



PRESIDENT'S *REPORT*

June 2022

Dear Harper College Community:

I was excited to celebrate the classes of 2020, 2021 and 2022 at our Gradfest to honor and celebrate their accomplishments in person. It was heartwarming to see graduates and their families joyfully marking the momentous occasion of graduation after two virtual ceremonies and the 2022 commencement, which was delayed and subsequently shortened by rain and lightning warnings. The Provost's team will be bringing a proposal forward in the coming months for a commencement venue that can accommodate our increasing number of graduates and participants so they can have an honorable ceremony free from weather interruptions.

We have been engaging our Harper College community, including local municipalities, to solve critical issues in our district. Recently, we have been meeting with local fire chiefs to discuss ways that Harper can be the first choice to support the learning and training needs of our first responders. As a result of our work to address transportation challenges in the 2019-2020 academic year, we continue to convene our community stakeholders and have formed an Infrastructure Task Force to identify ways to take advantage of historic levels of federal funding. Representation on the task force includes townships representing the Harper district, Congressional staff members, Pace, Meet Chicago Northwest, and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). We are focusing on two areas—broadband and connecting transportation systems at the township level to bridge first mile/last mile options within our district.

I was pleased to join Northwest Community Healthcare CEO Steve Scogna along with members of both of our teams to recognize our pilot CNA apprenticeship program and the four-person cohort. These apprentices are part of a 10-week program (5 weeks in the classroom and 5 weeks of clinicals). It will be fast paced, but with the support of their NCH family and their new Harper family, we are confident that they will be successful. We expect this to be the first of many partnership opportunities aimed at helping our students to achieve their goals while providing solutions for workforce challenges for our hospital partners.

This month, I had the opportunity to represent Harper at the Jobs for our Future (JFF) conference in New Orleans where I participated in the Policy Leadership Trust and discussed design principles to influence federal and state policy recommendations for community colleges. Dr. Michelé Smith and I also presented at the Community Colleges Workforce Consortium (CCWC) meeting (strategically held with JFF) on how Harper is partnering with area hospitals to address their workforce shortages with a focus on apprenticeships for adult learners.

As we close out our fiscal year, it is great to reflect on the progress on the 8 Presidential Priorities. Our college community has embraced our strategic plan. Our midpoint check on our strategic plan has revealed great outcomes for our students that need to be sustained throughout the plan. Current data shows a 12% increase in our graduation rate and a 6% increase in credentials conferred. Also, a major focus of our plan is to close

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](#)

equity gaps. Thus far, we're achieving the desired decreases in three gaps beyond our 20% reduction goal: developmental math, developmental writing and fall to fall persistence for Black students. We still have more work to accomplish as we continue to disaggregate and monitor course success and graduation rates. It's also important to recognize that we're making good progress in unprecedented times. Our DEI efforts continue to evolve and strengthen our work. In addition to the almost 70 programs sponsored or co-sponsored by the DEI office, faculty have presented on their innovative work in closing equity gaps, the development of social justice distinctions, Hyflex professional development and engaging online instruction. We launched the Cultural Center opening in the fall and DEI training for all employees on Professional Development Day and the DEI Shared Governance committee will now review new policies. Our University Center student enrollment and success outcomes are strong, and our Canning Center and Building I & J facility improvement planning is underway. Further, managing risks (e.g. campus safety, COVID-19, enrollment,...) is a continued focus. The development of our strategic information technology plan next year will also help us better manage risks across multiple domains. In addition to these areas, we successfully submitted our Assurance Argument to the Higher Learning Commission this month and are looking forward to the external review of how we fulfill our mission.

Finally, I am incredibly proud of Harper for being named to the 2023 Aspen Top 25 for Community College Excellence. While we did not advance to the Top 10, our Top 25 recognition is an incredible acknowledgment of our commitment to student success and equitable outcomes while underlining the work still to be done through our strategic plan and our equity agenda. Our collective college community will continue our efforts to help our students soar to even greater heights!

Student Success

Career and Technical

- Mid May, the Graphic Arts Design and Technology (GRA) Department held their 8th Annual Boost program - virtually this year! There were over seven high schools in attendance with over 100 students participating in the program. The topics covered were Color Theory and Printing, Packaging, Web Applications and Mobile Technologies, and Photography. There was also a Q&A panel and presentation by graduates and current students of Harper's GRA Program. The sessions were taught by industry professionals, adjunct instructors, and full-time faculty. Kelly Taylor and Nancy Marquez of the GRA department are creating a video of the session to distribute to local high school partners to share with their students.
- Chef Reynolds took her FSM110 class on a field trip to the National Restaurant Association (NRA) show. The students were in awe with all the new trends, food, commercial tools, and realized how much goes into having a restaurant. Dr. Roy from the hospitality program was also in attendance. The students tasted new foods, such as plant based, and gluten free, along with new trends that are starting in the industry.

Enrollment Services

- The One Stop processed 5,788 inbound contacts in May, down 7% from last year. We received 2,989 phone calls, 1,600 emails, 645 live chats, 546 in-person visits, and 8 social media posts. Chats were up by 30.8% from last year. The One Stop conducted call campaigns, including reminding students of payment dates, contacting certificate and student at-large applicants for summer enrollment. We made 1,359 calls and reached 33% of students during the campaigns in May.
- The Admissions Outreach team worked diligently during the month of May to recruit and on-board incoming students.
 - The team hosted their first Summer Enrollment Fest mid-May in collaboration with the One Stop, CNSO, and the Testing Center. The event served 30 incoming students by providing them the opportunity to complete various parts of their enrollment process in one day on campus.
 - The specialists, manager, and front desk staff engaged in 8,000+ interactions (unduplicated) with prospective and incoming students and influencers in May. This includes interactions over the phone, via email, and through prescheduled and walk-in appointments.
 - Outreach partnered with District 214 to host their annual African American Teen Summit at Harper in May. Over 130 students attended the event and had the opportunity to learn from and engage with speakers from the Harper community and beyond who provided information on personal development, academic engagement, and community-based collaboration.

Student Engagement

- In May, Student Engagement hosted the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month Celebration in the Harper Quad. The intent of this event was to showcase some of the many identities represented in the APIDA community and continue to celebrate and provide connection for our students who identify with this community. Over 400 students had the opportunity to learn about the cultural history and experience boba (bubble tea), henna, and Chinese lettering firsthand. Students who identify with the APIDA community shared excitement in seeing their culture showcased.
- In May, Student Engagement hosted the Student Leadership Bash in Building A to celebrate all students in clubs and organizations. Over 300 students stopped by to receive a Harper College sweatshirt from Student Engagement, perform with Live Band Karaoke, be dazzled by magicians, have their image drawn by a caricature artist, and enjoy corn dogs, pretzels, popcorn, and ice cream.

- Also in May, Student Engagement and the Harper Alumni Association collaborated to host a cap decorating celebration for the class of 2022. Students had the opportunity to decorate their graduation caps to represent their unique identities, career paths, and personalities. Many students shared they were so happy to have the opportunity to decorate their caps after not having the ability to do so for their high school graduations in 2020.
- Harper Wellness created two separate refueling stations for students throughout the weeks leading up to finals week. Students were able to stop by for grab-and-go snacks and coffee to better prepare their minds and bodies for finals week. Student aides also went around campus and found students studying and handed out snacks to them. Over 250 students were served free snacks throughout those weeks.
- Two Harper Hawk baseball players received post season recognition. Kaden Gray, catcher, was named 1st Team All-Conference and 1st Team All Region. Ehinger Adrianza, second baseman, received 2nd Team All-Conference and 2nd Team All-Region honors.
- The Hawks track and field teams competed at Nationals with the women coming in 4th and the men finishing in 11th place overall. Fiona Metzko (Palatine) won the 800m and 1500m runs. Samira Rosenfeld (Schaumburg) won the high jump. On the men's side Damien Zych (Palatine) was the national champion in the pole vault.

Interdisciplinary Programs

- Convocation was held in-person and virtually during May. For in-person attendees, about 50 students participated along with one guest each. Community members Georgeanna Mehr and Bill Kessler and faculty members, Dr. Rita Gura and Dr. Richard Johnson, were honored among several high-achieving students.
- A professional development session was held for faculty teaching First Year Seminar (FYS) and Learning Communities in May. Thirty faculty attended and committed to employing evidence-based strategies for equity and student success in their classes.

Honors Program and Phi Theta Kappa

- The spring 2022 PTK enrollment period has ended. There are 181 Harper students that accepted membership and joined the Phi Phi Chapter at Harper College.
- The Honors Program welcomes 40 new Distinguished Trustee Scholars for 2022-2023.
- There were 40 Honors Program Graduates for Academic Year 2021-22.
- Honors Program graduate Yulia Hutsul will be attending Georgetown University through the Community College Preferred Consideration program.

Student Development

- One Million Degrees May Happenings
OMD hosted an end of year lunch social for scholars to meet and greet with the OMD staff and mingle with their peers. This was the first major OMD in-person event since the pandemic, and students showed great interest and excitement to be able to attend. There were approximately 35 students in attendance, and we were graced with the attendance of our Provost, Dr. Janosik. Students engaged in great conversations and most stayed the duration of the event.

- **OMD Graduation/Transfer Celebration**
OMD hosted a graduation and transfer reception for OMD scholars. The scholars were encouraged to invite family and friends that supported them throughout their time at Harper College. The evening was filled with delicious food, photo opportunities, and many cheers to honor our scholars. We had guest speakers including an OMD alumnus and our Provost, Dr. Janosik. As we gathered in the auditorium in Building W, students' names were read, and they came forth to receive their OMD graduation stole. We ended the evening with a delicious celebratory cake. Overall, it was a wonderful event and seeing the scholars with their families made it evident that this should be an annual event.
- **May SDS: Graduation Celebration**
OMD hosted its final Saturday SDS workshop session. This session was a celebratory one where we honored our graduates and transfer students. We had the pleasure of having an OMD alumnus come and speak to the scholars and provide advice for them as they prepare for their next chapter. Coaches joined the session and we continued to celebrate our scholars and the end of the school year. We honored everyone's hard work throughout the year and closed out the session with the well-known OMD cheer.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- Brittany Barber conducted a training for employees titled, "DEI in Action: Moving Past Vocabulary." This session was designed to explicitly discuss what equity is and what it means to think and act with an equity mindset with over 20 faculty/staff present. Additionally, a training session titled, "Unlearning Unconscious Bias," was delivered with a similar turnout.
- In collaboration with Latinos Unidos, OMD and Student Engagement, the Office of DEI co-sponsored approximately 50 students interested in attending the Illinois Council on Higher Education (ILACHE) 29th Annual conference at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. This trip afforded students an opportunity to explore a potential transfer school, network with peers and professionals and participate in helpful conference sessions. Students also received a formal campus tour and experienced dining in a residential hall.
- At least 18 faculty/staff from Harper attended the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity. Dr. Tamara Johnson co-presented a session with a colleague from Columbia University titled, "Benefits and Challenges of Career Paths in Diversity." Her session focused on providing early career professionals within higher education insight into diversity leadership roles. Over 70 people attended this session.

Social Justice Leadership Certificate Program

- During an end of the year celebration, DEI and the Office of International Education, provided gifts of appreciation/completion to those that completed the SJLC program and welcomed nine employees to the 2022-2023 cohort. The new cohort will begin meeting over the summer to explore foundations of social justice, participate in the Data Literacy Basics program, and discuss a shared summer book read, *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein. Dr. Richard Johnson was also recognized for his service, and he passed the torch to Nellie Khalil to continue the work of the International Education office. Brittany Barber will serve as co-facilitators, with Dr. Tamara Johnson as the senior sponsor for the program.

Employee Resource Groups (ERGs)

- SAFE (Staff, Administrators and Faculty for Equality) is participating in the Northwest PrideFest, sponsored by the Kenneth Young Center. This event is for all ages and includes a drag show, DJ, activities and a community art project. Happy Pride Month!

- DREAM (Diverse Relationships Engaged in Affirming Multiculturalism) ERG will also be holding a retreat for their membership to plan for the upcoming fiscal year this month.
- April Maman, from LAND (Learning about Abilities, Not Disabilities), followed Karega Cooper in participating in a ride-a-long with the Harper Police, in preparation to launch the program to the broader Harper community. This is a collaboration between the three ERGs, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the Harper Police Department.

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, and the Testing and Certification Center. The schematic design is scheduled to be completed in August 2022.
- The scope of work for the Business and Social Science Center (Buildings I and J) will be replacement of the existing facilities for the Business Programs, Social Science Programs, select Career and Technical Programs, and may include additional programs such as Fast Track, Child Care Center, Regional Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center, the Small Business Development Center, Drone program, and the Cannabis Lab. The architect selection process is underway with completion scheduled in October 2022.

Information Technology

- Desktop Services received an average overall score of 96 out of 100 and completed 39 refreshes in May. Summer students were loaded into the Blackboard Learning Management System (LMS) and the reimplementation of Cisco Jabber on Harper/personal laptops for employees working remotely was completed.

Harper College Police

- At the Annual Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS) meeting/awards banquet (HCPD are members of this task force), Chief of Police John Lawson was appointed to the NIPAS Board of Trustee representing Cook County Law Enforcement Agencies and Harper College. EVP Rob Galick also attended the event.

Advancement, Marketing and Communications

Advancement

- The Foundation hosted its 33rd Annual Golf Outing mid-June at the Inverness Golf Club. The event hosts 106 players and is expected to raise \$140,000 for student scholarships and emerging educational initiatives at Harper. Twenty-six corporate sponsors united in support of this event, most of which are represented on the course as well. In addition to the Foundation team, 15 Harper College employees volunteered their time to make the day a success.

- In June, the Foundation successfully launched its Corporate Mentorship Program. During this pilot year, employees from three of the Foundation's partners--Clearwater Capital, Motorola Solutions, and Vistex--were invited to nominate employees for the program. Invitees attended an April information session before completing a formal application. As of June, 13 Harper student-mentor pairings are underway.
- Alumni Relations hosted Harper College Gradfest in June on Harper's Campus. The event recognized and celebrated the graduation milestones of the classes of 2020, 2021, and 2022 through a festival style picnic event with music, activities, and meaningful opportunities for connection with Harper College. Nearly 300 guests, including alumni and their families attended the event.
- Three new scholarships were established. The Beaubien Family University Center Scholarship will support Harper students transferring from Harper to a University Center partner school. Dee Beaubien and her family are the donors. The Evelyn W. Hunt Scholarship was created with a gift from the Trust of Evelyn Hunt, who was a community member who passed away in December 2021. Her scholarship will support Harper students with financial need. The Kathleen and John Gilmer Student Success Scholarship has been expanded to support students during their final year at Harper College and their first year at a University Center partner school. Kathy and John Gilmer are the donors.

Community Relations

- Community Relations has been busy with numerous outreach and networking events in April and May including the Hanover Park Community Resource Fair, the Barrington Giving Day Spring Resource event, Rolling Meadows Family Day, and Partners for our Communities Let's Get Connected Resource event. Through these events, more than 1,000 people received information about Harper's programs and resources, participated in activities and discussed opportunities available to the community.
- In April and May, Community Relations participated in Partners for our Communities Community School program at Jane Addams Elementary School in Palatine. The six-week program included weekly classes with elementary students. Classes included activities provided by the Harper Makerspace and Entrepreneur Center and wellness activities conducted by Beth Ripperger. The Community School program provides afterschool education and enrichment opportunities for students in elementary and junior high schools.
- In May, Amie Granger visited Rupley Elementary School in Elk Grove Village. More than 100 fourth and fifth grade students participated in a career exploration activity. Students learned about the different career clusters, how to explore different career areas and how career aspirations impact their college pathway.

Marketing Services

- The summer and fall enrollment communication campaign continues. The all-district #2 postcard will be received in 204,000+ homes at the end of June. It promotes important messaging highlights and the second round of information sessions.
- Additional fall enrollment communication highlights include:
 - Fall 2022 general marketing enrollment plan highlights
 - Web updates as necessary: Start during priority registration through October
 - Algonquin Marquee: May 24 - October 16 (rotating creative)
 - Nine targeted email blasts (36 total emails) with audience-focused message to: Stop Outs, Inquired not Applied, Applied not Enrolled Degree, Applied not Enrolled Cert/SAL; May 31 - October 4
 - Local radio 1,300+ spots on B96, KISS-FM, WSHE, and WKQX: May 30 - August 14
 - Broadcast TV 119+ spots on WGN and WMAQ: June 20 - August 14
 - Digital campaign (audio/video/static image/gif): June 1 - August 13

- Google search (text and image extensions), display (image ads/gifs), streaming OTT/TV, YouTube, Spotify (audio/image ads), social Facebook/Instagram/SnapChat (image and video)
- Geofencing campaign to households of Applied not Enrolled, Inquired not Applied, and Continuing: Early August

Media Relations

- The Chicago Tribune reported on Harper’s Promise Scholarship program, spotlighting the program’s success and spotlighting students Diana Anisova and Adan Ramirez, who recently graduated as Promise Scholars. The article was also linked in the American Association of Community Colleges’ Community College Daily.
- WGN radio interviewed Sean Warren-Crouch about Harper’s Promise program, how it works and its success. After the segment, a listener texted the host to share their success story as a Harper graduate.
- The Daily Herald ran a column about the Educational Foundation’s new Community Innovation Fund Grant Program, quoting Laura Brown about the initiative’s goals. Journal & Topics newspapers and Patch also ran pieces about the program.
- CBS News Chicago and WBBM radio reported on U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth’s keynote speech at Harper’s commencement ceremony, highlighting how U.S. Senator Duckworth celebrated how graduates have persevered despite a period of uncertainty.
- The Daily Herald, Journal & Topics newspapers and Patch ran pieces about new Harper graduates Xiaoqi Xi and Anna Trybula, who are each single mothers and frontline health workers.
- The Daily Herald and Patch ran stories about Harper alumnus Guillermo “Memo” Quillo, who transferred to the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign via Harper’s Engineering Pathways program and now has a career in the aerospace industry.
- Inside Indiana Business and many other publications ran pieces that highlighted Harper student Leela Edwards, who is part of the inaugural class of interns for the Women in Motorsports program, sponsored by Chip Ganassi Racing and PNC Bank.
- The Daily Herald and Patch ran articles about Dr. Stephanie Whalen being honored by the American Association of Community Colleges for her innovative work and leadership at Harper.
- The Daily Herald, Journal & Topics newspapers and Patch highlighted the full schedule for the Harper Music Department’s summer concert series.

Legislative Affairs

- The College signed on to the President’s Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration Statement of Support for Students and Scholars Fleeing from Humanitarian Crises.
- The College sent support letters to its elected officials delegation at the federal level via the ACCT legislative action portal to support Short-Term Pell Eligibility in Bipartisan Innovation Conference.
- College leaders met with State Senators Ann Gillespie, Laura Murphy and Ram Villivalam, chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, to discuss potential legislative solutions to issues related to the motorcycle safety program. The College will continue to work with legislators on this important topic.

- Governor Pritzker signed several pieces of higher education into law from the spring 2022 legislative session, including HB4201, which requires state universities and community colleges access to assign a benefits navigator for the purpose of guiding students to seek and apply for any federal, state, or local program that provides assistance or benefits for which they are eligible, as well as HB5464 which requires state public universities and community colleges to develop and implement equity plans and practices to increase the access, retention and completion.

Strategic Alliances and Innovation

Grants Office

- We are awarding HEERF emergency funds to students enrolled in summer classes. All funds will be awarded by the end of June.
- A Strengthening Community College grant proposal was submitted with the Department of Labor in collaboration with Oakton Community College. The areas of focus are Cyber Security, Artificial Intelligence/Cloud Computing and Automation/Robotics. Moraine Valley Community College has agreed to serve as a subject matter expert in the Cyber Security area.
- An alliance with local fire departments is forming to address professional development needs. Currently, local fire department personnel are traveling great distances to complete needed training. Efforts are underway to bring this training to Harper.
- The Infrastructure Transportation Task Force has been meeting to better understand the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that was passed in Congress last year with bipartisan support. Work is underway to leverage resources to address “last mile” travel challenges that connect community members from public transit to their final destinations. In addition, expansion of broadband services is being explored.

Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness

- Institutional Research has partnered with Student Engagement to develop a Power BI report to facilitate the dissemination and utilization of the National College Health Assessment (NCHA) results. NCHA is a survey administered every two years to a representative sample of Harper students to gauge overall physical, social, economic, and mental health and develop a profile of health trends among the campus community. In spring 2022, 639 students responded to the survey. Results indicated 71% felt they belonged at Harper, 73% felt that student health and well-being is a priority, and 71% felt that the campus climate encourages free and open discussion of student health and well-being.
- Throughout the month of May, Outcomes Assessment offered virtual drop-in sessions for those faculty participating in the spring 2022 general education assessment of the diverse perspectives and cultures outcome and the communication outcome. Offering these sessions allowed the 22 faculty who attended a session an opportunity to get assistance on deploying an assessment into Blackboard as well as asking any questions they may have about completing the assessment. To date, over 650 artifacts have been collected for each of the outcomes.
- As we approach the midpoint of the Strategic Plan, the six goal teams and their related subgroups have been working diligently to make progress on their goal targets. To date, 22 proposals have been approved and the impact of these efforts can be seen. Harper's graduation rate has increased to 37.8% and the number of credentials conferred have increased by 6% since the beginning of the plan. Additionally, equity

gaps are shrinking for our Black students in both development coursework and fall-to-fall persistence (full-time students).

Workforce Solutions

Workforce Solutions

- Issa Boulos, Music and Arts Center coordinator is being honored by the Barrington Cultural Commission as the 2022 Recipient of the Outstanding Musician Award. The 2022 awards will be presented at a reception at the Barrington White House in July.
- In May, the Job Placement Resource Center (JPRC) held two webinars “You're Graduating Now What” for soon-to-be Harper graduates.
- Kathleen Canfield, senior director, Job Placement/Workforce Solutions, was a panelist for the MIT/MassBridge Apprenticeship Conference, the topic was how to start an apprenticeship program at a community college.
- Harper Business Solutions is working with both the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Manufacturers Association (IMA) to help local businesses find Employee Training investment Programs (ETIP) support dollars for the training they purchase. Three businesses are currently utilizing the grant opportunity with support from HBS, and money recovered has exceeded \$50,000 to date.
- In May, the Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC) participated in a small business panel for the Village of Arlington Heights. The panel discussed the state of hiring for small businesses, best practices to attract and retain small business employees, and increasing and supporting workforce diversity. Nearly 100 small businesses were in attendance, as well as local and state officials.

Promise

- In May, we went to Winston Middle School in Palatine to talk to 375 8th grade students about college costs and how the Promise Scholarship can help. Teachers from the school created a reading assignment around the Promise Scholarship which was followed by an in-school assembly.