

Participate. Discover. Focus.

Strategic Planning Process 2024-2025

The Changing Landscape of the Community

October 29, 2024

2:00-3:30 p.m.

In this dialogue session, we will explore the transforming demographics, economic trends and social dynamics shaping our community college district. Harper College has already experienced major changes to the community it serves as evidenced by recent distinctions as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI). Who will be a part of the communities we serve in the next decade, what programs and services will they need, and which organizations will we identify as partners?

Agenda

2:00 p.m.	Welcome/Introduction of Moderator	Dr. Avis Proctor
2:05 p.m.	Introduction of Panelists	Kathy Millin
2:10 p.m.	Q & A with Panelists	Kathy Millin and Panelists
2:45 p.m.	Audience Questions	All

Moderator:

- **Kathy Millin**, Executive Director, Partners for Our Communities

Panelists:

- **Dr. Jennifer Bell**, Professor, Adult Education and English Literacy Acquisition, Harper College
- **Anne Campbell**, Community Member
- **Dr. Michael Connolly**, Superintendent, Community Consolidated School District 21
- **Demetrius J. Gibson**, Trustee, Township of Schaumburg
- **Liza Gutierrez**, Director of Immigration Programs, Partners for our Communities
- **Beth Nabors Powers**, Executive Director, JOURNEYS | The Road Home

Moderator:

Kathy Millin

Kathy Millin has been the executive director at Partners for Our Communities (POC) for 20 years and taught English as a second language and adult literacy classes at Harper College for 28 years. She lives in the Palatine community and is invested in seeing POC's children and families succeed. She won the Township High School District 211 Community Leader Award in 2014. She is responsible for bringing empowerment programs to POC, such as ICompete, ROLE, Family Learning Lab, Promotoras de Salud, Community Nursing and Mental Health, and community school and additional after-school homework sites.

Panelists:

Dr. Jennifer Bell

Dr. Jennifer Bell is a seasoned educator with over two decades of experience in Adult Education, specializing in English language acquisition, high school equivalency, and college and career readiness. As a full-time professor at Harper College, Jennifer has dedicated her career to empowering learners and fostering their academic success. Jennifer's expertise is grounded in her extensive academic background, which includes an Ed.D. in community college leadership, a M.A. in teaching English to speakers of other languages/applied linguistics, and a B.A. in general studies in the humanities. Her doctoral research focused on factors that contribute to student success in college and the challenges faced in transitioning to higher education.

Prior to joining Harper College, Jennifer gained valuable experience working as an English as a second language teacher and assistant director at Chicago Commons, a community-based organization. This role allowed her to develop a deep understanding of the unique needs and experiences of adult learners. Beyond her professional accomplishments, Jennifer is passionate about environmental conservation and community engagement. In her free time, she volunteers with Chicago Bird Collision Monitors, contributing to bird conservation efforts. Jennifer's commitment to making a positive impact extends to her belief in collaboration and community building.

Anne Campbell

Anne Campbell has extensive community engagement experience. She recently stepped down from her position as the Community Impact Facilitator for the United Palatine Coalition after more than five years of service. Her previous roles include serving as a case management and baby closet manager at Preservation of Human Dignity, a pregnancy counseling center in Palatine, as well as a case manager for Connections of Illinois. She served on the boards for the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County and Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc. (CEDA). Anne is a registered nurse and has a master's degree in social justice and community development from Loyola University. Anne and her husband have been living in Palatine for almost 40 years while raising five children.

Dr. Michael Connolly

Dr. Michael Connolly has been the superintendent of Community Consolidated School District 21 since 2018. Prior to that, he was the Superintendent of Keeneyville School District 20 from 2011 to 2018. He holds an Ed.D. from National Louis University and is a member of Harper College's President C Suite Advisory Council. He is also a member of the Governing Board American Association of School Administrators (AASA) and the region president for Cook North, Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA).

Demetrius J. Gibson

Demetrius J. Gibson has been a Schaumburg Township Trustee since 2021 and has lived in Schaumburg Township with his wife Maria for more than 15 years. Together, they have four children—two boys and two girls. Demetrius works as a Corporate Account Manager for Bunge Lodgers Croklaan. He holds a M.B.A. from DePaul University. When he is not spending time with his family, Demetrius dedicates his efforts to advancing diversity, inclusion, and cultural awareness.

Liza Gutierrez

Liza Gutierrez is the current director of Immigration Programs at Partners for Our Communities. She earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Loyola University Chicago and recently returned to school to become accredited by the Department of Justice to represent clients in immigration court. Liza has worked with marginalized communities in the northwest suburbs since 2002. She is also an elected trustee in the Village of Hanover Park where she lives with her wonderful family and two crazy dogs.

Beth Nabors Powers

Beth Nabors Powers has been a recognized leader in the nonprofit community for more than three decades. Beth started her career serving as a family therapist for women recently reunited with their children after successfully completing residential care for substance abuse. She was subsequently promoted to director of development at the agency, where she successfully led a multi-million-dollar capital campaign to establish an equine therapy program for adolescents struggling with substance abuse. Those experiences led Beth on the path to being hired to merge two non-profits, Northwest Suburban PADS, Inc. and HOPE NOW, Inc. forming what is now known as JOURNEYS | The Road Home.

For more than 25 years, she has served as the executive director of the organization, helping develop JOURNEYS into a highly regarded and highly successful institution serving individuals and families facing homelessness throughout the northwest suburbs of Cook County. Most recently, Beth completed a successful \$6.2 million capital campaign that built a new, state-of-the-art community building with 42 shelter beds, seven affordable housing units and an enhanced day center offering free counseling and case management services with the focus of feeding, clothing, and housing the poor and struggling neighbors among us.

Beth continues to serve, as an alumnus, on a variety of committees at Saint Viator High School. She is a proud member of the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County and of the Supportive Housing Providers Association. Additionally, she is a member of the Arlington Heights Rotary Club, the Palatine Chamber of Commerce and the Schaumburg Business Association.