



PRESIDENT'S *REPORT*

July/August 2022

Dear Harper College Community:

As I begin my fourth fall semester at Harper College, I am excited for what this year will bring and hopeful that our *You Matter, We Care SOAR student* experience and employee and community engagement all come to life in ways even better than the years before the pandemic. The Governor announced recently that the vaccine/testing mandate for higher education employees and students is no longer in effect. It is comforting to know that we've reached a point in time where we have several tools to help us stay safe and move on from some of the stringent safety protocols that were needed during the height of the pandemic. While we will continue to remain vigilant, I look forward to seeing our employees and students on campus in our classrooms and meeting spaces as we rebuild our campus community.

We are cautiously optimistic about enrollment for the fall semester thanks to strong efforts by our enrollment services and marketing teams. As of Monday, Aug. 15, total FTE (Continuing Education and Credit) increased 0.4% and headcount increased 3.0% from last fall. Despite these improvements, we know that enrollment will continue to be a challenge for community colleges because of the demographic cliff and the damage done during the pandemic. To ensure we're doing everything we can to strengthen our enrollment, we have reestablished our strategic enrollment management committee under the leadership of Associate Provost Bob Parzy. This team, comprised of members representing areas of the college that are key to enrollment, will be updating the college's strategic enrollment management plan. With that focus, along with the enhancements brought by our customer relationship management system, new and innovative academic programs and new offerings for the adult market, we will continue to explore new avenues to reverse the trends borne by our sector.

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In July, I was honored to deliver welcome remarks along with others including Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi at the ceremony honoring WWII veteran and lifelong Harper student Bernie Bluestein this summer as he was recognized for his service to the country as a member of the Ghost Army. It was a joy to celebrate with Bernie, his family and the families of the other Ghost Army veterans who were recently given the Congressional Gold Medals and to recognize the role of art in our country's national security. Bernie is a shining example of how education can be a bridge back to civilian life for veterans and be a positive force in life. Bernie shared with me that he believed his more than 30 years of art classes at Harper have helped extend his life. Thanks to an anonymous donor, Bernie's life and his tremendous story will always remain a part of Harper through the Bernie Bluestein Sculpture Studio.

I was also delighted to attend my first AACC Board Orientation and Retreat to learn about priorities from several federal offices (Education, Labor, Commerce, National Science Foundation, the Census Bureau and

more). There are several strategic priorities that align to our work locally that we will elevate soon. I'm looking forward to an exciting and impactful academic year!



Student Success

Student Affairs

- Student Success and Student Affairs are proactively monitoring incoming credential-seeking students' compliance with two critical college policies: early enrollment in a Start Smart class and enrollment in developmental English and/or math courses for those placing below college-level. As of the beginning of August, 72% of the target audience is complying with the Start Smart policy (up six-percentage points from the same time last year), and 79% of students needing college-preparatory courses are enrolled for those critical courses this fall (up two-percentage points). Higher compliance with students enrolling in needed developmental courses supports the goals of the new Illinois Development Education Reform Act, as well as a strategy in our Strategic Plan aiming to increase the number of students enrolled in learning communities – many of which pair a developmental course with an FYS 101 Start Smart course.

Career and Technical

- The American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE) Lambda Epsilon Chi Honor Society (LEX) recognizes the academic achievements of outstanding paralegal scholars. The 2022 LEX Inductees are:
 - Ashley Ernst
 - Jennifer Janowski
 - Lennis Matuszak
 - Alyssa Rodda
 - Christine Serwinski (not present/pictured)
 - Ellen Siefke
 - Lily Yujin Wu

Enrollment Services

- Office of Student Financial Assistance
 - The PELL grant was increased by \$400 making the maximum award amount \$6,895 for the 2022-23 academic year. This was the largest increase for the program in over a decade.
 - The State of IL Map Grant increased the maximum 2022-23 MAP award from \$5,496 to \$7,200. It is now calculated using the 2021-22 reported tuition and fees and the 2021-22 Pell Grant Payment Schedule. Previously, it was calculated using the 2009 tuition and fees, which explains the increase.
 - Harper College students 2022/23 award packages have been recalculated. PELL awards were increased by \$703,619 for 2,628 students. MAP grants were increased by \$1,438,670 dollars for 2,329 students.

Health Careers

- The Massage Therapy program held a Chair Massage-Athon in June to benefit the Alzheimer's Association as part of their national fundraiser, The Longest Day. Students in the Massage Therapy program provided chair massage sessions to patients for a suggested \$10 donation to the Alzheimer's Association and raised \$465 to benefit Alzheimer's disease research. One student who participated reported that it was a "fun activity and felt great to give back while supporting a worthy cause."

Student Engagement

- Harper Wellness helped facilitate a wellness activity for a local kids' camp in the area in conjunction with Community Relations. The children visited Harper for the day to learn and explore. Fifty kids participated in the physical activity, which took place at the Health and Recreation Center, Building M, late July.



- Harper Wellness helped launch the Bike Share Program on campus. The Bike Share Program is a bike rental system where individuals can rent a bike from the designated racks and ride the bikes at their leisure. Bikes are located near Building D facing Kris Howard Drive and the parking garage. There is also a set of bikes located at the downtown Palatine Train Station. In July, 36 rentals occurred.

Honors Program and Phi Theta Kappa

- Honors students, Varshitha Akella and Taiah Guess, have both received the Freddy T. Davy Scholarship from the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC). The Davy is a \$1,000 award to help with travel expenses to the NCHC conference in Dallas this November, where Varshitha will be sharing her paper, "Is she a Prostitute or a Slave: Methods to Decrease Sex Trafficking and Prostitution in Chicago," and Taiah will be sharing her paper, "A Hidden Epidemic: Chicago's Missing and Murdered Women." The NCHC only awards four Davy scholarships for each conference, so it is a great honor to Harper to have two this year.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- Under the leadership of Dr. Johnson, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Shared Governance Committee recommended changes to the Board naming policy to exclude identity-based spaces from naming opportunities for donors. The revised policy has officially received all required approvals.
- Based on a recommendation from the President's 2019 College Culture and Climate report, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Shared Governance Committee is now included on the Shared Governance Recommendation Form and Checklist. This change ensures that every new policy recommendation is considered through a DEI lens. Special thanks to Michael Bentley and Dr. Rebecca Scott for their leadership!
- In February, the Executive Cabinet began discussions about the need for a recruitment policy. A new draft Board policy for Recruitment and Hiring is currently being vetted through the Shared Governance System. This policy is designed to enhance efforts to mitigate bias and discrimination throughout the recruitment and hiring process.

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. The schematic design is complete and is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Trustees in September 2022.
- The scope of work for the Business and Social Science Center, buildings I and J, will include 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. Interviews with the short listed architectural firms will take place this month with a recommendation to the Board of Trustees in October 2022.



- The scope of work for the Building X Respiratory Therapy Lab Project is the remodeling of X241 into a multi-purpose lab to support current and future needs of the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and the Respiratory Therapy programs. Construction has begun and is scheduled to be substantially complete in September 2022.

Information Technology

- After piloting two hybrid flexible (HyFlex) classrooms successfully, IT is adding five more HyFlex classrooms for this fall. Four HyFlex classrooms rooms out of seven are ready currently.

Human Resources

- The Human Resources office has been working diligently to update and rollout diversity recruitment plans. New policies, procedures, and training will be available to the campus soon.
- In response to the many tragic events that were happening around the United States, the Human Resources office sponsored a virtual event “Trauma in the Workplace” presented by our Employee Assistance Program Workplace Solutions. We will hold a stress management related event “The Importance of Unplugging in the Virtual World” this month.

Harper College Police

- Earlier this month, the Harper College Police Department conducted two Rapid Deployment training sessions with our police officers. This was one of the two yearly Rapid Deployment training events that the chief has developed.
- Also, this month, the Harper College Police Department participated in the Village of Barrington's National Night Out.

Advancement, Marketing and Communications

Advancement

- Following a successful pilot over the summer, the Foundation launched its first full-scale Corporate Mentorship Program this month. Over thirty prospective mentors volunteered from nine local businesses representing a wide variety of sectors and employment opportunities. Student mentors are selected from Foundation and Promise Scholarship recipients. Volunteers agree to meet with their assigned students for three virtual meetings during the semester. The goal is to prepare Harper students for employment opportunities and provide meaningful engagement opportunities for local businesses. Mentor/Student pairings will be formally announced in September.
- The Harper College Distinguished Alumni Awards will be held on Thursday, October 20, at 6 p.m. at Wojcik Conference Center. The event will be in-person with a virtual option. The annual celebration will honor the new class of Distinguished Alumni and Outstanding Recent Alumni. Honorees are recognized for contributions, achievements, and the impact they have made in their careers and within the community. The 2022 class includes:
 - Outstanding Recent Alumni 2022:
Isaac Jean-Paul
2021 Paralympic medalist



CEO and Founder, itsNmyDNA.org
Head Coach, San Diego State University Adaptive Athletics

- Distinguished Alumni 2022:
 - James R. Idstein, CPA, MBA
Owner, James Idstein Consulting LLC
 - Michael Patrick McGowan
President, Foster Electric (USA), Inc.
 - Joseph Plazak, PhD
Senior Principal Software Developer, Avid Technology
 - Leslie AW Van Wolvelear, EdD, CPA, CGMA
Chair and Distinguished Professor of Accounting, Oakton Community College

Event registration and honoree stories will be available in September. Please visit the Distinguished Alumni webpage at harpercollege.edu/alumni to learn more.

- The Helping Others through the Power of Education (HOPE) Giving Circle has awarded four \$10,000 scholarships for the 2022-23 academic year to Harper students. The HOPE Scholarship is awarded to female students entering their final year at Harper College and who plan to transfer 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 will be recognized at the HOPE Scholarship Awards Reception this month. To date, the HOPE Giving Circle has awarded \$220,000 in scholarships to 22 females pursuing their education at Harper and beyond. Learn more at harpercollege.edu/hope.

Community Relations

- In June, Amie Granger attended the Achieving the Dream (ATD) K-12 Partnership Institute in Portland. The institute focused on increasing access and equity in dual enrollment and early college programs while providing a venue for colleges and school districts to explore a comprehensive, strategic approach to the full breadth of their K-12/postsecondary partnerships. Amie presented on Harper's K-8 partnership program and the college's initiatives aimed at creating early exposure to postsecondary education opportunities and inspiring an early interest in college.
- Community relations was excited to welcome the ICompete summer camp participants to campus last month. This was the first campus visit since summer 2019. More than 50 young students participated in activities hosted by Wellness, Astronomy, and the Makerspace. ICompete is a partnership between Partners for Our Communities and the Palatine Park District to give kids an opportunity to participate in athletic and enrichment activities.
- Back to school season is in full swing. Harper's community and K-8 partners use this time of year to connect with their families by hosting back to school events for their families. Harper participates in the resource fairs included in the events. Since the beginning of August, community relations has participated in three events hosted by Community Consolidated School District 59 and 15. Families receive information about Harper's programs and resources as well as upcoming community events including Family Movie Night on September 10, and Experience Day on November 5.
- Earlier this month, Harper sponsored the Schaumburg Boomers Back to School Night. The first 1,000 kids at the game received a Harper/Boomers backpack with school supplies. Harper representatives from Admissions, the Alumni Program, the University Center, and Community Relations distributed information



and prizes to the crowd. Maricarmen Gonzalez, Harper's Student Trustee, threw out the first pitch. This is the second year Harper has partnered with the Boomers for their Back to School Night.

Marketing Services

- Marketing Services recently published the latest edition of the Ultimate College Planning Guide. Fully updated and redesigned, the guide is used by students and families in all three high school districts to help them learn about financial aid, choose a major, and navigate other critical steps in applying to college. D211 also collaborates with the college to publish a customized edition for its students and families. A Spanish-language version of the guide is also currently being completed.

Media Relations

- The *Chicago Tribune*, *Daily Herald*, *Journal & Topics*, and *Patch* reported on \$100,000 in grant funds that Harper's Educational Foundation gave to local nonprofits via the new Community Innovation Fund Grant Program.
- International publication *Times Higher Education* highlighted Harper's successful collaboration with area school districts in the Northwest Educational Council for Student Success (NECSS), quoting Drs. MaryAnn Janosik and Michelé Smith about Harper's role.
- *Streetsblog Chicago*, the *Daily Herald*, and *Patch* published stories about new transportation options at Harper, including the Pace Bus Route 697, the bike-share pilot and ride-share program. Dr. Maria Coons and Jeff Julian shared insight into the new opportunities. The *Daily Herald* ran additional items about the new Pace route.
- The *Chronicle of Higher Education* praised Harper's adjunct faculty evaluation overhaul in a blog discussing a recent report about supporting faculty.
- *Community College Daily* reported on how Harper (among other colleges) is using funds from the MacKenzie Scott donation. Dr. Proctor spoke to the publication about the impact of the Igniting Paths to Success Scholarship Program and the Community Innovation Fund Grant Program.
- WGN-TV, WLS-TV, the *Daily Herald*, and *Journal & Topics* reported on a campus event celebrating Harper student Bernie Bluestein, who was recently honored with the Congressional Gold Medal. The video and print pieces described Bernie's service in the Ghost Army, his longtime relationship with Harper and the dedication of the Bernie Bluestein Sculpture Studio. *Smithsonian Magazine* also ran a story about the Ghost Army, prominently featuring Bernie's story.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran stories about Harper's partnership with Northwest Community Healthcare (NCH) to create the new NCH-Harper Advantage: Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) apprenticeship program.
- *Crain's Chicago Business* discussed Harper's partnership with Rush University Medical Center as one of the methods Rush is deploying to counter staffing shortages.
- A *Forbes* article about apprenticeships across the U.S. highlighted Harper's apprenticeships with Aon.
- WGN-TV's Morning News broadcast multiple "Around Town" segments from Harper's InZone summer camp, showcasing the variety of activities available to young learners.



- The *Daily Herald*, *Journal & Topics*, and *Patch* promoted the Harper Massage Therapy Program's fundraiser to support the Alzheimer's Association.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran stories about Harper student Leela Edwards, who was part of the first Women in Motorsports internship program in Indianapolis.
- The *Chicago Tribune* ran a report about the end of Governor Pritzker's vaccine mandate and quoted Dr. Proctor's support of the change, as well as efforts to ensure a safe learning and working environment.
- *Community College Daily* ran a story about the U.S. Commerce Department's Good Jobs Challenge and discussed Harper's role in partnerships involving the industries of healthcare, IT, manufacturing and transportation/distribution/logistics.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a report about students who have used the engineering and manufacturing career pathway in District 214, leading to pursuing degrees at Harper.
- *Community College Daily* acknowledged the new roles for Dr. Travaris Harris and Dr. Michael Bates.

Legislative Affairs

- In July, the Governor completed signing all legislation that was passed by the General Assembly during the spring 2022 legislative session. There were no bills vetoed.
- Harper College participated in a Public Safety event for community members hosted by Rep. Jonathan Carroll's office at the North Suburban YMCA in Northbrook. Harper Chief Human Resources Officer Amanda Duval provided resources on Title IX.

Strategic Alliances and Innovation

Grants Office

- In July, Harper College was awarded \$220,000 from ICCB for the College Bridge Program. This program will fund the development and initial offering of a Student Success for Adult Learners course focusing on students enrolling in Career and Technical Programs. The project focuses on minority, low-income, and first-generation adult students.
- In July, the College was awarded \$36,000 from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for Harper's Illinois Small Business Development Center.
- In July, Harper received \$760,693 from ICCB for the FY23 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education grant program. This program is designed to develop the academic knowledge and technical employability skills of students enrolling in CTP programs.
- This month, the Educational Foundation received a \$40,000 grant award from Motorola Solutions Foundation to fund the Award for Excellence and Engineering Pathways scholarship programs.



Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness

- The Office of Institutional Research has developed a Power BI report to help track progress of the Strategic Plan Student Success goals. The report presents both the overall values for the metrics as well as changes in the identified gaps in performance. Additionally, in collaboration with Student Affairs, Institutional Research has developed an internal information page and Power BI report for the National College Health Assessment (NCHA) survey to aid in the assessment of our students' overall physical, social, economic, and mental health and support student wellness programming.
- The FY2022 Accountability Report was completed and posted to the Harper website. The report summarizes the College's efforts related to the Presidential Priorities, Institutional Effectiveness Measures, Strategic Plan, and Operational Plan.

Workforce Solutions

- The InZone program is wrapping up a successful summer that had 821 students attend through the weeks of June 6 - August 12. The program had significant growth from the summer of 2021 and hopes to continue the momentum heading into the future. One of the highlights of the summer was hosting 20 middle school students selected from Barrington School District 220. These students attended the program for two weeks in July through a Community Innovation Fund grant awarded to the Barrington Area Development Council.
- Martha Karavitis and Susan Mulvey represented Harper College at the Schaumburg Business Association's (SBA) "Women in Business" luncheon last month. The objective of this event was to create connections and build stronger relations between SBA members and Harper College.
- Harper's new OSHA Project Coordinator Pete Almeida represented Harper College at the Elgin Hispanic Network Luncheon last month. Pete presented on OSHA Safety topics and free Safety Training opportunities available at Harper College through OSHA's Susan Harwood Grant.