



PRESIDENT'S *REPORT*

November 2022

Dear Harper College Community:

It was an honor and privilege to meet First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, and Labor Secretary Marty Walsh to celebrate Harper College's contributions to apprenticeships as part of National Apprenticeship Week. Dr. Michelé Smith did an excellent job representing Harper College during the conversation with the First Lady and Cabinet secretaries showcasing our partnership with District 214 as part of the visit at Rolling Meadows High School. We are at the forefront nationally of developing a smooth pathway for our students because of our partnerships with our high schools through the Northwest Education Council for Student Success (NECSS), our university partners including those through the University Center, and our employers through our internships and apprenticeship programs. The evolution of these partnerships and the establishment of new ones will continue to be critical as we chart the future of education and work.

I am happy to report that the campus has been buzzing with life as prospective and current students, their parents, employees and community members attend a variety of events including our Diversity Symposium, Veterans Day celebration, Fall High School Open House, Experience Day and more. While we have embraced the benefits of flexible work and online learning, there is no substitute for those community building moments that bring us together with our Harper College community.

As you'll see in this report, our Harper athletes have been representing the college well with our men's and women's soccer teams and women's volleyball team advancing in the playoffs. A big congratulations to our women's cross-country team who won their fourth Women's Cross Country National title. Thank you to our student athletes who represent the college well in both the classroom and on the field.

I was pleased to present "Boosting Enrollment with a Focus on Underserved Populations" with Trustee Bill Kelley, Alejandro Mendoza, and Dr. Tamara Johnson at the ACCT Leadership Conference in New York. As the conference theme focused on supporting families, we presented on our family-focused Project Achievement, Surpassing Obstacles (PASO) recruitment program and our Guiding Learners to Intentionally Develop Efficacy (GLIDE) peer mentoring retention program that began this fall. The large audience posed several questions and found value in our recruitment and retention for student success programming. It's always great to share best practices and impact student success through our sister institutions across the nation.

As co-chair for the American Association of Community Colleges Commission on Economic and Workforce Development, I led the discussion regarding early college access, equity and success, justice-involved students, employer engagement and Arthur Levine and Scott Van Pelt's book, *The Great Upheaval: Higher Education's Past, Present, and Uncertain Future*. Also, we were fortunate to meet directly with a representative from Microsoft to learn about some of their efforts solely linked to working with community colleges. The Commission made several recommendations including strengthening awareness on emerging

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technologies and occupations and building our brand as a sector. Harper continues to lead and develop programming in high demand areas such as Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity. Indeed, we continue to lead as trusted partners focused on bringing solutions with talent acquisition and upskilling of talent, jointly designing programs and opportunities with and for our community.



Student Success

Student Engagement

- Student Engagement's annual student leadership training took on the form of a pick your path conference this year for student leaders in clubs and organizations. The 75 students in attendance heard from 2022's Outstanding Recent Alumni Honoree Isaac Jean-Paul for the keynote address then had the opportunity to choose their subsequent conference sessions. Sessions included Student Club and Organization 101, Bystander Intervention Training, The Harper College Educational Foundation 101, Alcohol and Other Drugs, and Club and Organization Recruitment. Special thanks to the session presenters: Beth McPartlin, Shannon Hynes, Heather Zoldak, Chris Maxwell, Sue Borchek Smith, and Melanie Duchaj.
- This month, Student Engagement's LEAD Harper series focused on the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Competency of Leadership. The 16 students in attendance had the opportunity to take Gallup's Strengths Finder Assessment to discover their top five signature strengths. The students then spent time constructing their own definition of leadership and exploring their signature strengths with a certified Strengths Finder coach. The next session will be held this month and will focus on communication.

Enrollment Services

- The University Center (UC) held its first ever University Center Transfer Fair last month. The fair featured our four UC partners—DePaul University, Northern Illinois University, Roosevelt University, and Southern Illinois University. More than 150 students attended. The UC is already busy planning our next fair for Spring 2023!
- Admissions Outreach hosted an on-campus Open House for prospective high school students and their families at the end of last month. This was the first on-campus open house since fall 2019. Over 330 students attended with their families with nearly 1,000 total attendees.

Office of International Education

- The Office of International Education sponsored several educational and intercultural events as a part of our International Education Week (IEW) festivities, which took place the end of last month/beginning of this month. Events included a presentation about sex trafficking in South Asia given by Harper student Varshitha Akella, a presentation about traditional Costa Rican dances given by visiting students from Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica-Sarapiquí (UNA), and a panel discussion by international disability rights activists discussing perceptions of disabilities in Bangladesh, Japan, and the US (co-hosted with the Access and Disability Services office). We hosted a Chinelos performance as part of Día de Los Muertos festivities (co-hosted with the DEI Office) and a traditional Indian dance workshop. We also provided information sessions about the Global Scholars Distinction, the Social Justice Studies Distinction, and World Language course offerings at Harper. Approximately 200 students, faculty, and staff members participated in IEW events.
- At the beginning of this month, we hosted our annual International Education Summit and the theme this year was Sustainability and Conservation. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Debra Rowe, president of the US Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development, spoke about the importance of building competencies among our students so that they can be change agents for a more socially just and environmentally sustainable world. Breakout sessions included presentations by Harper faculty, faculty from UNA, and faculty from College of DuPage (COD). Broadly, these breakout sessions focused on pedagogies that either address or implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including Good Health and Well-Being, Quality Education, Reduced Inequalities, Climate Action, Life on Land, and Responsible Consumption and Production. In total, 62 faculty, staff, and administrators from Harper, UNA, COD, and Sauk Valley Community College attended the summit.



- At the end of October, Harper College and Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica-Sarapiquí formalized their partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This partnership will enhance internationalization efforts at both institutions and builds upon a strong foundation established in 2018 with the visit of our former Fulbright Scholar-In-Residence, Professor Jairo Viales. Through a 100,000 Strong in the Americas grant, which supported exchanges between faculty and students from UNA and Harper, this relationship has only deepened. As a result of this Memorandum, we will be able to increase intercultural exchanges between our two institutions, including cooperative teaching and curriculum development, staff professional development, and exchange programs for students, faculty, and scholars. In early December 2022, Dr. Richard Johnson and Office of International Education director Nellie Khalil will visit the UNA campus to give presentations on internationalizing the curriculum and will discuss the details of new initiatives that will result from this MOU.

Business/Social Science

- Last month, the Drone Technology and Applications Program hosted Officer Kevin Snow, who is an officer at the City of Elgin Police Department. Officer Snow spoke to Harper students, faculty, and staff about his department's acclaimed drone program.
- Currently the History Department and Business Social Sciences Division have been sponsoring the Young History Scholars Program for the Harper community. This program involves current and former Harper students who present a specific History-related lecture series. This fall 2022, the series have included Classical Civilizations: Ancient Greece and Rome; The Space Race between the U.S. and U.S.S.R; and Dunkirk, the Blitz. and the Battle of Britain. These lecture series are open to the entire Harper community.

Harper Wellness

- Over 400 students participated in Fall Fest last month. Ninety-four students completed the Fall Fest scavenger hunt, which contained information about various wellness resources on campus. Over 70% of students were able to list one way they manage stress during the semester.
- Harper Wellness worked with the Illinois Department of Public Health to offer a pop-up vaccine clinic for flu, COVID, and MPV (Monkeypox) vaccines last month at Building M. Over 100 vaccines were administered during the event.

Athletics

- Harper men's soccer team defeated Madison College to win the Region 4 Championship and the rights to host Midwest District Semifinal. In the first semifinal game, Harper defeated Anoka-Ramsey, leading to a showdown against the national ranked #1 Richland College (Texas) for a spot in the national tournament. Richland defeated Harper, ending a successful season for the men's soccer team.
- Harper women's soccer team defeated Joliet Junior College in the Region 4 semifinals then lost to Madison College in the Region Championship match. In the Great Lakes District Semifinal, Harper defeated Rochester Community and Technical College, leading to a matchup against the national ranked #2 Delta for a spot in the national tournament. Delta defeated Harper, wrapping up a successful season for the women's soccer team.
- Harper women's volleyball team lost in the Region 4 semifinals, wrapping up a season with a record of 16-25. Natalia Smiech received Region 4 All-Region Tournament, N4C All-Conference, and All-Region honors. Gabby Elbrecht received N4C All-Conference and All-Region honors. Katie Hofmann received All-Region honors.



Advising Services

- One emerging partnership in the past month is through assistance from the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) grant, Advising Services has identified an advisor to support Early Childhood Education (ECE) students through more intentional partnership with faculty to address the shortage of qualified early educators in the workforce. Ryan Wolf has been meeting with and partnering with faculty and staff in ECE to identify, track, and advise these students. Through this partnership, we have begun working on an additional referral flag to identify students in need of assistance from the ECE Success Coach to support students throughout the program.

Honors Program & Phi Theta Kappa

- Earlier this month, honors students Varshitha Akella and Taiah Guess both received the Freddie T. Davy Scholarship at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Dallas, TX. The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to four student presenters each year. Varshitha Akella won for her presentation, "Is She a Prostitute or a Slave?: Methods to Decrease Sex Trafficking and Prostitution in Chicago." Taiah Guess won for her presentation, "A Hidden Epidemic: Chicago's Missing and Murdered Women."
- The fall 2022 Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony was held earlier this month in the J Theater. Sixty students were inducted into the Phi Phi Chapter.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- The annual Diversity Symposium was held in the Wojcik Conference Center in October. Over 150 faculty and staff attended. This year's theme was Understanding Systemic Racism: Past, Present and Making it Personal. Participants gained deeper insight into how systemic racism impacts people, organizations, policies and practices.
- Drs. Tamara Johnson, Alina Pajtek, and Markenya Williams completed a 10-Hour Racial Equity Facilitator Training series with Paul Gorski and the Equity Literacy Institute.
- The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in collaboration with Latinos Unidos and the Office of International Education hosted Día de los Muertos Ofrendas in Avanté. This program included Day of the Dead bread, sugar skull painting, and cultural performers earlier this month.
- In collaboration with the Office of Institutional Research, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion contracted with the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center (NORC) to conduct eight virtual focus groups with students of color. Once the data and final report are received, more information will be available.

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, facilities to support the Hospitality Program and the University Center. The schematic design was approved by the Board of Trustees in October. Design development has begun and is scheduled to be completed in June 2023.



- 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 to negotiate a contract for architectural/engineering services was approved by the Board of Trustees in October. Fees for the program analysis Phase I will be presented to the Board of Trustees this month for approval.
- The scope of work for the Building J Theater Lighting Upgrade Project includes the replacement of the theatrical lighting harnesses and lighting control panel in the Building J Theater. Construction is substantially complete.

Human Resources

- Supervising@Harper has held two months of highly attended sessions on Tuesday mornings. Topics covered include employee relations, benefits and compensation, recruitment, employment systems, payroll, and wellness. Upcoming topics include marketing, purchasing, and accounts payable.
- Human Resources has been able to introduce two initiatives for employees to use on campus. Employees may now use their professional development dollars to be reimbursed for a membership at the Foglia Foundation Health and Recreation Center. Employees are also eligible for a one-time \$15k tuition assistance for the completion or a bachelor's degree, master's degree, or doctoral/terminal degree. Employees must be in a current program or begin a program by June 30, 2023.

Harper College Police

- The Harper College Police Department had its first ever Law Enforcement Accreditation through the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ILEAP) on-site earlier this month. The college has received word that it will be recommended for accreditation.

Risk Management

- A charter has been written for the Emergency Preparedness Committee and sent to perspective members. The first meeting will take place before the end of the fall semester.

Advancement, Marketing and Communications

Advancement

- In October the Foundation released its calendar year end direct mail appeal. The hard copy version of the appeal reached 288 households, and the digital version of the appeal went to over 23,000 active email addresses. The Foundation aims to raise \$45,000 through this effort with the majority of donations going to the General Scholarship Fund and the Resource for Excellence Fund.
- Nearly 70 guests attended the Harper College Educational Foundation's second "Interactive Tour" event this month. The event invited Foundation donors, HOPE Giving Circle members and supporters, and potential donor prospects to tour Harper facilities and learn more about Harper College's educational curriculum and programming through faculty-led interactive presentations at six college areas. Participating departments included: Dental Hygiene, Nutrition Lab, Surgical Technology Lab, HVAC, IDEA Lab, and Criminal Justice.



Community Relations

- Earlier this month, the annual Harper Experience Day returned to campus for the first time since October 2019. Over 100 Harper faculty, staff and students, community partners, and high school students volunteered their time to make the event a success. Families participated in activities in math, chemistry, biology, technology, health careers, wellness, safety and emergency preparedness, adult education, paralegal studies, world languages, physical science, engineering, manufacturing, law enforcement, fire science, architecture, HVAC, and more. Community partners including the Palatine and Schaumburg Police Departments, Elk Grove Village Library, Greater Family Health, Mount Prospect Public Library, Arlington Heights Memorial Library, Palatine Library District and Schaumburg Township District Library also conducted activities. Despite the unfavorable weather conditions, more than 350 people attended.
- This past month, Harper was an Angel Sponsor for the 2022 WINGS Purple Tie Gala. WINGS has been an important partner of the college for many years. The annual gala raises money to support the programs and services WINGS provides and celebrates their survivors and their achievements. Dr. Proctor, Harper trustees and executive cabinet members represented Harper at the event.
- Last month, Community Relations participated in Trunk and Treat events at the Palatine Park District and on campus. More than 500 people attended the ICompete event in October. ICompete is a collaboration between Partners for our Communities and Palatine Park District to engage lower income families in the Palatine area. This is Harper's third year attending the Trunk and Treat. Also in October, Harper hosted its first Trunk and Treat presented by the Harper Police, Campus Recreation, Harper Athletics, Latinos Unidos and the Black Student Union. Harper departments and police departments from throughout the district participated in the event.

Marketing Services

- The new high school First Time in College (FTIC) viewbook was mailed to approximately 7,200 in-district juniors and seniors earlier this month. The viewbook is also used by Harper's outreach team at events and during high school visits: <https://www.harpercollege.edu/highschool/viewbook/index.php>.

Media Relations

- The *Daily Herald*, *Journal & Topics* and *Patch* published photos and stories about U.S. Senator Dick Durbin's visit to campus, conversation with Dr. Proctor, and meetings with Harper apprentices.
- *Community College Daily* ran a photo and information about Dr. Proctor's October Investiture Ceremony.
- The *Daily Herald* published multiple articles about the Jack Kerouac Centenary Conference on Harper's campus, including quotes from event emcee and Harper Professor Dr. Kurt Hemmer.
- The Pew Charitable Trusts' *Stateline* publication published a piece about transportation struggles for community college students, highlighting Harper's efforts to remedy this via the Lyft Ride Share Program and the Bike Share Pilot.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran pieces about the shared Ukrainian heritage of the President's Art Award student recipients.
- The *Arlington Heights Post/Chicago Tribune* ran stories about the potential impact of an Arlington Heights stadium for the Chicago Bears on Harper, with perspective from Rob Galick, executive vice president of finance and administrative services.
- The *Daily Herald*, *Journal & Topics* and *Patch* all ran previews of Harper's Experience Day, featuring quotes from Community Relations Manager Amie Granger.



- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* published stories and photos from the signing ceremony between Harper and Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, Campus Sarapiquí.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran notices previewing Harper's one-day vaccination clinic, offering vaccines for the flu, COVID-19 and monkeypox.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran pieces welcoming public comment as part of the Harper College Police Department's accreditation process.

Legislative Affairs

- Chief of Staff Jeff Julian attended the Barrington Area Chamber of Commerce Legislative Luncheon featuring Rep. Martin McLaughlin, Sen. Dan McConchie, and Rep. Chris Bos.
- Results from the November 2022 General Election include Democrats maintaining control of the Governor's office and the General Assembly in the Spring 2023 legislative session. Potential leadership changes are expected in both chambers with House Minority Leader Jim Durkin already declaring he will not run for another term as caucus leader.

Illinois State Representatives

- Fred Crespo (i), D-44th District
- Nabeela Syed, D-51st District
- Martin McLaughlin (i), R-52nd District
- Mark Walker (i), D-53rd District
- Mary Beth Canty, D-54th District
- Martin J. Moylan (i), D-55th District
- Michelle Mussman (i), D-56th District
- Jonathan Carroll (i), D-57th District
- Bob Morgan (i), D-58th District
- Daniel Didech (i), D-59th District
- Norma Hernandez, D-77th District

Illinois State Senate

- Cristina Castro (i), D-22nd District
- Dan McConchie (i), R-26th District
- Ann Gillespie (i), D-27th District
- Laura Murphy (i), D-28th District
- Julie Morrison (i), D-29th District
- Adriane Johnson (i), D-30th District
- Don Harmon (i), D-39th District

U.S. House of Representatives

- Delia Ramirez, D-3rd District
- Mike Quigley (i), D-5th District
- Raja Krishnamoorthi (i), D-8th District
- Jan Schakowsky (i), D-9th District
- Brad Schneider (i) D-10th District

U.S. Senate

- Tammy Duckworth, D



Illinois and County Positions

- Governor – JB Pritzker (i), D
 - Lt. Governor – Juliana Stratton (i), D
 - Secretary of State – Alexi Giannoulias, D
 - Cook County Board President – Toni Preckwinkle (i), D
- At the state level, attention will now turn to the Fall 2022 Veto Session (Nov. 15-17, Nov. 29-Dec. 1) as well as the “Lame Duck” Session for the 102nd General Assembly. At the federal level, while Democrats retained control of the Senate with the reelection of Mark Kelly in Arizona, control of the House of Representatives remains unclear.

Strategic Alliances and Innovation

Grants Office

- Last month, Harper was awarded \$100,000 from Rivers Casino to fund the Rivers Casino Veteran and Military-Connected Students Scholarship. This funding will provide scholarships for up to 20 veteran and military-connected students.
- In October, the Grants Office submitted four grant proposals requesting:
 - \$400,000 for the Illinois Community College Board's Innovative Bridge and Transition Grant Program;
 - \$999,772 for the U.S. Department of Education's College Completion Fund for Postsecondary Student Success Program;
 - \$1,599,842 for the U.S. Department of Labor ETA's Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grant (SCC3); and
 - \$100,000 for the Illinois Board of Higher Education's Nursing School Grant Program

Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness

- Deann Surdo, director of outcomes assessment and institutional effectiveness, participated in a poster session at the 2022 Assessment Institute in Indianapolis in October. The poster, titled Engaging Various Stakeholders in Evaluating General Education Outcomes, highlighted the General Education Advisory Committee, whose purpose is to share best practices and ideas around General Education assessment. The committee consists of representatives of the community, alumni, and Harper College faculty and staff. This committee was created in 2019 by members of Harper’s Learning Assessment Committee to improve engagement around general education outcomes with members of the community.
- All employees were invited to provide feedback on the campus climate through the Personal Assessment of the College Environment (PACE) survey. The PACE climate survey provides data that can be used to facilitate open and constructive campus conversations around climate. More than 600 (47% response rate) employees completed the survey. The survey administrator, the Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research at North Carolina State University, will analyze the results and provide detailed reports to the college early in the spring semester.

Workforce Solutions

- Last month, Dr. Michelé Smith, Kathleen Canfield, Dr. Scott Cashman, and Tom Cassell presented "Working with Workforce Solutions" at Good Morning Schaumburg to approximately 120 small business owners and community partners.
- Dr. Joanne Ivory, Dean of Career & Technical Programs, and Dr. Michelé Smith, Vice President of Workforce Solutions, presented at the National Conference for Workforce Education (NCWE) last month. The title of the session was: Changing the Narrative: Simultaneous Attainment of Academic Credentials and Gainful Employment. The session focused on how Harper has successfully collaborated across divisions, and with our employer partners, to bridge the time gap between credential attainment and gainful employment for our students.
- During the month of October, four site visits were conducted to our apprenticeship partner employers: Broadspire (Crawford), GF Machining, Paylocity, and Schultes Precision Manufacturing. All four of them are excited to continue working with Harper College as an apprenticeship partner. Additionally, DB Schenker has signed an agreement with Harper College to participate in our Supply Chain Management/Logistics Apprenticeship Programs.