



PRESIDENT'S *REPORT*

October 2021

Dear Harper College Community:

I was pleased to welcome Southern Illinois University Carbondale Chancellor Austin Lane to campus to sign agreements making SIU the fourth partner in our University Center as well as implementing the Saluki Step Ahead program at Harper. SIU brings its excellent accounting, paralegal studies and public safety management to the University Center as well as a commitment to continue exploring aviation programming in the future. Additionally, through the Saluki Step Ahead program, qualified Harper graduates can attend SIU Carbondale remotely to pursue bachelor's degrees in accounting, business administration, criminology and criminal justice, health care management, psychology and radiologic science. We are proud to be able to offer these new opportunities for our students and continue to provide an easier path to bachelor's degrees.

In addition to advancing partnerships for our community, we continue to emphasize the role we play as a connector, convener and catalyst for our community's growth. As such, the college's Technology Sector Summit was a success bringing together local educators, business leaders, and elected officials to convene on critical industry trends, including cyber security, Industry 4.0 and the Industrial Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, and equity in the workplace via technology. Keynote speakers included Ryane Bohm, product marketing director for Gong, Supervisory Special Agent KC Bixby from the FBI, and a panel of industry experts. I want to thank event co-chairs Amy Kaminski and Julie Sabella and event champions Drs. Michele' Smith and Maria Coons and the planning team for their strong execution of this event. We showcased our thought leadership and continued commitment to help our local business community plan and prepare for the future of work and the possibilities brought by new and emerging technologies. This event marks the beginning of greater things to come as we collaboratively move forward to develop curriculum related to the interdisciplinary nature of multiple fields.

Campus News . . .

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On the national landscape, I had the opportunity to present at AACC's Future Presidents Institute in Washington, D.C. to leaders from across the country who are exploring the community college presidency role. In San Diego, Trustee Johnson and I presented at ACCT Leadership Congress, which focused on Community Colleges Advancing Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. When attending these national engagements, there are multiple learning opportunities that inform us about our practices to support student success, our response to community needs and how we lead our communities through change, including the sustained crisis of the pandemic. ICCB's recent Economic Impact Study highlights Harper's contributions with about \$650K of increased earnings for our graduates over their 40-year careers and a \$214.7M economic output for our local economy. True to our mission and vision, we are diligently working to transform lives, the workplace and society and providing state and national leadership on student success.

As we grow our on-campus presence once again this semester, we will continue to center the needs of students and our community while addressing campus safety. I look forward to increased engagement and retention of students and a strengthened college culture as we rebuild community on campus.

COVID-19 Response Team Update

- Beginning Nov. 1, the college will have a new COVID-19 testing provider—MEDNOW. This new program will be an enhancement for several reasons:
 - Hours of operation will be expanded: Monday 7 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The early Monday hours will accommodate third shift employees.
 - Individuals will be able to choose between saliva and nasal swab testing. Nasal swab testing has some advantages, including faster turnaround time and fewer inconclusive results. MEDNOW staff will be equipped to explain the pros and cons of both options.
 - MEDNOW will deliver test samples at least twice daily to their lab. This will improve turnaround time for delivery of test results.
 - The program remains free to the college and to individuals being tested.

Student Success

Enrollment Services

- Harper College went live with a new admissions application on October 6, utilizing Salesforce/Target X, our new Customer Relationship Management tool (CRM). The new admissions application presents a clear way for students to select their application type and move through the application seamlessly. Students will identify themselves as a Credit-Seeking, Non-Credit-Seeking, High School Partnership or Returning Student, and then will be guided to the application that meets their goal. Applications include Degree Seeking, Certificate Seeking, Student at Large, Concurrent High School, International Student, Non-High School Graduate, Adult Education, Continuing Professional Education (CPE), and Returning Students. The new look of the application provides an easy-to-follow process that students can complete quickly and easily or save and come back to finish later. It lays out the requirements for applying so a student will be able to effortlessly fill out the application to Harper College.
- The One Stop processed 3,858 inbound contacts in September, which was down almost 18% from last year. We received 2,170 phone calls, 871 emails, 420 in-person, and 397 live chats. The One Stop conducted call campaigns, including reminding students of payment dates and student retention campaigns. We made over 900 calls and reached 39.9% of students during campaigns in September.
- Office of Student Financial Assistance - Harper College's FY2017 3-year Cohort Default Rate (CDR) was 7.3%, which was well below the national CDR of 15% for public 2-to-3-year schools.

Student Development

- Access & Disability Services
 - As part of the Disability Culture Program, Christine Irene presented to the academic advisors and access advocates on the strategies of supporting chronically ill students and understanding the daily challenges they experience. A total of 46 people attended the training session.

- Center for New Students and Orientation
 - The Orientation Leaders in the Center for New Students conducted a call campaign to 683 recipients of the Igniting Paths to Student Success scholarship to direct them to academic support resources and connect them to their academic advisor. As a result of the campaign, 220 academic advising appointments were made.

Career & Technical

- The college has a new articulation agreement between the Harper College Paralegal Studies Program and the Paralegal Studies Program at Southern Illinois University, just in time for our partnership with SIU at the Harper College University Center. Additionally, a new articulation agreement between the Harper College Paralegal Studies Program and the Paralegal Studies Program at National American University will allow students to complete their bachelor's degree in paralegal studies completely online.
- The Harper College Law Enforcement and Justice graduates listed below were hired within the past month. All four of these students went on to earn their bachelor's degrees, putting themselves in a better position to be hired by great organizations.
 - Austin Auman (Police Officer, Palatine Police Department)
 - Erica Amezcua (Police Assistant, Palatine Police Department)
 - Josh Ruggerio (Police Assistant, Palatine Police Department)
 - Giulia Sarigu (Executive Team Leader, TARGET Stores)

Student Engagement

- Harper Hullabaloo was split over the course of three days featuring student clubs and organizations (30 tables), campus offices, departments and services (28 tables), and a virtual connection option. The event saw approximately 600 students safely engage in the in-person activities, over the two days.
- The Buddy System launched in August and registration closed in September. This program was a partnership between Harper Wellness, Advising and Counseling Services. Students signed up for the program by filling out a form that contained a variety of questions, including Areas of Interest and three things they wanted their buddy to know about them. The match priority was based on Area of Interest and personal interests. Two hundred and eighty-nine students signed up for the program and were matched with other Harper students. The purpose of the program is to assist with retention efforts by increasing their connectedness to campus; to support students in building connections with other students and improve social wellness; and to inform students of various Harper resources and events around campus. Students are invited to certain social events and are sent weekly prompts, which contain information about conversation starters, campus resources and events happening.
- The Harper College Center for Nutrition Counseling (CNC), in collaboration with Harper Wellness, offered free health screening, individualized nutrition counseling and nutrition education services to Harper students, alumni, and faculty. The CNC is run by current Harper College dietetic interns and overseen by Registered Dietitians. The consultations are still running throughout the Fall 2021 semester. Six interns are completing the consultations. There were 46 individuals who registered for the free nutrition consultations.

- In honor of National Suicide Prevention Week in September, Harper Wellness, together with students and employees from around campus, chalked the walk with positive mental health messages across campus (one instructor had her students write messages for a small portion of their lesson for the day). In addition, during Suicide Prevention Week, a variety of signs were placed around campus, which contained information about national and local resources as well as inspirational messages surrounding emotional wellness.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is delighted to welcome Mary Budyak as the new Executive Assistant to the Vice President. Mary's many years of experience and commitment to excellence will continue to serve Harper well.
- We are excited to announce the opening of the Cultural Center this November. Located in Building D, Room 281, we invite you to join us for a week of events to celebrate the opening, which include:
 - Monday, November 15, 2021 | Student Unity Board and Brush Workshop | 1 pm and 3 pm

We start the week with a student-focused program, hosted by Student Engagement. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a wooden sign making workshop! They will select one of six designs promoting unity and inclusion. Lunch provided. RSVP link forthcoming.
 - Tuesday, November 16, 2021 | Safe Zone Training | 12 pm – 3 pm

Andrew Anastasia and LaVonya Williams will facilitate a training about LGBTQ+ identities and gender and sexuality, in efforts to develop a more educated community and safer and more welcoming campus climate. Lunch provided. RSVP link forthcoming.
 - Wednesday, November 17, 2021 | Diverse Author Series: Dr. Micere Keels | 12 pm – 1 pm

Dr. Micere Keels, Associate Professor at the University of Chicago will discuss her book, *Campus Counterspaces*, that focuses on the significance of providing safe spaces that enable radical growth, particularly for Black and Latinx students attending predominately white institutions. The first 20 attendees will receive a FREE copy of her book! Lunch provided. RSVP link forthcoming.
 - Thursday, November 18, 2021 | Doors Open! | 12 pm – 1 pm

This is the “official” opening of the Cultural Center and plans include remarks from Vice President Johnson, President Proctor, representatives from our Employee Resource Groups and student organizations. We invite Harper students, staff and faculty to join us as we celebrate. Refreshments provided.
- Provost Janosik and Vice President Johnson co-hosted a virtual Welcome for Ignite Scholars. Nearly 40 students participated in the Welcome, which included information about the scholarship, a community builder/ice breaker and time for the attendees to ask important questions.

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Student Engagement and the Academy for Teaching Excellence is co-sponsoring a Campus Free Speech and Free Expression Series. This 4-part series is for all Harper College employees.
 - Session 1: Campus Speech and Expression in Today’s Social and Political Climate: Understanding Speech Protections and Limitations Under the First Amendment
November 2, 2021 from 10-11:30 a.m.
November 4, 2021 from 2-3:30 p.m.
 - Session 2: Democratic and Empowering Spaces: The Roles and Responsibilities of Faculty to Support Freedom of Speech and Expression Across Modalities
January 25, 2022 from 10-11:30 a.m.
January 26, 2022 from 2-3:30 p.m.
 - Session 3: Let’s Agree to Disagree: Understanding why individuals and groups must be allowed to coexist.
February 9, 2022 from 2-3:30 p.m.
February 10, 2022 from 10-11:30 a.m.
 - Session 4: Free Speech and Expression: Controversies Across the Country
April 21, 2022 from 12-1:30 p.m.
April 22, 2022 from 10-11:30 a.m.

All sessions are being offered virtually via WebEx. Please refer to InsideHarper for detailed session descriptions and visit the Harper Intranet Portal (HIP) for the links to join the sessions.

Employee Resource Groups: *DREAM/SAFE/LAND*

- In partnership with Pride and Student Engagement, SAFE hosted a very successful PrideFest on October 11 to coincide with National Coming Out Day. This program included speeches from students, faculty, staff, administrators and community organizations, a Pride march through the buildings and yoga.
- In October, LAND, SAFE and Diversity 101 faculty welcomed Helen Rottier to present on “Addressing Ableism in Ourselves and in our World.” Ableism, the oppression of people with disabilities and the expectation of able-bodied and -mindedness, is all around us and Helen discussed ableism and disability justice, including how ableism is connected to other systems of oppression like racism, how we challenge our internalized ableism and biases and how we can contribute to an anti-ableist future.

Finance and Administrative Services

Facilities Management

- The scope of work for the Canning Center will include new facilities for the Campus Life/One Stop Admissions Center (Student Center) to provide one location for student services and related functions, Hospitality Facilities to support the Hospitality Program, and the University Center which will include the Professional Center, the Regional Innovation and Entrepreneurship Hub and the Testing and Certification Center. Programing is scheduled to be completed this month.



- 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 complete, and the balance of the furniture is scheduled for installation by October 29.

Information Technology

- IT received an overall satisfaction rating of 97.68% in the month of September.
- Implemented the Cleared4Work product to collect and track COVID-19 vaccine and COVID-19 testing information. This was necessary to comply with Governor Pritzker's Executive Order. IT developed a process to export enrolled student information from the Banner Student System and the Destiny Student System, and to export employee data from Fusion.

Advancement, Marketing and Communications

Advancement

- Harper Talks: The Harper Alumni Podcast was recognized with a Medallion Gold Award, the top award in the "Podcast" category by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations, District 3. The podcast has featured 12 alumni and three faculty members during the past year. Harper Talks is co-production of Harper College Alumni Relations and Harper Radio WHCM. Visit www.harpercollege.edu/alumni to listen and learn more.
- The Pepper Family Foundation Academic Support Center will be dedicated on Friday, November 19, with members of the Pepper family and Harper community in attendance.
- The Harper Alumni program hosted Alumni "Speed" Mentoring in October. The event connected Harper College students with alumni from a variety of careers over the course of the evening. Students had the opportunity to seek career advice, ask questions, and learn from the experiences of Harper Alumni.
- The HOPE Giving Circle will host its fall social event on Tuesday, November 2, at 5:30 p.m. featuring a lecture from historian Tim Wilsey on "The History of Chicago Candy Companies." Attendees will hear updates from the HOPE Giving Circle leadership and enjoy sweet treats while listening to the lecture. To register or learn more, please visit www.harpercollege.edu/hope.

Community Relations

- In September, Dr. Michelé Smith and Shannon Nugent attended the Schaumburg Business Association Women in Business lunch. As part of our annual sponsorship, Harper hosts an information table at Women in Business events throughout the year. This past month, Shannon highlighted the Rita and John Canning Women's Program and the services they offer.
- Through Harper's continuing partnership with Community Consolidated School District 59, the college was invited to attend the Fall Resource and Vaccination Fair. Families received information about Harper Experience Day, ESL and adult education and other Harper programs. Harper alumni Aidon Perera and Maggi Lopez volunteered to speak to families about Harper and their experiences.



- WINGS (Women in Need Growing Stronger) has been an important partner for many years. Harper was proud to be a sponsor of this year's Purple Tie Ball. Harper attendees including Dr. Proctor, Megan Dalianis, Cindy Washburn, Meghan Crotty and Lauren Chilvers enjoyed dinner, met WINGS graduates and heard compelling stories about how WINGS has impacted families in the Northwest suburbs.
- This year's Harper Experience Day was a hybrid event with families in the Harper district receiving free activity supply kits which include supplies and instructions for more than 10 activities created by Harper faculty and staff. More than 300 kits were distributed by our community partners including community libraries and Partners for Our Communities. A limited number of in-person activities were hosted on campus by astronomy, the Health and Recreation Center and the Makerspace and Entrepreneur Center. Virtual events are also being hosted by the Library Make Shop and Makerspace.

Marketing Services

- September social media highlights: 395,000 impressions (number of times people saw our posts), 11,000 engagements (likes, comments, shares), 1,878 link clicks, 378 new followers across channels. Top Facebook posts: Hullabaloo gallery, vaccine scholarship testimonial and Harper dining story. Top Tweets: Harper dining story, Distinguished Alumni announcement and Harper retiree return to campus photo. Top Instagram posts: Hullabaloo, concert in the outdoor pavilion promo, student aide job opportunities post.

Media Relations

- The *Daily Herald* ran a story to preview Harper's partnership with Southern Illinois University, speaking with Dr. Proctor about the opportunity to offer bachelor's degrees through both the University Center and the online Saluki Step Ahead program.
- Multiple media outlets, including the *Daily Herald*, *Journal & Topics*, *Patch* and SIU's media site, reported on the October 5 signing event for the Harper/SIU agreements on Harper's Campus.
- *Journal & Topics* ran a story about an Illinois Community College Board study that showcased the financial impact of Harper College – including that graduates, on average, earn \$650,000 more in the course of their careers than those with a high school education.
- Also, WBBM radio ran multiple reports about the ICCB study, highlighting \$650,000 in earnings and high post-college employment rates while airing quotes from Dr. Janosik about how Harper is helping students to be nimble throughout their careers
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran profile articles about Harper student Stacie Hemley, who went from stopping her education to enrolling full-time due to the Igniting Paths to Success Scholarship.
- *Crain's Chicago Business* ran a story by the CEO of Zurich North America, focusing on the company's apprenticeship program and highlighting Harper as Zurich's apprenticeship education provider.
- The *Daily Herald* previewed Harper College's first Pride Fest, celebrating National Coming Out Day and honoring LGBTQ History Month on October 11.

- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran stories about Harper's annual Community Education course focused on NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) and interviewing Laura Ehrke, instructor and technical systems specialist, and a student who published her first novel after participating in the course.
- *Lawndale News* reported on Dr. Maria Coons' participation in a tour of Wheeling High School's METT Pathway vocational program which promotes career pipelines to the construction trade among a highly diverse student body.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran stories about the return of Harper's annual Small Works exhibition at the Art Exhibition Space on campus.
- A variety of local, regional and international news outlets mentioned Harper's support for legislation, introduced by Illinois senators, to make education more affordable for students pursuing degrees in high-skill industries.
- The *Daily Herald* reported on One Million Degrees' new CEO, highlighting Harper's involvement in the program that seeks to increase enrollment and persistence among underrepresented students.
- *Value Colleges* ranked Harper College #6 in its list of the Top 25 institutions to receive an online associate degree in information technology; the press release was picked up by local and regional publications.
- NBC Chicago reported that Harper ranked 12 out of 102 academic institutions in Illinois for 2022, according to data from *College Factual*.

Legislative Affairs

- The Illinois General Assembly is back in session for the Fall Veto session. The list of legislative topics includes electric vehicle manufacturing incentives, the unemployment insurance trust fund shortfall, clarification to the Health Care Right of Conscious Act, and new Congressional and judicial subcircuit maps. New Congressional maps are expected to be part of the veto session with reports indicating the new maps will likely present 13 Democrat districts and three Republican districts.
- The saga of the state legislative district maps continues to unfold as a federal panel ruled the maps unconstitutional; these maps were drawn using data from the American Community Survey and not the census data. The new maps drawn using the census data are now being reviewed by the court.
- At the federal level, Congressional leaders continue to debate the merits of President Biden's legislative agenda as they look to pass legislation that could have a major impact on higher education. Unfortunately, recent reports indicate that the America's College Promise program, which would offer two years of free community college, appears to be on the chopping block. The AACC and ACCT issued a joint statement asking Congress to reconsider and include the program within the proposed legislation.
- Dr. Proctor will welcome Congressman Sean Casten and representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to campus for a meeting with students and faculty and a demonstration of the college's drone technology program, which is a part of the FAA's UAS Collegiate Training Initiative (UAS-CTI). Topics to be discussed include addressing the aviation workforce shortage and the numerous career opportunities offered through this program.

- Jeff Julian, chief of staff, attended the Des Plaines Chamber Legislative Roundtable meeting with elected officials including state Senator Ann Gillespie, state Senator Laura Murphy, and state Representative Mark Walker.

Strategic Alliances and Innovation

Grants Office

- Harper received the following grants in September 2021:
 - Susan Harwood Training Grant Program grant - This is a third-year follow-on grant for \$145,800 from the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to build new capacity for a full-scale occupational safety and health training program. Small business employers and workers are the target audiences for this awareness-level training.
 - Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Funds (GEER II) grant - Harper was awarded a grant of \$327,159 from the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) to support enrollment, retention, and reengagement activities to ensure progression for students most disadvantaged by COVID-19, including academic and social emotional support activities.
 - Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education grant - This is a state-agency allocated grant award of \$725,190 received from ICCB to develop academic knowledge and technical and employability skills for students enrolling in Career and Technical Programs.
 - Adult Education grant - Harper was awarded \$716,785 from ICCB to support activities, including assessment, adult basic skills, English language acquisition instruction, high school equivalency instruction, career exploration and awareness, bridge programs, workforce preparation, English literacy/civic education, and family literacy.
- Vice Chair Bill Kelley and Trustee Herb Johnson traveled to San Diego, along with Dr. Avis Proctor, Dr. Maria Coons and Student Trustee Pahul Mal for the annual ACCT Leadership Congress. The theme of the conference was “Advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.” Trustee Johnson and Dr. Proctor presented on the President’s Leadership Academy (PLA) to a standing room only audience. The focus of the session was how Harper is building leadership bench strength from within. During the session, four projects created by PLA teams were highlighted and connected to the conference’s DEI theme.

Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness

- In September, the Learning Assessment Committee and the Academy for Teaching Excellence held the 13th Annual Harper College Assessment Conference and Share Fair. More than 110 faculty and staff attended the conference that focused on student learning assessment, including the keynote address Practical Strategies for Improving Engagement and Equitable Learning Online presented by Flower Darby, senior instructional designer and adjunct faculty member at Northern Arizona University. The conference also included a panel discussion, Learning Remotely Together, where students and faculty shared their experiences related to online instruction with a focus on teaching and learning. Some of the specific topics included student engagement, barriers to student success, and how faculty have maintained consistency in their courses while ensuring flexibility with students.

- Since the spring 2021 launch of the Data Literacy Basics Badge offered by the Planning and Institutional Effectiveness division, 53 employees (4 cohorts) have successfully completed the course. Employees in a variety of roles are introduced to the critical components of data literacy, as well as the most common institutional data resources used at Harper for operational and strategic planning. In addition, employees work collaboratively to create presentations using insights from one or more data sources of their choice. A fifth cohort is underway with more sessions planned for spring 2022 as we continue to focus on promoting data literacy at Harper.

Workforce Solutions

- Drs. Scott Cashman and Michelé Smith made a presentation at the Moraine Valley Community College Equity Academy on the Foundations of Race and Racism. There were about 100 staff and faculty in attendance both in-person and online.
- In the first half of 2021, the Illinois SBDC at Harper helped local business owners raise \$2.7M in capital, start ten new companies, create 72 new jobs, and advised 273 businesses over 1,320 advising sessions.