



PRESIDENT'S *REPORT*

October 2022

Dear Harper College Community:

I am overcome with gratitude and humility as I reflect on the memories I have from the incredible events held during my Investiture Week. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I am so happy to have shared it with my family, friends, colleagues from near and far and my Harper colleagues. It truly was a Week of Community Engagement honoring and commemorating my journey to and at Harper as well as our history, present and future as an institution of higher education that cultivates meaningful partnerships with and for our community. There are so many moments that stand out for me.

At the beginning of the week, we celebrated our faculty and staff with a luncheon recognizing them for their continued hard work and excellent contributions on behalf of our students. I also enjoyed spending time with our annuitants and celebrating them for all they have done for Harper College and our students during their careers. Later in the week, I spent time with students during Fall Fest surrounded by pumpkins, and what was left of the pumpkins thanks to our inventive chemistry faculty and their “explosive” experiments. I always enjoy being with students. Not only did I get to answer their questions about myself and my career, but I learned about their dreams and their Harper experiences. I was also pleased to host elected officials, business leaders and community partners for our Community Breakfast where we heard about the fruits of our collaborations with Ascension, Northwest Educational Council for Student Success, Pace, the Palatine Fire Department and Partners for Our Communities. Of course, I will never forget the time spent with family, friends and colleagues at the Welcome Reception. Those stories and tributes warmed my heart and touched my soul. The Investiture Ceremony itself featured so many memorable moments from the students in the Harper College Concert Choir and their faculty leads, the tributes from colleagues and friends, the insightful keynote from Dr. Karen Stout, and the joyful performance from my family members. I am grateful to everyone who participated throughout the week and to those who meticulously planned these events.

I am proud to report three major accreditation outcomes this month. First and foremost, our regional accreditation body, the Higher Learning Commission, affirmed through their mid-cycle review that we continue to meet all standards with no monitoring required. Additionally, we received more excellent news regarding two of our health careers program accreditation reviews. The Practical Nursing Program received full re-accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) with no conditions and next visit in eight years, which is the best possible outcome. The Dental Hygiene Program completed an accreditation site visit by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation during Investiture Week. The program received continued accreditation without reporting requirements, the highest-level accreditation finding possible, for the maximum time period of seven years. The re-accreditation process and any accompanying site visits require tremendous collaboration and precision on the part of our teams. I am so

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proud of our faculty and staff for earning these well-deserved recognitions. These three successful outcomes affirm our commitment to providing excellent educational experiences for our students and our community!

We also continue to offer great student engagement activities with PrideFest and Latinx Heritage Month. PrideFest was well attended by students and employees as well as community organizations. For Latinx Heritage Month, award-winning author Pascuala Herrera, one of our former faculty members who retired in 2020, shared her inspirational life's story in our packed Cultural Center. Last, but not least, our student trustee Maricarmen Gonzalez and Latinos Unidos club president Oscar Silis co-facilitated the 23rd annual Sabor Latino in the Performing Arts Center for a spirited audience. We are committed to providing an array of welcoming and educational events for our community.

Regarding our physical plant, I am pleased to see the progress being made on the design of the Canning Center. While we have had to make some difficult decisions related to programming due to significant inflationary costs, I do believe we will produce a welcoming and vibrant student center that will serve our students and community well for decades to come. It will be a signature state-of-the-art facility on campus housing our culinary/hospitality program, using advanced technologies, employing community spaces for students and a mix of services that will allow prospective and current students to find what they need to begin and sustain their academic journeys at Harper College and beyond via our University Center. We have so much to celebrate as we embrace and strategically plan for a bright future at Harper!



Student Success

Career and Technical Programs

- Continuing Professional Education (CPE 1.6) officially launched a new Fire Training program for local departments in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week this month. In collaboration with the Palatine Fire Department, this new program allows local fire professionals to gain the credentials they need close to where they live and work, without having to commute long distances for training. The three one-week courses launched this fall include Fire Service Instructor I (October), Fire Service Instructor II (October-November), and Fire Department Incident Safety Officer (December).
- In late September, the Learning and Career Center (LCC) benefitted from the installation of Harper's first utilities-connected solar panels. The panels are a capstone component of a series of grants to Harper by the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN), which helps member community colleges build physical infrastructure, instructional capacity, and networks for green practices and careers. Cristina Willard, manager of Continuing Professional Education, spearheaded FY21 and FY22 grants that also included new Continuing Professional Education courses in Solar Business and Technical Sales; SunSpec cybersecurity and distributed energy resources; NABCEP® Photovoltaic Associate certificate prep; solar power tabletop demonstration units; and an Earth Day Green Economy Career event in conjunction with the LCC team, Admissions, and partners at the North Suburban Cook County American Job Center. These achievements towards making the Learning and Career Center a green careers hub will be recognized at year's end with an IGEN Regional Luncheon to be hosted at LCC. Special thanks to Harper Facilities specialists, GRNE Solar installers, and the Harper grants team.
- Last month, the Learning and Career Center partnered with the North Suburban Cook County American Job Center's Illinois Department of Employment Security office to host a job fair with over 50 jobseekers and 20 employers in attendance. Connections were made in diverse industries including transportation, logistics, and distribution; healthcare; food and hospitality; and temp-to-hire agencies. Harper staff highlighted multiple facets of the College as well. Employers were shown the Job Placement Resource Center's Hire-a-Hawk job board and customized training services through Harper Workforce Solutions. Jobseekers learned about the Human Resources website Jobs at Harper, and those jobseekers with education goals had access to Harper's admissions staff as well as an information session promoting the new LCC based Paths to College and Career grant program.
- Paths to College and Career is a new program designed to increase access to Harper College training for adults who would also benefit from basic skills support in digital literacy, business communications, math, and professional skills. The program, which launched in fall 2022, includes free training to help students better prepare for a targeted career or transition to longer-term college studies. The demand for the program has been strong, with approximately 120 inquiries received from adult learners in the community.

Health Careers

- All 17 Radiologic Technology graduates, class of 2022, passed the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) board exam.
- Two programs, Dental Hygiene and Practical Nursing, received high ratings in program accreditation reviews.

Social Justice Studies

- This spring, the Social Justice Studies (SJS) curriculum has expanded to eight course offerings exploring a wide variety of social issues. Spring SJS courses include an exploration of the conflicts and connections between the self and society (ENG102 – Composition); an examination of discrimination, prejudice, and intercultural communication in the United States (DIV101 – Exploring Diversity in the US); a study of social



organization and change as they relate to food systems and systemic racism (SOC101 – Intro to Sociology); an examination of the biology, history, environmental impact, public policy, and social disparities of cannabis (BIO120 – Plants and Society); an exercise in the application of critical thinking skills for addressing social injustice (PHI101 – Critical Thinking); a cultural survey of social development in the modern West (HUM102 – Renaissance to Medieval West); an exploration of the ideas that inspired the African Liberation Movement (HUM107 – Cultures of Africa); and an investigation of the social justice applications and implications of literary film adaptations (LIT112 – Literature and Film).

Student Success Initiatives

- Student Success, Advising, and the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion partnered to create a new referral flag within the Starfish system. This flag will provide advisors and other student service personnel the ability to connect students to the coordinators for Student Diversity Initiatives for confidential consultation with students of color and undocumented students; for connections; and liaison support and advocacy for underrepresented student affinity groups on campus.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- The Circle: Exploring Indigenous Culture and Activism was held this month in recognition of Indigenous People’s Day. Joseph "Standing Bear" Schranz of the Midwest SOARRING Foundation shared his activist journey and discussed ways to advocate for Native Americans.
- This month in celebration of Latinx Heritage Month, we welcomed award-winning author and faculty alum Pascuala Herrera who shared her journey as a Mexican immigrant woman with a disability. The first 20 attendees that arrived received a free copy of her memoir, *Not Always a Valley of Tears*.
- We hosted the twenty-third annual Sabor Latino as our closing event this month for Latinx Heritage Month, which showcased a variety of cultural performances.

Employee Resource Groups (ERGs)

- SAFE partnered with Student Engagement and Pride to host PrideFest this month. Pridefest coincides with National Coming Out Day which is an annual LGBT awareness day to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in “coming out” of the closet.

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 was presented to the Board of Trustees in September. Modifications to the schematic design are being presented to the Board of Trustees in October.
- The scope of work for the Building J Theater Lighting Upgrade Project will include the replacement of the theatrical lighting harnesses and lighting control panel in the Building J Theater. Construction has begun and is scheduled to be completed in December 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, the Drone Program, and the Cannabis Lab. The recommendation for architectural/engineering services is going to the Board of Trustees in October 2022. Fees for the program analysis Phase I will be presented to the Board of Trustees in November 2022 for approval.

Information Technology

- IT has implemented Multi Factor Authentication (MFA) in the Police tablets which enables Harper College Police Department to be compliant to state requirements.
- The first quarterly live phishing simulation emails began in July and were concluded in September, resulting in a 96.91% success rate. Overall, there were a total of 1,682 phishing simulation emails sent in Quarter 1, with 52 links clicked and 122 users reporting Phishing emails to the Information Security team.

Harper College Police

- Chief of Police John Lawson hosted his second "Coffee with the Chief" last month outside of Subway.

Advancement, Marketing and Communications

Advancement

- In partnership with the Grants Department, the Foundation has received three grants totaling \$152,000 in support of student scholarships from Motorola Solutions Foundation, Rivers Casino Foundation, and the Gene Haas Foundation.
- The fall Virtual Corporate Mentoring program has matched 53 Harper students with mentors from ten corporate partners: Allstate, AIP, Barrington Bank & Trust and Wintrust, Clearwater Capital Partners, Eriksson Engineering Associates, Northwest Community Healthcare, School Health, SHI International Corporation, Vistex, and WT Group.
- The Foundation has partnered with the Illinois Community College System Foundation to accept Individual Retirement Arrangement (IRA) Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) gifts on behalf of the Foundation.

Community Relations

- Throughout the fall, Community Relations has been participating in pop up resource fairs hosted by Partners for our Communities at high density apartment complexes in Arlington Heights, Palatine, and Rolling Meadows. Families received information about resources provided by multiple community organizations, groceries from the All Saints Mobile Food Pantry and information about Harper programs and resources. Harper representatives collected contact information from residents interested in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and other programs. Community Relations will continue to work with the All Saints Mobile Food Pantry to continue sharing information and engaging with community members utilizing their services.
- Last month, Community Relations participated in the CCSD59 Fall Fair in Elk Grove Village. More than 200 families attended the event and received information about Harper programs, resources and events including Experience Day, Free Movie Friday, and other programs. Contact information for people interested in ESL and other classes was also collected.
- Harper school tours resumed last month. The tours were put on hold in March 2020 due to the pandemic. More than 130 students from Rupley and Salt Creek Elementary Schools participated in interactive



activities hosted by Manufacturing and Metal Fabrication, World Languages, and Architecture. They also visited Student Engagement, the Health and Recreation Center, and the Makerspace. Prior to the pandemic approximately 4,000 students visited Harper through the tour program annually. The K-8 districts are excited to return to campus and give their students the opportunity to meet Harper students and develop a passion for education and college.

Marketing Services

- The college launched Harper's new campaign: *Find *it at Harper*. The three-year campaign will be integrated into all aspects of enrollment marketing. The campaign inspires prospective students in search of what's next in their lives. Whether they're looking to get back in the game, change careers or change the world, they'll *Find *it at Harper College*.
- The college launched the Aspen Top 25 awareness campaign. This includes, but isn't limited to, prominent home page messaging, marquee, on campus banners and lighted signage, pop-up banners, social media, etc. The Aspen Top 25 icon will continue to be included in major publications as they are created, as appropriate, throughout the year.
- National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) D3 awarded a Silver Medallion Award to Harper for the Destination Harper marketing campaign.

Media Relations

- Inside Higher Ed ran a feature story about transit problems and solutions at colleges and universities across the country, highlighting Harper's efforts to work with the Pace bus system and partnership with Lyft to offer discounted rides to students.
- The Daily Herald, Journal & Topics, and Patch ran stories about Dr. Proctor's Investiture Ceremony, highlighting Harper's accomplishments during her tenure.
- The Daily Herald published a story about how students in Harper's district are leading in state College and Career Pathway endorsements, due to Harper's NECSS partnership with Township High School Districts 211, 214, and 220.
- Modern Healthcare, the Daily Herald, Patch, and other publications published articles about Harper's partnership with Rush University Medical Center in the new Medical Assistant Apprenticeship Program.
- The Daily Herald and Patch ran pieces about Harper's Diagnostic Cardiac and Medical Sonography programs offering free ultrasounds to the community, including an item in the Daily Herald's "The Suburbs in 60 Seconds" series.
- Mass Transit magazine and other publications ran pieces spotlighting Harper's partnership with Pace to recruit and train new professional bus operators.
- Community College Daily ran an item about Harper's Lyft Pass Program, offering discounted rides to students.
- The Daily Herald and Patch ran articles about Harper's recent Employee Attraction and Retention Summit.
- Multiple national publications published an OSHA release about grants awarded to educational institutions, including Harper, to improve workplace health and safety.



- The Daily Herald ran a piece about a NECSS poverty simulation, hosted by Harper, designed to help leaders better understand the struggles their constituents encounter.
- Journal & Topics ran a piece about Harper being awarded the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Grant.
- The Daily Herald published an editorial praising Harper's role in training manufacturing employees in the Chicago suburbs.

Legislative Affairs

- Senator Richard Durbin visited Harper College this month to meet with Dr. Proctor and discuss important higher education issues including open educational resources, student services and partnerships with school districts and universities. Sen. Durbin also visited with six students from a variety of apprenticeship programs including health care, supply chain management and CNC precision machining. "Harper and other community colleges are key to our ability to replenish and transform the workforce," Durbin said. "Colleges can make sure our workforce matches our needs as a state. I'm here today to listen to you and take the message back to policymakers in Washington."
- Chief of Staff Jeff Julian attended AACC's Advocates in Action in Washington, D.C., a two-day program for community college leaders on higher education policy and the federal legislative process, including session with senior Congressional staff and other key advocates in higher education. During the visit, he also met with staffers from Harper's Congressional delegation including Senator Durbin and Congressmen Krishnamoorthi, Quigley and Schakowsky.
- The college was also represented by Dr. Proctor and Jeff Julian at the Hoffman Estates Illinois Legislative Luncheon with state Reps. Fred Crespo and Michelle Mussman as well as state Sen. Laura Murphy and at the Barrington Area Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast with Reps. Chris Bos and Martin McLaughlin as well as state Sen. Dan McConchie.

Strategic Alliances and Innovation

Grants Office

- In September, Harper was awarded its fourth follow-on grant for the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Susan Harwood Training Program. The award of \$131,219 for this Capacity Building Developmental grant to continue to build new occupational safety and health training capacity in Community Education. Harper will continue to develop and provide training to small businesses and workers in high-hazard industries.
- Harper received two subawards from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. One subaward is \$6,000 as part of the Title VI National Resource Center Grant in Middle East Studies for the "Middle East Region Focus Group at Harper College" with funding for professional development workshops and co-curricular activities on the Middle East and North Africa. The second subaward for \$1,750 is part of the Title VI National Resource Center Grant in Global Studies for Global Region of Focus - Critical LCTL and area studies development at Harper and the development of Elementary Swahili curriculum materials.
- In September, the Grants Office submitted a proposal for \$20,000 to AACC for the second cohort of Cyber Skills for All: Community Colleges Lead the Way. Funding will support the development and



implementation of Cybersecurity academic programs at Harper. Another proposal for \$345,647 was submitted to the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education program to fund a project entitled Enhancing UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) Career Readiness in Biological Monitoring and Resource Management which supports the continued development of Harper's sUAS drone technology program.

Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness

- The Office of Institutional Research partnered with several offices across campus to improve accessibility to data and information. The collaboration with Student Affairs resulted in a new internal webpage to provide easy access to the Trellis Student Financial Wellness reports as well as the development of a Power BI report to better serve students in the Buddy System program. A partnership with Academic Affairs led to the reorganization and improved dissemination of the multiple items needed for comprehensive program review as well as the development of two Power BI reports - one for the apprenticeship program and one for the Adult Enrollment team.
- Last month, the Learning Assessment Committee and the Academy for Teaching Excellence held the 14th Annual Harper College Assessment Conference and Share Fair. More than 70 faculty and staff attended the conference that focused on student learning assessment, including the keynote address Reset to Re-engage: Assessment for Community Building presented by Dr. Natasha Jankowski, Senior Fellow for community colleges at Strada Education Network, and lecturer for New England College and Endicott College. Harper faculty and staff presented a variety of posters as well as breakout sessions. Session topics included equity centered assessment, autobiographical assessment, and general education outcomes assessment.

Workforce Solutions

- The Community Education program had its program certified by the Learning Resources Network (LERN), the leading association in continuing education. To receive certification, the organization had to submit a set of data to LERN and update that data each year. "The data represent the most important ratios in our field. A program not only has to calculate the data, but in doing so understand the critical role it plays in successful continuing education programs and decision making, as well as improving performance," said William A. Draves, President of LERN. "These are rigorous standards. Not only do you have to measure outcomes but follow best practices. The certification is elite, but not elitist. The outcomes are learner oriented and in the best interests in serving the community."
- Harper Business Solutions held "Where Did Everybody Go?", an Employee Attraction and Retention Summit last month which yielded connection with 156 new business registrants and participation from 22 companies that have existing relationships with Harper College.
- Martha Karavitis presented on Harper's "Paths to College and Career" program to 30 participants at Harper's Learning and Career Center hosted at the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) Job Fair last month. The presentation focused on the "Paths to College and Career" program intended for adult learners and under-represented audiences who can benefit from upskilling to enter the workforce and Harper academic programs. The "Paths to College and Career" initiative is comprised of a number of non-credit offerings and has been developed by multiple departments at the college. The program is funded through the Illinois Community College Board – Innovative Bridge and Transition program.