



# PRESIDENT'S *REPORT*

September 2022

Dear Harper College Community:

We are off to an exciting start for the Fall 2022 semester and there is a noticeable buzz on campus that hasn't been felt since 2019. It brings me great joy to see students studying by the lake, hanging out in Avanté near Subway and by the Starbucks in D Building, as well as filling the hallways with conversation and laughter as they walk together between classes. I have heard from numerous employees how much they enjoy seeing so many of our students back on campus; it is a wonderful reminder of why we do what we do. While we are still seeing a decrease in tuition-bearing FTE (-4.3% from last fall), I am pleased to report we have an increase of 0.6% in total FTE and an increase in headcount of 3.5% from last fall. Our Provost Leadership team is working on strategies to help some of our noncredit students pursue credit opportunities.

Earlier this month, I greeted students, faculty and staff during Hullabaloo, which is the first big student engagement event of the semester. Approximately 1,600 students visited the quad during a beautiful late summer day to play games, enjoy food and learn about the more than 30 clubs and 60 college departments and services that were on hand. Our Student Engagement team does an excellent job of providing a multitude of activities that support five areas of focus: student sense of belonging, wellness and recreation, career exploration, leadership development, and cultural programming. These activities help enhance our students' collegiate experience and support the *You Matter, We Care - SOAR Framework*.

**Campus News . . .**

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In addition to our student clubs and organizations, we also had tables representing our transportation providers—Lyft, Koloni and Pace—who have helped the college offer three solutions for getting to and from campus. Pace has reported that we have good progress on the increasing ridership for the new 697 Route, which provides direct service from the Northwest Transportation Center. We have also received promising user statistics on the bike and ride share programs.

**Koloni Bike Share**  
(as of 9/13/2022)

- Total bike rides: 121
- Miles ridden: 227
- Calories burned: 9,110
- Co2 Emission Reduction: 92

**Lyft Ride Share**  
(as of 9/16/2022)

- Total discounted rides: 208
- Active riders: 96
- Average distance: 7.61 miles
- Average fare: \$17.13

We also have preliminary qualitative feedback. One faculty member shared that one of her students uses rideshares four days a week to get to class. Another faculty member indicated one of her students decided not to purchase a car and will use the Koloni Bike Share program to get to campus. It is gratifying to see the positive impact these options are having in lifting up two of our equity pillars - removing barriers and executing focused solutions for our students.

Last but certainly not least, this month we celebrate our 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a college. Happy anniversary to Harper College and we look forward to many more years of serving our students and our community.



## Student Success

### *Enrollment Services*

- Office of Student Financial Assistance:
  - To help our students and parents with consistent information about the Biden-Harris Administration Student Loan Debt Relief Plan, the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) has created a web page and several additional resources for student facing offices.
  - OSFA is working closely with the One Stop and all student facing offices to assist students through this initiative. We will continue to share as the details (via communications and web page updates) as they are unveiled from the Department of Education/Federal Student Aid.
  - New web page: [Student Loan Debt Relief: Harper College](#)
- Admissions Outreach has been working with temporary employees from Robert Half Talent Agency who have been working on various call campaigns to aid in the onboarding process of our Fall 2022 students. They have also been doing outreach to spring students encouraging them to enroll this Fall.
  - Over 5,000 calls have been made to 3,752 students as part of these campaigns.
  - One thousand two hundred thirty-one of the 3,752 students have progressed in their enrollment steps and registered in a total of 12,280 credit hours for Fall.
  - We are continuing to call students and promote 12- and 8-week classes.
- Admissions Outreach hosted two in-person enrollment fests last month to help onboard students for Fall.
  - Ninety-one students attended and fifty of those attendees completed their enrollment steps and registered in a total of 505 credit hours for Fall.
- The final count of Harper Promise students enrolled at Harper this Fall is 647, with 204 returning students, and 443 new students.
- Harper College welcomed 47 new international students to the Fall term. Before the semester began, the International Student Services Office engaged the new international students in a welcome and orientation program. Special guest, Dr. Avis Proctor, stopped by to greet and welcome the students. She also spent time asking them questions about themselves and their Harper College goals.

### *Health Careers*

- During opening week, 50 faculty and clinical supervisors in the Health Careers Division attended Teaching with Healthcare Simulation: Workshop for Faculty to grow their knowledge of healthcare simulation best practice, become more confident debriefers, and learn about the goals and future of simulation at Harper College. The workshop was facilitated by Caitrin Sobota, Director of Interprofessional Education and Healthcare Simulation.

### *Student Engagement*

- Student Engagement once again hosted Welcome Tables and Welcome Wagons to greet students as they returned to campus for the Fall semester. Information tables were set up throughout campus to welcome students, assist with wayfinding, and share information about campus services and upcoming events. Students were also greeted with giveaways and free coffee and pastries. Welcome Wagons transported students around campus, provided students with the opportunity to win Harper College giveaways and Starbucks gift cards, and answer student questions.



- Neon Night: Student Engagement, in partnership with Student Activities Board, hosted Harper College's Neon Night at the beginning of this month. Since the return to campus, Student Engagement has received feedback directly from students that they wanted to have a dance on campus, and they delivered! Over 300 students joined this interactive social event that began with activities from Playfair for students to get to know each other and transitioned into a glow in the dark dance party. Harper Dining provided students with festival food options throughout the event, Student Activities Board sponsored glow sticks and light up accessories, and HCPD was present to ensure everyone had a wonderful time. This is the first event of its kind and is on track to become an annual Harper tradition!
- Family Movie Night featuring *Lightyear*: Student Engagement and Community Outreach, in partnership with Student Activities Board, hosted Family Movie Night featuring *Lightyear* earlier this month. Harper students and employees were encouraged to attend with their families and the event was promoted to the external Harper community. Guests were welcomed with a Buzz Lightyear themed bounce house, face painting, and an appearance by Buzz himself! Harper Dining offered traditional movie theater concessions to round out this true movie theater experience at a low cost.

### *Harper Wellness*

- Harper Wellness held Buddy System BINGO on the first day of classes in the Quad to help welcome students to campus. Students were able to earn prizes and learn more about how to get connected to the Buddy System. Approximately 100 students participated in BINGO!

### *Campus Recreation*

- Last month, Campus Recreation had the highest number of check-ins since pre-pandemic (March 2020). We had 6,356 check-ins in last month with our busiest week being August 22-26. During the first week of school, we had between 500-600 visits per day.

### *Student Success Initiatives*

- A couple of enhancements were made to the Starfish student success system in September. First, the system was configured to support the new GLIDE student mentorship program from the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The system will be used by those managing the program to keep track of student concerns, as well as to offer kudos for recognition and encouragement. Further, these staff members will appear in participating students' personalized *Success Network*. Second, new filtering options were added to Starfish for advisors to easily identify students in their assigned caseload who have either a high, moderate, or low likelihood of persisting to Spring 2023. The ability to identify and filter students based on this characteristic will help support a new Advising differentiated communication plan based on a student's risk-level.

### *Office of International Education*

- The Office of International Education is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a grant from UIUC's Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies to support programming and professional development focused on the Middle East and North Africa. Our grants from UIUC's Center for Global Studies and from the Midwest Institute for International/Intercultural Education have also been reapproved for this academic year to support curriculum development and programming around South Asia.



- We are also happy to report that we have been approved to receive a Fulbright Scholar in Residence for the spring 2023 semester. Dr. Rabia Ali is a sociology professor based in Pakistan and she specializes in the sociology of gender and women's leadership. Our office is still coordinating activities for Dr. Ali's tenure at Harper, which will include guest lectures, professional development workshops, team teaching, and a campus engagement event during the spring semester.
- In July, the Office of International Education worked in collaboration with the Office of Student Development at Moraine Valley Community College to host the 2022 CCID Summer Institute for board member SIO's. During the institute, board members toured Harper's campus, attended presentations highlighting Harper's international education initiatives and Social Justice Leadership Certificate Program, and planned next directions for the organization with CCID's new Executive Director, Kian Zaire. The institute was a great mechanism to highlight our international and intercultural programs, as well as the support of our administration for these programs.

### *Interdisciplinary Programs*

- Student Success, Enrollment Services, and Student Affairs partnered to offer the first Opening Convocation event that served 180 attendees on August 23rd, 2022. The event featured speakers celebrating students' decision to attend Harper and an opportunity for students to connect with faculty and staff from their Areas of Interest.
- In response to the Developmental Education Reform Act (DERA), six sections of First Year Seminar Math Reboot are offered for fall 2022 to accelerate students' progression through developmental math with intentional wraparound support. Three of the sections were offered as learning communities, linking FYS 101 with MTH 065 to provide cohesive math instruction and support.

### *Honors Program & Phi Theta Kappa*

- There are 62 new Phi Theta Kappa members for SU22 compared to 47 members for SU21. The Honors Program and Phi Theta Kappa has a full event schedule for the fall semester:
  - Saturday, September 10, Forest Preserve
  - Wednesday, September 21, Feed My Starving Children
  - Saturday, October 1, Forest Preserve
  - Friday - Sunday, October 7 – 9, PTK Illinois Regional Leadership Conference
  - Saturday, October 22, Student Visit to Lake Forest College
  - Saturday, October 29, Forest Preserve
  - Saturday, November 19, Holocaust Museum
  - Saturday, December 3, Forest Preserve

## **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

- The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion welcomes two JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Fellows to our department: Dr. Alina Pajtek, professor of English as a Second Language and Linguistics, and Dr. Markenya L. Williams, assistant professor in the Early Childhood and Education department. In their roles as JEDI Fellows, they will develop and implement a broad spectrum of initiatives aligned with the institutional operational plan and the strategic priorities of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.



- The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion launched GLIDE (Guiding Learners to Intentionally Develop Efficacy), a structured mentorship program designed to support the success of Black and Latinx students and decrease the equity gaps identified in our data. GLIDE provides students with an experienced peer mentor, introduces them to a network of faculty and staff on campus and exposes them to an array of cultural activities, academic workshops and social opportunities to enhance their Harper experience. The program has 40 mentees and 10 mentors.
- The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion hosted a very vibrant Cultural Center Kick-Off, with over 200 students attending! Students enjoyed the 360 Photobooth, a live DJ, Lou Malnati's pizza and raffles for Starbucks, and gas gift cards. Special thanks to employees who stopped by to support the event. Your presence was noticed and appreciated.

## 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 will be presented to the Board of Trustees this month.
- 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, the Drone Program, and the Cannabis Lab. Interviews with the short listed architectural firms took place in August with a recommendation forthcoming to the Board of Trustees in October 2022.
- The X241 Respiratory Therapy Lab Project has been remodeled into a multi-purpose lab to support the current and future needs of the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and the Respiratory Therapy programs in Building X. Construction is substantially complete.
- The Environmental Health and Safety office in collaboration with Human Resources, Wellness, Police, and Communications are coordinating activities and awareness around September Campus Safety Month ranging from suicide prevention to evacuation drills.

### *Human Resources*

- Eligible Harper College employees can receive a one-time \$15,000 tuition assistance benefit to be used for the completion of an undergraduate or graduate program at an accredited college or university. Program of study must be related to their current position or a future career path at Harper College. Employees must apply by June 30, 2023, and complete their program by June 20, 2027. Employee receiving the tuition assistance must remain employed for two years following the disbursement of the assistance.
- Harper College has ended its COVID-19 case investigation/contact tracing process for employees and students. Employees and students will no longer fill out the COVID reporting form and COVID email notification will stop. We will continue to monitor the CDC, state and local guidelines for updates. The college has also provided information regarding the Monkeypox virus to employees. While we have had no reported cases, we will monitor guidelines and report accordingly.





- The college will be rolling out an opportunity for employees to use their professional development dollars to pay for an individual membership at the Foglia Foundation Health and Recreation Center. Employees may use dollars available and must follow the established reimbursement process. Information of the amount available can be found in the current collective bargaining agreement or handbook.

## Advancement, Marketing and Communications

### Advancement

- The Foundation received an unqualified audit opinion for the fiscal year 2021-2022. In FY22, the Foundation awarded \$5.8 million in scholarships, grants, and awards to 2,052 students.
- The Foundation awarded \$67,500 in Dream Big Angel Grants to six clients of the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Harper College. The Dream Big Angel Grants program was funded with a donation from Kim Duchossois in 2016 and provides funding for small business to start or expand their businesses and help with prototype development.
- Harper Talks launched its third season in September 2022. The first episode features alumnus Erik Horvat who discusses his educational journey post-Harper, life in New York, and career milestones such as his lead role in the redevelopment of the World Trade Center. The award-winning podcast has produced 21 episodes to date and highlights the stories and lives of Harper College alumni in a conversational dialogue with host Brian Shelton, assistant professor of Communication Arts. The podcast is co-produced by WHCM Harper Radio and Harper College Alumni Relations. Visit [harpercollege.edu/alumni](http://harpercollege.edu/alumni) to listen to all the episodes and learn more.

### Marketing Services



For high school students and their families

**HARPER COLLEGE**  
**OPEN HOUSE**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26**  
**4:30–7:30 P.M.**  
**BUILDING A**  
Enter from Algonquin Road

- ➔ **DISCOVER** why thousands of area students choose Harper College each year.
- ➔ **EXPLORE** campus with a guided tour.
- ➔ **MEET** with faculty members and learn about programs.
- ➔ **DISCUSS** student activities, support services, financial aid and much more.
- ➔ **WORK** with the Admissions team to get started.
- ➔ **JOIN** break-out sessions in English or in Spanish.

**RSVP TODAY for the open house** [harpercollege.edu/Hsopenhouse](http://harpercollege.edu/Hsopenhouse)

**QUESTIONS?** 847.925.6707

Harper College is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, marital status, age, mental status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status or sexual orientation. 31264 10/22 TC

Individuals with disabilities who would like to request an accommodation or who have questions about physical access may email [actd@harpercollege.edu](mailto:actd@harpercollege.edu) or call 847.925.6266 at least two weeks in advance of the event date.



- On October 26, Harper will host its first High School Open House since 2019. As part of the digital and direct mail campaign, this invitation will be mailed to approximately 13,600 high school juniors and seniors.



## Community Relations

- Community Relations team wrapped up the back-to-school season last month with a resource fair at the Community Consolidated School District 59 Early Learning Center in Mount Prospect. Families received information about Experience Day and the fall Family Movie Night. Enrollment leads were also collected for ESL classes.
- Dr. Proctor was the guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Arlington Heights earlier this month. The club received an update on the college including challenges facing higher education, Harper's new transportation programs, the University Center, and supporting workforce needs. Out of the 30 attendees, almost all acknowledged they had taken a class at Harper. Increasing our presence with our civic partners is a tactic in the community relations outreach plan to improve the community's understanding of the benefits of higher education and the programs and resources Harper offers.

## Media Relations

- The Daily Herald and Patch ran stories highlighting Harper's new certificates: the Health Education Teaching endorsement and the Audio/Video Arts Technology certificate.
- WGN Radio recently focused on Palatine for its *Your Hometown* series. Pieces that ran on the air, in videos and on its website feature Harper College Radio WHCM, as well as the station's general manager Erica Berger and program director Matt Byrne.
- The Along for the Ride column in the Daily Herald focused on Harper's new bike share program, including interviews with Harper employees Dr. Maria Coons, Maria Tambellini, Jane Suarez del Real, Benjamin Hughes, and Andrea Fiebig, along with student Lorah De Jesus.
- The Daily Herald ran a story about how area community colleges are training students for high tech manufacturing jobs. Dr. Joanne Ivory, dean of career and technical programs, was quoted in the piece.
- The Daily Herald and Patch ran stories about Harper's Paths to College and Career program that provides free training in college and career readiness.
- The Arlington Heights Post/Chicago Tribune profiled Harper student Bernie Bluestein, following the recent Harper ceremony honoring his service in the Ghost Army. Jason Peot, Bernie's Harper professor, was also interviewed for the story.
- WCPT Radio spoke to Rick Beyer, president of the Ghost Army Legacy Project, who discussed Bernie Bluestein and the recent Harper ceremony in his honor, as well as the newly named Bernie Bluestein Sculpture Studio on campus.
- Reports in the Daily Herald and Patch discussed how Harper's Office of International Education received a Fulbright-Hays grant for the Teaching Africa Today project.
- Community College Daily, along with many other publications, reported on Molson Coors Beverage Company's \$100,000 grant to One Million Degrees, spotlighting Harper's role in the program.



## Legislative Affairs

- In August, the college conducted relationship building visits with members of Congress including a virtual meeting with Congressman Mike Quigley. Dr. Proctor thanked Congressman Quigley for his work to secure HEERF funds for our students and advocated for short-term Pell, increases in the Pell grant and other higher education priorities. Dr. Proctor also toured a WINGS safehouse with Congressman Sean Casten while Chief of Staff Jeff Julian provided a campus tour for Kathryn Angell, constituent advocate and outreach assistant for Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky.
- In August, the college also conducted a meet and greet with Assistant Secretary Amy Loyd of the Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education. Dr. Proctor provided an update on the college's work in apprenticeships and dual credit in addition to other higher education priorities.
- In September, Dr. Proctor and Jeff Julian attended the Illinois Legislative Update Luncheon hosted by the Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce & Industry and met with state Representatives Fred Crespo, Tom Morrison, and Michelle Mussman, as well as state Senator Laura Murphy, and Hoffman Estates Mayor Bill McLeod.

## Strategic Alliances and Innovation

### *Grants Office*

- In September, the College was awarded a grant of \$636,000 from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for operational expenses associated with the Education and Work Center in Hanover Park.
- Through Harper's new Innovation Accelerator, Harper is participating in the AACC, Dell, and Intel Artificial Intelligence Incubator Network, a national initiative to develop AI Incubator Labs across the country and build pathways to credit and non-credit courses/programs. Harper is establishing a dedicated, hybridized(blended) AI lab that can be used by students and faculty across multiple disciplines.

## Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness

- The 2022-2026 Institutional Effectiveness Measures (IEM) dashboard is now live. The IEMs focus on leading and lagging student success measures and align with the College's You Matter, We Care; SOAR framework (Search, Onboard, Advance, Realize). This framework explores student milestones and outcomes for each phase of the student lifecycle and serves as an excellent organizing framework for the IEMs. The dashboard, created in Power BI, provides data and information on the IEMs and is used to evaluate the College's performance.
- Results of the spring 2022 Diverse Perspectives and Cultures General Education Assessment have been compiled, analyzed, and shared with the Learning Assessment Committee. Students were assessed on their ability to examine diverse perspectives and cultures as they relate to the individual, the community, and the global society. More than 800 student artifacts were assessed. Results indicate that students near completion of a Harper program of study (45+ credit hours) are better able to reflect on assumptions and biases than are students who recently began their work at Harper. This year, the Learning Assessment Committee will develop an improvement plan based on the assessment results.





- The FY2023 College Plan has been published. This comprehensive document serves as a one-stop resource for information on the planning activities of the college including the President's Goals, Budget and Capital Plan, Strategic Plan, and Operational Plan.

## **Workforce Solutions**

- Harper Business Solutions was represented, through participation, in several events including: the Schaumburg Business Association's Savour event, Welcome Week Activities on Harper's Campus, the Community Education Open House and training host to the CEO and employee group from SG360.