



## PRESIDENT'S *REPORT*

July/August 2021

Dear Harper College Community:

A familiar atmosphere has returned to the college as preparations for the upcoming academic year are well underway. The beginning of the fall semester is truly a special time as educational journeys begin and our students are one step closer to realizing their dreams. While we continue to observe COVID-19 precautions such as masking and physical distancing, I am happy to see more students on campus safely getting ready for their classes.

Earlier this month, I presented an update to the Board of Trustees on the numerous mitigation efforts we have in place to provide a safe learning and working environment for our students and employees. These efforts include PPE, plexiglass, ASHRAE air standards and portable air filters for classrooms, enhanced cleaning, contact tracing and free testing on campus through SHIELD Illinois. We are stressing the importance of vaccinations through educational resources and incentives. Our strong partnership with Northwest Community Healthcare (NCH) continues as they have made vaccines available for free to students, employees and community members at the Outpatient Care Center on campus.

As of Aug. 13, we have received 821 applications for the Igniting Paths to Success scholarship funded by the transformational gift the college received earlier this year from MacKenzie Scott. Approximately 37 percent are new and returning students, while continuing students are taking advantage of the additional dollars to help them fund their education or additional classes. Thanks to the support of the Board of Trustees, we are able to offer generous scholarships, emergency grants and other technology and basic needs assistance to remove barriers for our students.

With the state's shift to Phase 5 earlier this summer, I was able to take advantage of more in-person opportunities in our district strengthening relationships with partners while getting to know our students and community members. I threw out the first pitch at the Schaumburg Boomers game where our talented team promoted Harper and provided backpacks for families. Along with the Executive Cabinet, I visited Partners for Our Communities, Journeys, and the Community Consolidated School District 21 Administrative Offices as part of our senior leadership retreat. I also spoke at Governor JB Pritzker's bill signing ceremony establishing the early childhood education consortium, attended a town hall on transportation with Arlington Heights Trustee Mary Beth Canty, Hanover Park Mayor Rodney Craig, Hoffman Estates Mayor Bill McLeod and Cook County Commissioner Kevin Morrison, and delivered the keynote at the GOA Regional Business Association Luncheon. I appreciate these moments to learn more about the people and the communities we serve. The fall semester is upon us, and I am committed to rebuilding community on campus as we make every connection count.

### **Campus News**

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## COVID-19 Response Team (CRT) Update

- COVID-19 occupancy counts for all main campus classrooms, labs and meeting rooms are completed. Classroom and lab setups for fall classes are completed. The additional HEPA filters required for fall classes have arrived.
- The Northwest Community Healthcare Outpatient Care Center will be offering free vaccines to students, employees, and community members. No insurance is required.
- CDC has changed its guidance on masks by recommending that all people wear masks indoors in areas of substantial or high transmission of the virus. In light of this new information, the college continued the indoor mask mandate.

## Student Success

### *Student Engagement*

- Campus Recreation and Harper Wellness partnered with Conference and Event Services each Wednesday in July at the outdoor pavilion for the Wellness Wednesday Workouts by the Water. Each week brought a different format including Yoga, Breath, Balance and Stretch, Zumba and High Intensity Interval Training.
- Student Engagement hosted a Movie on the Lawn event featuring the 20-year anniversary of *Shrek*. Approximately 80 individuals were in attendance on the perfect summer evening. The event featured a 25' blow-up movie screen, pre-movie music, and the ability to bring your own picnic.
- The Harper Men's Soccer team traveled to Herkimer, NY, in June to compete for the DIII National Championship. The team went 1-1 and ended the season ranked 5th in the final NJCAA Poll. Goalkeeper Alan Alfaro (Streamwood) was honored as a Second Team All-American.
- Eight Harper College athletes received recognition from the NJCAA for their academic work. There were three First Team (4.0 GPA), two Second Team (3.8-3.99), and three Third Team (3.6-3.79) Academic All-Americans. Tatiana Cooper (Schaumburg)/softball, Nick Anzelone (Conant)/baseball and Sumin Cho (Fremd)/ Women's Track and Field led with the high honors. The softball team was recognized by the NJCAA for their team GPA of 3.19. 56 N4C Academic All-Conference awards were awarded to Harper student athletes for having a GPA of 3.0 or higher in either the fall (50%) or spring semester (38.4%).
- Thirty employees participated in virtual Bystander Intervention Training provided through a collaboration between Human Resources and Student Engagement. Bystander Intervention Training is an educational workshop that teaches students and employees the necessary tools to prevent and safely intervene when bias, harassment, potential violence or other problematic behaviors occur in various environments and situations. The workshop aims to empower students and employees to help address and prevent harassment, discrimination and violence from occurring in everyday environments such as classrooms or workplaces.

## Office of International Education

- In collaboration with the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the Office of International Education (OIE) coordinates the Social Justice Leadership Certificate program, a year-long, project-based curriculum focusing on social justice theory, the institutional structure and organizational decision-making practices of the college. The program is open to all staff and faculty and is aimed at building capacity among employees to participate in and lead DEI initiatives at the college. This summer, we are excited to welcome Dr. Tamara Johnson, vice president of diversity, equity, and inclusion, as we launch our fourth and largest cohort of 11 members.
- Harper College was one of 40 colleges and universities to be awarded the inaugural Institute of International Education (IIE) American Passport Project grant. This grant provides funding to help first-year, Pell-eligible students obtain a U.S. passport. Working with the Harper College Grants Office, the OIE will promote the application and nomination process during the first week of fall classes. Our goal is to assist 25 students in receiving a U.S. passport, an often-unachievable access point to the world, before the winter break.
- Two Harper faculty, Pearl Ratunil (English) and Malathy Chandrasekar (Economics), were among 12 faculty selected to receive a Curriculum Infusion grant through the Midwest Institute for Intercultural/International Education (MIIE). In partnership with the three different Title VI National Resource Centers at the University of Michigan, MIIE will provide our faculty with mentoring and access to the online holdings of the Centers. The curriculum infusion modules will focus on South Asia, which coincides with our present Global Region of Focus. These modules will not only enhance the global content of the proposed courses, but they will also serve to advance the Office of International Education's campus internationalization objectives.

## Student Development

- Advising Services is transitioning to a drop-in approach for the entire month of August in order to increase advisor availability during this peak time. Advisors are also continuing the phased return to campus in August to ensure that they are available for in-person advising should students on their caseload request it. This transition involves ensuring that advisors have a safe space to work in with students, that all spaces are equipped with the necessary technology to work with students both virtually and in-person, and that we have adequate front office coverage to staff Student Development Centers during published service hours for the college.
- The use of the Starfish student success system during spring 2021 to support students and connect those who comprise a student's 'Network of Success' continued to be strong. Almost 4,000 unique students received a flag of concern, referral or kudo from a faculty member or advisor, which represents a 24% increase as compared to spring 2020 and is a 41% increase as compared to spring 2019. Of the total items raised, there was a 42% increase in the number of flags raised (5,313) that require advisors to follow-up with students to provide support and guidance. Additionally, the overall number of kudos, or positive encouragement, issued by faculty to their students increased by 62% to 2,292 as compared to spring 2020. These kudos were issued by 255 unique faculty members, representing a 16% increase in participation.  
*Data Source: Starfish System*
- The use of 'anytime feedback' utilizing the Starfish student success system continued to increase this summer as compared to last year. Over 1,700 flags, referrals and kudos were raised this summer by advisors and faculty, representing a 39% increase compared to summer 2020. With the recent goal achieved of assigning all credential-seeking students an advisor, this has resulted in a 9% increase in summer registered students (N= 4,351) having an assigned advisor as compared to summer 2020. During

the summer term advisors have utilized Starfish to follow up on flags of concern and to use Starfish to communicate to their assigned students. As of the beginning of August, over 18,000 emails were sent to case managed students by their point persons.

### *Interdisciplinary Programs*

- During Orientation Week, Phi Theta Kappa students Leia Ladios (recent graduate), Doninique Yuvienco, and Safa Saied will present their results from student and faculty surveys assessing experiences with online proctoring systems, such as Honorlock. Together with advisor Alicia Tomasian and the Testing Center's Joe Scrima, these students will share insights from over 160 student responses, opening a discussion about how faculty can facilitate the use of these programs.
- The Honors program is running 16 sections this fall with courses in all formats: fully in-person, blended, synchronous online, and asynchronous online. We have a fill rate of 81% across our courses, with six of our courses already full as of the start of August.

### *Career & Technical*

- Professor Brad Grossman attended the 2021 Chicago Gentlemen's Brunch on behalf of Harper College and the Law Enforcement and Justice (LEJ) Program. The mission of I Am A Gentleman (IAG), Inc. is to engage, enrich and empower young men for successful careers, healthy lifestyles, marketable skills, and well-balanced relationships. Professor Grossman is working with IAG representatives to coordinate a tour of Harper's Career and Technical Programs Division.
- LEJ Student Cristian Trujillo recently competed in the Starbucks annual Barista Championships. Competitions are held across the nation and Cristian took home first place in the District level championship. Due to extensive research and dedication, Cristian crafted two specialty drinks as well as brewed a coffee of his own choice. According to Cristian, "I explained to my judges why I decided to rather go with a coffee that not only is meaningful to me but one that I am able to share with others.... I plan to excel and achieve the same through the police force and represent a community and give back to others." Cristian has performed with excellence in the classroom and is now demonstrating his level of integrity by striving for excellence outside the classroom.
- The 911 Public Safety Dispatcher Program has been updated and relocated to H-194 Lab-Classroom, which holds a total of 12 dispatcher students each at their own table. The dispatcher console for the instructor is fully operational and the student dispatcher console is also hooked up and fully operational. There was no additional cost to the college associated with this project.
- Professor Samuel A. Giordano Jr., program coordinator for Fire Science Technology as well as Emergency and Disaster Management, was state certified by the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal and the Illinois Fire Inspectors Association as a Certified Advanced Level II Fire Inspector. This certification is the highest in this category in the State of Illinois and required a 40 hour in-person course, a 100 question OSFM Exam, and an extensive practical.
- Carol Carlson-Nofsinger, paralegal studies program coordinator, hosted a Lambda Epsilon Chi (LEX, which is a National Paralegal Honor Society) Induction Ceremony. The 2021 LEX Inductees are Kelly Ferguson, Kelly J. Hussey, Mia J. OMalley, and Kendall Wallin. The 2020 and 2021 inductees were all recognized for their hard work and commitment to excellence in the pursuit of their credentials in paralegal studies. Also in attendance were Dean Joanne Ivory, Adjunct Professor Charles Knittle, J.D., and Keynote Speaker Attorney Gary Newland, president of the Northwest Suburban Bar Association.

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- In July, Dr. Tamara Johnson joined the college as the new Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. In this role, she provides vision and leadership for the diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives across the campus working closely with students, staff, faculty, alumni and community partners. As a psychologist by training with a social justice lens, she makes every effort to address institutional barriers and develop the conditions, policies and systems to maximize opportunities for all members of the Harper community to engage, excel and thrive.
- Dr. Cadmona Hall presented “Living and Working During the Pandemic: Developing Resiliency During Uncertain Times.” This program addressed pandemic-related stress and anxiety that impacts our personal and professional lives. Attendees had the opportunity to reflect on the past year and a half and dialogue about challenges and opportunities. The presenter provided tips about managing stress, setting healthy boundaries and fostering emotional well-being.
- The three Employee Resource Groups, (DREAM, LAND, and SAFE), are hosting a virtual meet and greet during Opening Week. This is a great opportunity to learn about how to become a member or how to support the ERGs.
- The Health Careers Division is welcoming a new Diverse Faculty Fellow, Kiana Hughes. Kiana’s credentials include an M.A. in Communications and Training and a B.A. in Business Administration. She is also a member of the National Diversity and Inclusion in Cannabis Alliance and Women Grow Chicago.

## Finance and Administrative Services

### *Facilities Management*

- The scope of work for the Cultural Center Project will include the remodeling of room D281 at Building D into a community room, lounge, kitchenette, conference room, work area and other support spaces. Construction is substantially complete. The installation of the graphics is scheduled to be completed by the end of August. The furniture installation for the support spaces is completed. The remaining furniture is delayed until late September.
- The scope of work for the Dental Hygiene Simulation Lab Project will include the remodeling of room X143 at Building X into a Dental Hygiene Simulation Lab for the Dental Program. Construction is substantially complete.

### *Information Technology*

- In preparation for the fall semester, over 400 classroom desktop computers were replaced with new desktop computers, while the simulation system used in the Dental Hygiene program was upgraded from SimView to SimCapture.

## Advancement, Marketing and Communications

### *Advancement*

- The Harper College Distinguished Alumni Awards will be held on Tuesday, October 26 at 6 p.m. at Wojcik Conference Center. The event will be in-person with a virtual option for individuals who opt to watch the program online. The annual celebration will honor the new class of Distinguished Alumni and Outstanding Recent Alumni. Honorees are recognized for contributions, achievements and impact they have made in their careers and within the community. The 2021 class includes:

#### Outstanding Recent Alumni 2021

Roberto Lopez, Senior Associate, Technical Projects  
Elevate Energy

#### Distinguished Alumni 2021

Erik Horvat, Managing Director, Head of Real Estate Americas  
Olayan America

Jim Macnider, Head Track and Field and Cross Country Coach  
Harper College

Dr. Christopher J. Schneider, Professor of Sociology  
Brandon University

Joseph Sesso, Executive Director of Sales and Marketing & National Speaker  
<https://www.homes.com/>

Event registration and honoree stories will be available in September. Please visit at <https://www.harpercollege.edu/foundation/alumni> to learn more.

- The HOPE Giving Circle has awarded four \$10,000 scholarships for the 2021-22 academic year to Harper students Maliha Amir, Marion Bensing, Samantha Ernst, and Minhall Jamali. The HOPE Scholarship is awarded to female students entering their final year at Harper College and who plan on transferring on to a four-year institution to continue their education. Students must have a 3.0 GPA or higher, have demonstrated exemplary academic performance, have defined career and educational goals and have shown leadership through extracurricular activities and community service to their communities. The students were recognized at the HOPE Scholarship Awards Reception this month. Since 2016, the HOPE Giving Circle has awarded \$180,000 in scholarships to 18 females pursuing their education at Harper and beyond. Learn more at [harpercollege.edu/hope](https://www.harpercollege.edu/hope).

### *Community Relations*

- Harper participated in the CCSD59 Back to School event. Families throughout the district received school supplies and learned about the community resources available. More than 200 people attended including current Harper students, alumni and adults interested in starting or re-starting their college journey. Topics covered included the current tuition relief programs, the Igniting Paths to Success Scholarship, the Harper alumni network and ESL/AED programs.
- Harper sponsored the Schaumburg Boomers Back to School Night. The first 1,000 people in attendance received Boomer/Harper backpacks with school supplies. Fans also received Harper rally towels and other Harper goodies. Representatives from Enrollment Services, University Center and Alumni Relations

chatted with attendees about Harper's programs and resources including tuition relief programs and the Igniting Paths to Success Scholarship. Dr. Proctor threw out the first pitch and the Harper Hawk had some fun with Coop, the Boomers mascot. More than 200 Harper faculty, staff, students and alumni and their families attended the game.

- Harper participated in Partners for Our Communities Better Together Event. Families from CCSD15, Palatine High School and Rolling Meadows High School received backpacks, school supplies and information from community organizations. Harper representatives from community relations, AED and enrollment services discussed Harper program and services including tuition relief, the Igniting Paths Scholarship, AED and ESL programs and upcoming community events. Harper has a longstanding partnership with Partners for Our Communities and participates in multiple community programs throughout the year.

### *Marketing Services*

- Fall 2021-2022 Enrollment Marketing  
Additional tactics were added to the fall 2021-2022 enrollment marketing including:
  - Increased geofencing of Inquired/Not Applied, Applied/Not Enrolled, Stop Outs, and Spring Students.
  - Increased reach and frequency of digital campaigns, including streaming TV and music, Google search, and paid social media.
  - Increased ad placements on broadcast TV.
  - Five digital billboards throughout the district including Euclid/53 and Algonquin/53.

### *Media Relations*

- *CBS 2 Chicago, Fox 32 Chicago, WBBM Radio, the Daily Herald, Journal & Topics and MSN News* promoted the Igniting Paths to Success Scholarship.
- *Crain's Chicago Business, WBEZ Radio, WTTW, the Daily Herald, Journal & Topics and the Illinois Higher Ed Coalition blog* reported the MacKenzie Scott gift, featuring interviews and original quotes from Dr. Proctor and/or details shared in Harper's press release. Harper was also featured in national/international media, including the *Washington Post, Newsweek, The Chronicle of Education, Inside Higher Ed, University Business, Higher Ed Dive, Community College Daily* and *Distractify*, among other outlets.
- *CBS 2 Chicago, WGN TV, Fox 32 Chicago, WGN Radio, WBBM Radio, the Daily Herald and Patch* promoted the July 14 COVID-19 vaccine clinic and scholarship contest. *CBS 2* broadcasted live from campus and interviewed a participating student and Dr. Proctor. Other broadcast outlets promoted their frequent reports online and via social media.
- *The Daily Herald, Journal & Topics and Patch* promoted the June 29 COVID-19 vaccine clinic.
- *The Daily Herald (and DH Business Ledger), 420 Magazine, Top Shelf News and Patch* promoted the new Cannabis Science and Therapeutics Program.
- *The Daily Herald* ran a story about District 211's celebration of first-generation college graduates, including Dr. Proctor's speech at the event.
- *The University Business* Q&A with Dr. Proctor was reposted/highlighted on *Oracle's* website.
- *Inside Higher Ed* reported on a TIAA Institute study that looked at the Level II Adjunct Faculty Engagement Program with an eye to equity.



- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran stories about Harper alumna and U.S. Olympian gymnast Liza Pletneva, who competed in Tokyo. The *Herald* reposted the story to promote her event.
- *Security Magazine*, the *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran pieces about how the Harper Police Department joined the NIPAS task force to enhance public safety.
- The *Daily Herald* reported on the return of in-person InZone enrichment and sports camp courses to campus.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran stories about the fall semester, increasing on-campus options and support for students.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran stories promoting Harper's Back to School Night with the Schaumburg Boomers.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran profiles of Harper HSE Distinguished Scholar Xiling Chen and how she will be continuing to get her certificate in Supply Chain Management in the fall.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran profiles of Fast Track Celebration speaker Vanessa Jimenez Nava who took ESL and HSE courses at Harper before enrolling and graduating from the Fast Track Program with a Business Administration degree.
- *The Lake County Journal/Shaw Media* ran a piece about Harper alumnus Isaac Jean-Paul, who will compete in the Paralympic Games. The story also featured quotes from Harper's Renne Zellner.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran profiles of student-employee Mitch Ryba, who is heavily involved in campus clubs and works for Harper Wellness.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran stories to promote the free summer concert series.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran stories spotlighting the Paralegal Studies students who earned the Honorable Timothy C. Evans Scholarships, sponsored by the NWSBA, as well as remarks by event attendees Dr. Proctor, Dr. Janosik and Dr. Ivory.
- A *Medium* interview with Brian Kibby of Modern Campus highlighted and praised the Harper Promise Scholarship program.
- Faculty member Therese Hart, who recently was named to the *Daily Herald* Editorial Board Sounding Board, wrote an opinion piece for the *Herald*, discussing the challenges and opportunities in higher education during the COVID era.
- *Journal & Topics* ran a piece about Harper Athletics' Spring Awards.

## Legislative Affairs

- Governor JB Pritzker continues to sign legislation from the recent spring session. A list of recent bills as well as previously signed bills can be found on the Governor's [website](#). Senate Democrats indicated that they may return to session later this month to tackle clean energy legislation. There is still no deal between the stakeholders and Governor JB Pritzker is urging legislators to call his bill for a vote. Negotiations are ongoing. No word yet on plans for the House to return to session.



- Dr. Proctor was a featured speaker at Governor Pritzker's bill signing ceremony for House Bill 2878, which established the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity. This bill was a priority piece of legislation for the Illinois Community College Council of President's (ICCCP) with Dr. Proctor leading the way to advance the conversation for the community college bachelor degree in early childhood education.
- A team of Harper College leaders met with members of the Cook County economic development team to discuss workforce training and economic development opportunities, including apprenticeships and job placement opportunities. The college and the county have committed to quarterly meetings to continue building these partnership opportunities.

## Strategic Alliances and Innovation

### Grants Office

- The following grants were awarded to the college in July 2021:
  - \$54,818 grant award for the FY22 Nursing School Grant from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). This is the third year this grant has provided funding to facilitate student transition from ADN at Harper to a BSN or RN-BSN at a four-institution partner.
  - \$3,625 award for the IIE American Passport Project from the Institute of International Education. This grant will subsidize passport application fees for 25 first-year and Pell-eligible students.
- The following grant applications/proposals were submitted in July and August 2021:
  - A concept paper was submitted to The Kresge Foundation for consideration of a \$300,000 proposal for its College Promise 2.0 (CoPro2.0) grant program. Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal in September and final selections will be made in October. Harper College's pilot project, *Building a Path to a Better Promise*, will focus on strategies to reduce barriers and increase persistence, completion, and transfer for Promise students, particularly marginalized students.
  - An application requesting \$25,000 was submitted to 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund for the Office of International Education's project entitled *Global Learning through Online Virtual Exchange: Transforming Teaching and Training through Immersive International Education Experiences*.
  - The Grants Office is administering the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) grants from the U.S. Department of Education and managing the disbursement of \$20.9 million in emergency aid grants to students.
  - In July 2021, \$100,190 was disbursed to 77 students enrolled in Spring/Summer 2021 indicating financial need in their applications.
  - The emergency aid application period for Harper students enrolled in fall 2021 opened on July 23, 2021. Thus far, two weeks of applications have been processed and \$1,024,990 in emergency aid was awarded to 787 students.

## Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness

- The recently completed FY2021 Accountability Report summarizes the college's efforts related to the Presidential Priorities, Institutional Effectiveness Measures, Strategic Plan, and Operational Plan. Updates were made to the Institutional Effectiveness Measures dashboard to reflect the final status for the FY2020 targets. Also completed is a FY2021-FY2024 Strategic Plan dashboard that reflects progress made toward strategic goal targets and measures. Both dashboards are available to the public on the Harper website.

## Workforce Solutions

- The Job Placement Resource Center participated in the Elk Grove Village Job Fair in July providing a presentation on job search strategies.
- The Illinois Small Business Development Center at Harper has served 294 unique businesses with 1,506 counseling sessions, 29 small business webinars and virtual meet ups in 2021.
- The summer InZone program enrolled over 550 InZone students for in-person camps and close to 100 students in online programs.

### *Promise*

- This fall, 726 students will be attending Harper as Promise Scholars. As of the last data analysis, this group consists of 496 new Promise Scholars along with two scholars entering their second semester, 227 entering their third semester, and one entering their final semester.

## In Memoriam

- Longtime faculty member and retiree Dr. Elizabeth (Betty) Hull passed away on August 3. Dr. Hull was an English professor at Harper from 1971 until she retired in 2001. She continued as an adjunct faculty member and CE instructor until May 2012. A strong advocate for Harper and a great resource, Dr. Hull was interviewed extensively for Harper's 50th Anniversary book.