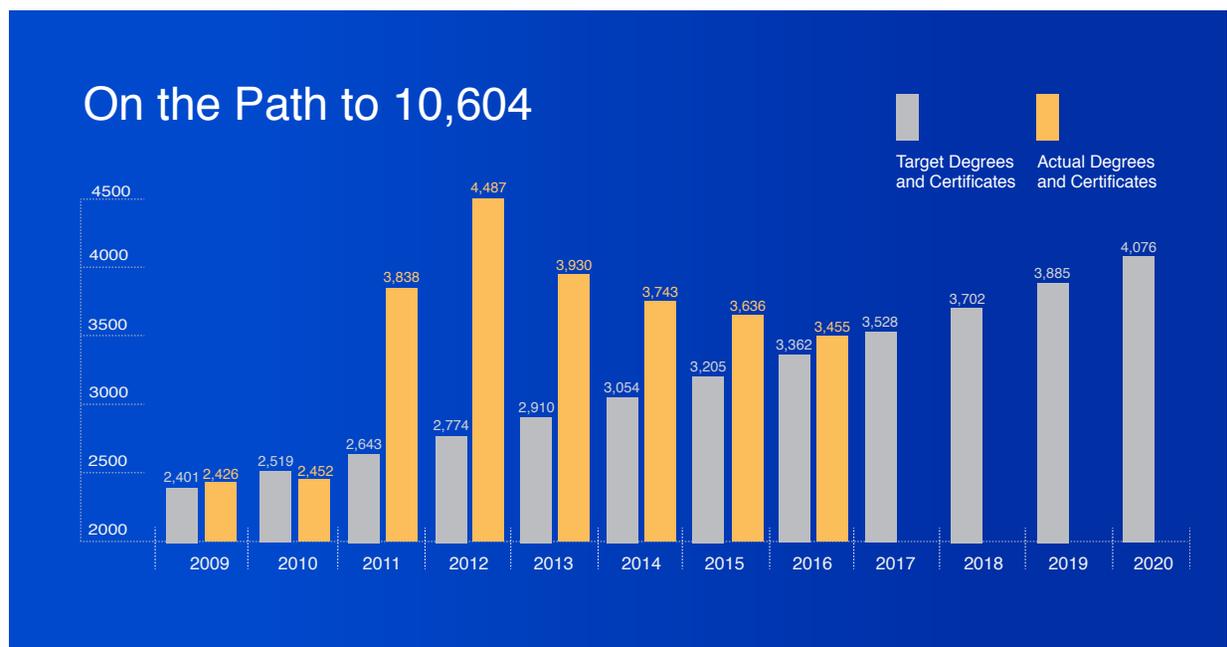
67.34%

## ADVANCEMENT RATE

The advancement rate of Harper's students rose from **64.47% to 67.34%**. Advancement Rate measures degree/certificate-seeking students who graduated, transferred or continued to enroll at Harper after three years.

## COMPLETION GOAL

Harper College has now achieved **91%** of its goal to grant 10,604 more degrees and certificates by **2020**.



# 2017-2019

## Presidential Priorities

**Harper College President Kenneth Ender outlined the following four priorities to the campus community in August 2016:**

### **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT**

Ensure that all students pursuing a credential complete a first year class/experience that results in the development of an education and career plan that will guide them to completion.

### **ENSURING STUDENT COMPLETION**

Develop a system where all students are assigned to a student advocate who will assist them in navigating their experience at Harper.

### **CAMPUS MASTER PLAN: COMPLETING THE FINAL THREE PRIORITIES**

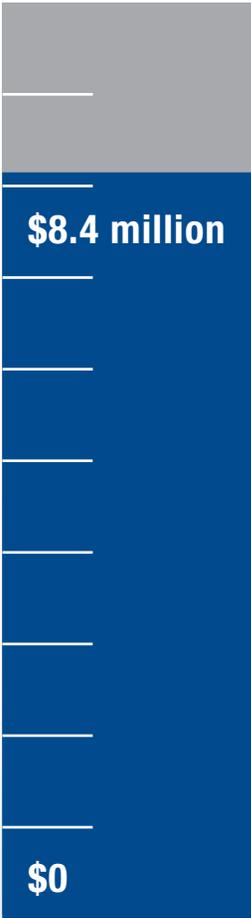
Complete and refurbish the Canning Center, Building F and Building M, which represent the final three priorities established in the 2010 Campus Master Plan.

### **FULLY FUND PROMISE**

Ensure that the Harper College Promise Scholarship Program is fully funded at the \$10 million level established when the program was designed and launched.



\$10 million



\$8.4 million

\$0

■ Raised ■ Remaining

Funding the  
Promise Scholarship:

**Funds raised**

AS OF AUGUST 2016

**\$8.4 million**

2019 fundraising goal

**\$10 million**



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

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**Education and Work Center**

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