



PRESIDENT'S *REPORT*

February 2022

Dear Harper College Community:

February is Black History Month and the college has offered numerous opportunities for learning and celebration through our Student Engagement and DEI Offices. We invited authors and activists to guide us through important conversations around racial equality and mental health in the Black community. We also hosted a number of gatherings in our newly opened Cultural Center, an identity-affirming space that provides students and employees from all backgrounds a place to develop a sense of community and belonging. It is my hope that our college community continues to reflect on the significant contributions and sacrifices of Black Americans and the steadfast courage and leadership it takes to eradicate injustice and facilitate positive social change.

I am pleased to report that we had a successful trip to Washington, D.C. for the ACCT's National Legislative Summit. It is always a highlight of the year to travel to our nation's capital joining our colleagues and trustees from across the country to advocate for our students and important policy issues for higher education. I am committed to keeping our students central to our work at Harper and we continue to bring their needs before our elected officials, especially as they work on critical issues like increasing the Pell grant or providing Pell for short-term programs. These are changes that can have a real and lasting impact on our students and their families.

We also received good news in the form of Governor Pritzker's proposed FY23 budget, which included increased funding for the Monetary Assistance Program (MAP), the new PATH program focused on healthcare education as well as a 5% increase for community colleges. While we still need the General Assembly to weigh in, I am encouraged by the Governor's continued focus on funding community colleges and prioritizing student aid.

We are monitoring the flurry of legal activity surrounding the Governor's mask mandate as well as awaiting new or updated guidance from the CDC on masks. The landscape continues to shift rapidly as it has throughout COVID-19. Our leadership team will do as it has throughout the pandemic, following the science, using data, and working to rebuild our campus community. As you know, the Governor has announced he will lift his mask mandate on February 28. We will have a decision by the end of this week on what changes, if any, may be made to Harper's mask policy. In addition, I am pleased to share that we have received an influx of PPE from the state, including K95/N95 masks. We will make these masks available for students and employees.

Campus News . . .

[Student Success](#)

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#)

[Finance and Administrative Services](#)

[Advancement, Marketing and](#)

[Communications](#)

[Legislative Affairs](#)

[Strategic Alliances and Innovation](#)

[Planning, Research and Institutional](#)

[Effectiveness](#)

[Workforce Solutions](#)

Student Success

Enrollment Services

- Admissions Outreach is excited to announce the promotion of Aline Leipprandt from department receptionist to Admissions Specialist for Health Careers. Aline is a former Harper student and Admissions Outreach Student Aide. Having started as an international student in the ESL program, Aline earned her associates from Harper in 2019. She continued her education through the University Center's partnership program with NIU to earn her bachelor's degree in psychology. The team is thrilled to have Aline transition to her new role and share her Harper experience with our incoming students.
- The Outreach team continues to promote spring 2022.
 - The team reached out to 300+ previous Community Education students to promote the Empower You scholarship geared for CE students looking to matriculate to credit classes. The scholarship offers \$500 to cover the cost of their first credit class.
 - Between December 1 and January 31, the Outreach team completed 603 application reviews resulting in 190 new student enrollments. The team continues outreach to these students to complete their enrollment steps and register for classes starting February 14 and March 14.

Student Engagement

- Harper Wellness launched another round of free nutrition consultations for employees and students. The nutrition consultations provide students and employees a free health screening, individualized nutrition counseling and nutrition education services to Harper students, staff, alumni, and faculty during the spring 2022 semester. Current Harper College dietetic interns run the program under the supervision of registered dietitians. Thirty-one participants signed up for the consultations.
- Our Esports Varsity team has been playing in the Collegiate League of Legends Tournaments and doing well. The official intercollegiate team currently has eight eligible athletes on the roster. Coach Josh Mol has been actively recruiting, coaching, and promoting the program.

Access and Disability Services

- Washieka Tenieka Torres, a disability rights activist, presented virtually on the intersectionality of disability and food access. Ms. Torres discussed the barriers to food access from a perspective that considers both disability and social justice concerns.

Health Careers Division

- Harper College Massage Therapy Program graduate and adjunct instructor Aaron Witz was recently hired as the massage therapist for the Chicago Cubs. He is in Arizona now and will travel with the team throughout the season as part of the training room staff, providing care to the "Northsiders."

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- This month, Brittany Barber, Cultural Center manager, provided a tour of the Cultural Center for the Board of Trustees. Brittany shared information regarding the purpose and how the space is utilized by various constituencies, including student organizations including the Black Student Union (BSU), Latinos Unidos, PRIDE and the International Club.

- In collaboration with Human Resources, DEI is reviving the 360-degree feedback process for administrators, supervisors, and managers. Communications about the upcoming process started in February with a presentation to the Operations Council.
- The Cultural Center hosted activist Traci O’Neal (Ellis), author of the book, *The Exceptional Negro*. Her talk focused on racial equity. The first 20 attendees received a free copy of the book and a soul food lunch was provided.
- SAFE (Staff, Administrators, and Faculty for Equality) is planning a trip to the Rise Up: Stonewall and the LGBTQ Rights Movement at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center on February 26. The exhibit explores the 1969 police raid of the Stonewall Inn as the flashpoint that ignited the modern gay rights movement in the United States.
- The Executive Cabinet will participate in the Conscious Ambassador of Trauma Informed Care Certification™ training facilitated by Hansra Consulting and Advisory Services. The first of three sessions begins this month.

Finance and Administrative Services

Facilities Management

- The scope of work for the Culinary Lab Project will include minor renovations and select equipment replacement at the Culinary Lab in Building A to support current program needs. The project is complete.

Information Technology

- The Banner Financial Aid self-service page was upgraded. The upgraded version supports the option for students to input a “chosen name” and presents an improved look and feel for students.
- In preparation for the return to campus in January, the Information Technology team completed classroom technology readiness checks. AutoCAD, AutoDesk, and Solidworks applications were upgraded in the classroom computer labs. Several GIS software packages were upgraded in the AppStream environment and 3D Molecule View software application was added to the AppStream environment.

Human Resources

- Professional Development Day is March 17 for all staff and faculty. The theme is “Stronger Together: Supporting the Three Pillars of Equity.” Classes will not be in session on Professional Development Day to provide our employees with a day of collective learning, community, and career growth.

Advancement, Marketing and Communications

Advancement

- Foundation year-to-date financials total as of January 31, 2022, is \$4,924,071, which is 200% to goal. The Promise fund balance is \$24,275,997.
- February 22 marked the public launch of the Inspire Scholarship Campaign. This \$30M fundraising campaign will raise funds to create new – or grow existing – scholarships for Harper students. Focus for the campaign is to expand endowed scholarships, transfer scholarships and planned gifts to Harper College. To date, the Foundation has received over \$25,958,942 for the campaign, which is 87% to goal and includes the generous philanthropic gift of \$18M from MacKenzie Scott. The campaign launch featured

a re-recorded virtual event sharing stories of Harper students, donors, and alumni. The virtual event can be watched at harpercollege.edu/inspire.

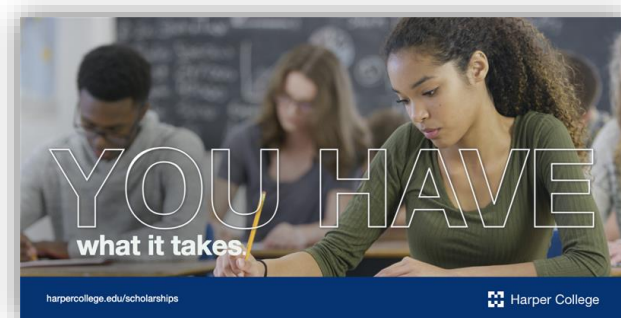
- Harper HEART Day is on February 23 and 24 this year. It marks 36 hours of giving and engagement and celebrates all we can achieve by Helping Everyone Access Resources Together. In addition to the retiree and alumni Harper HEART Day Giving Campaign, this year the Foundation introduced four event tracks for our key campus constituencies: alumni, employees, retirees, and students. Harper HEART Day features 23 events—virtual, in-person, and hybrid—to galvanize our Harper community. The complete listing of Harper HEART Day activities is available through the Harper College Educational Foundation webpage.
- In conjunction with Harper HEART Day, five student organizations are launching campaigns as part of the Competition for Good. Student organizations utilize the Foundation’s crowdfunding platform to raise funds for the General Scholarship Fund or the Hawks Care Fund. This year’s participants are the Harper Society of Engineers, the International Students Club, the Speech and Debate Team, the Student Activities Board, and the Student Government Association. This year’s Competition for Good Champion will be the organization raising the largest amount of funds in support of their fellow students by 11:59 p.m. on February 24.

Community Relations

- Rotary Club partnerships are an important part of Harper’s engagement with our civic organizations. Every week Harper representatives attend meetings for their assigned clubs. This past month representatives attended meetings for the Rotary Club of Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates, Rotary Club of Elk Grove Village, and Barrington Breakfast Rotary.
- Earlier this month, Lauren Chilvers and Jennifer Brennan spoke to the Rotary Club of River Cities. The club serves Des Plaines, Mount Prospect, and Prospect Heights. Lauren gave an update on the scholarship Club sponsors. She also briefed the club of the other Rotary scholarships the Harper College Educational Foundation manages, including Rotary Club of Palatine, Wheeling and Rotary Club of Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates Fishing Well, Emergency Fund and Transfer Scholarship, the Rotary International Global Grant, ACE I (Advancing Community Economics) and ACE II.

Marketing Services

- This postcard, mailed earlier this month, promotes Harper’s Distinguished Trustee and Academic Recognition scholarships. The card was designed, produced, printed, and mailed by Harper’s Marketing Services team.



- The University Center will run a billboard from March 14 through June 5. If you are driving southbound on Route 53, the billboard will be located just north of Euclid Ave. It’s a digital billboard that shows for 10 seconds in rotation with eight other advertisers.



Media Relations

- Longtime Harper art student Bernie Bluestein was featured in local and national media after President Biden signed a bill awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the secretive World War II deception units known as the Ghost Army. *CNN*, *WBBM Radio* (which came to campus to interview Bernie) and the *Daily Herald* all ran articles highlighting Bernie, who's been taking classes at Harper for more than 30 years and is among just nine surviving Ghost Army veterans.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran an article on Harper's trip to the National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C., where Dr. Proctor, Trustee Kelley, Student Trustee Mal and Chief of Staff Jeff Julian advocated on behalf of Harper and its students.
- The *Daily Herald*, *Journal and Topics* and *Patch* ran an article on Harper archivist Bridget Lerette, who worked as a project archivist for the Martin Luther King Jr. Collection at Morehouse College.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran articles on Harper Radio having five finalist entries in contention for the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System's 2022 Media Awards.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a feature on Harper alumni Daven Masulis and Dan Orlowski, who headline the suburban band Jacks and Atoms.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article on incoming student and Promise Scholar hopeful Rebeca Valdez, a high school senior who's taking classes through Harper and receiving on-the-job training as part of District 214's Youth Apprentices program.

Legislative Affairs

- Harper College was well represented at the ACCT's National Legislative Summit held in Washington, D.C., in February. Dr. Proctor, Vice Chair Bill Kelley, Student Trustee Pahul Mal and Jeff Julian, chief of staff, conducted meetings with the college's legislative representatives advocating for key higher education policies including increasing funding for Pell grants, short-term Pell, and key components of the Build Back Better legislation, such as a reauthorization of TAACCCT grants.
 - The First Lady Jill Biden, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona and Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh addressed conference attendees.
 - The Harper team met with Senators Duckworth and Durbin, Representatives Casten, Krishnamoorthi and Quigley, as well as meetings with staffers from the offices of Representative Schakowsky and Senators Duckworth and Durbin.
 - Dr. Proctor met with members of the U.S. Department of Education to discuss several issues, including apprenticeships.
 - Dr. Proctor also met with reporters from Inside Higher Ed and Community College Daily to discuss the legislative trip and how Harper has been supporting student success while responding to the pandemic.

- As the spring legislative session unfolds, the college continues to work with its lobbyist team and community college partners to monitor legislative affecting higher education as well as advocating for budget priorities. This month, Governor Pritzker provided his FY23 Budget which includes significant investments in higher education.
 - Under the proposed plan, the Monetary Award Program (MAP) would be increased by \$122 million for a total of \$601 million, which would be recording funding level for MAP grants.
 - A 5-percent increase in general funding for community colleges
 - \$25 million for a new grant program, the Pipeline for the Advancement of the Healthcare (PATH) workforce, focused on training new nurses, medical assistants, emergency medical technicians and other high-demand positions

Strategic Alliances and Innovation

Grants Office

- In January, Harper was awarded \$82,518 as a subgrantee for Elmhurst University's *Promoting Inclusiveness and Diversity in Education (PRIDE)* project funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Harper will recruit students to participate in the Robert Noyce scholarship program for their junior and senior years at Elmhurst. This scholarship is for STEM students pursuing teaching certifications.
- Harper also received a subaward of \$5,000 from Joliet Junior College as a member institution of the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN). This grant will be used to build and install solar energy demonstration units and a functioning solar photovoltaic system at the Learning and Career Center. Harper continues to expand its course offerings in renewable energies.
- In January, Harper submitted a proposal to the U.S. Department of Education's Fullbright-Hays Group Project Abroad grant program for \$163,444. This grant will fund a six-week professional development seminar to Kenya and Uganda. The project, *Teaching Africa Today: Environmental and Sustainability Issues in Kenya and Uganda through a Social Justice Lens*, provides the opportunity for 12 educators and two seminar leaders from post-secondary and secondary educational institutions in Illinois.
- The Grants Office is administering the student portion of the *Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)* grants from the U.S. Department of Education and managing the disbursement of \$19.4 million in emergency aid grants to students.
 - The emergency aid application for students enrolled in spring 2022 opened on January 3, 2022.
 - For the spring 2022 term, through February 2, 2022, \$4,917,140 emergency aid grants have been awarded to 2,364 students.

Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness

- The Office of Institutional Research has developed a Power BI report that begins to address the question of *What influences student persistence?* The purpose of this Power BI report is to help the Harper community identify and understand what factors drive student persistence. This report lists key influencers of persistence from most to least impactful and filters within the report facilitate drilling down to specific student populations. The analysis is based on credential-seeking student data enrolled between Fall 2018 and Spring 2021.
- The [2020-2021 Fact Book](#) has been released. The Fact Book is a one-stop resource designed to provide the answer to commonly asked questions about Harper College and the Harper district.
- A work group of the Strategic Planning and Accountability Committee in conjunction with the Institutional Effectiveness Office have developed draft updated Institutional Effectiveness Measures (IEMs) that will

now be shared with the campus community for input and feedback. A presentation will be made to all shared governance committees and will be posted on the intranet portal. Feedback will be collected over the next two months as we work to revise the IEMs and set new targets by June 2022.

Workforce Solutions

- Community Education offers a series of online courses in small business operation which the Small Business Development Center refers clients to when they need to acquire additional skills. This partnership demonstrates the potential for these kinds of interdepartmental relationships as it has resulted in 15 enrollments for the spring semester through mid-February.
- Harper College continues to work with our employer partners demonstrating the value of apprenticeships as a strategy for attracting and retaining talent. We are in the recruitment season offering Apprenticeship Information Sessions on the first Tuesday of each month. We are also thrilled to report that we are working with each of our three hospital partners to launch new customized healthcare apprenticeships across a variety of program areas including CNA, Radiology Technology (inclusive of CT, mammography, and MRI), Nursing, Sterile Processing, and Surgical Technology. Rush Medical Center recently approached Harper to work with us to build a Medical Assistant apprenticeship program.