

THE PHILANTHROPIC  
MAGAZINE OF  
HARPER COLLEGE

COMMUNITY

# CATALYST

SUMMER 2022



“Every *accomplishment* begins  
with the *decision* to try.”

— Anonymous

[harpercollege.edu/foundation](http://harpercollege.edu/foundation)

Harper College  
EDUCATIONAL  
FOUNDATION

FROM THE DESK OF  
**LAURA J. BROWN**  
 HARPER COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL  
 FOUNDATION CHIEF ADVANCEMENT OFFICER



The Harper College Educational Foundation is a special place filled with hardworking and committed volunteers and donors who create opportunities and develop resources for students to go to college. Without their help and the support of our Board of Directors, it would not be possible.

This fiscal year (FY22/23), the Educational Foundation will celebrate 50 years since it was formed in 1973. Using traditional terminology – "We've come a long way baby." The Foundation's first donation was on January 10, 1974, for unrestricted grants. The first scholarship on file was from Franchise Management Systems in May 1974 in the amount of \$500 to support Harper students in the Food Service Management program. At the end of FY74 the Foundation's total assets were \$6,700. In comparison, today, as of March 31, 2022, our total assets are \$56,434,095. Our past leaders understood the Educational Foundation would grow to develop great opportunities for future Harper College students. I wonder if they imagined this type of growth.

I am inspired by the goals and directions set forth for the Foundation these next two years to increase the scholarship opportunities available to all students. As we all work together

to create new scholarship opportunities, we are empowering students to succeed and attend college. Whether enrolling with the goal to transfer to a college or university to complete a degree or certificate, scholarships provide support for a debt-free college education.

Through scholarships, we are making a difference in Harper College students' lives and futures. The decision to pursue a college education should not be based on affordability, but instead on the quality of the educational experience, ability to maximize career opportunities, long-term professional goals and a viable future. Scholarships remove barriers to make this possible.

Over the past 50 years of the Educational Foundation's history the mission and vision has been consistent, supporting Harper College students. With the help of donors, volunteers and the foundation board's leadership, we are continually reaching our goals to achieve this mission. Thank you for the past 50 years and many more years to come.

Warm regards,

**480:** Number of Promise scholars enrolled at Harper as freshmen in the Fall 2020

**155:** Students who completed all four semesters of the Promise program and graduated from Harper in May 2022

**12,000:** Community service hours completed by the 155 Promise graduates since 2016

**88%** of Promise graduates earned an Associate in Arts or an Associates in Science degree

**92%** of Promise graduates are planning to transfer to a four-year institution

PROMISE PROGRAM  
 by the **NUMBERS**  
 (2020–2022)

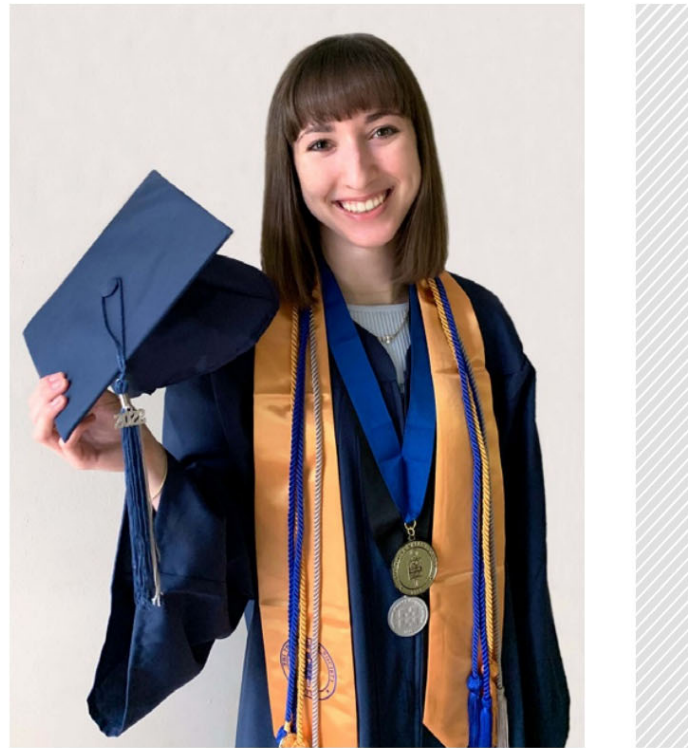


# Promise Profile

*"Harper will never be just a small part of my journey; it will always be a large part of who I am. Long story short, Harper has brought me so much joy and an immeasurable number of opportunities that I will be forever grateful for, along with some amazing connections filled with people who I consider my second family and my second home."*

**Ashley Rosenthal**

Harper College Promise Student



Harper College alumna Ashley Rosenthal (Promise class of 2022) started her Harper education in the fall of 2020 during the pandemic, but that didn't stop her from getting involved. As an honors student, Promise Scholarship recipient, and general manager of the Harper College student-run radio station, Ashley has embraced her time as a Harper Hawk. In addition to being recognized as a 4.0 scholar at graduation, Ashley received a national award for her work at the radio station. Ashley also partnered with the Harper College Educational Foundation as one of the student mentees in the inaugural Corporate Virtual Mentoring Pilot (see page 17). After graduating with an Associate of Arts degree, she will pursue a bachelor's degree in communication with a minor in digital media design at Lake Forest College.



## Igniting Paths to Success Scholarship: providing access to higher education

When her little sister was born, Carmen had an epiphany. She had always been interested in science and the human body, but participating in her younger sister's birth gave her a new perspective on the importance of neonatal nurses.

"I realized that nurses can really change your experience," Carmen said. "Who you are as a caregiver can change a family's whole experience."

In high school at the time, Carmen knew she wanted to study to become a nurse in college. But nothing was going to be easy about that. As an undocumented immigrant (who has lived in the U.S. since she was two), Carmen isn't eligible for financial aid. As a child of a single mother (with a toddler on her hands), she was unsure if she had the money to be a full-time student.

After enrolling in a couple of classes for Harper College's fall 2021 semester, the Wheeling resident applied for the Igniting Paths to Success Scholarship. Made possible by a donation from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott and funds from the Harper College Educational Foundation, the scholarship is designed to help underserved members of Harper's community by paying for tuition, books and fees. She said she was desperate for any amount of financial assistance.

Her desperation turned to joy when she received the Igniting Paths scholarship. She celebrated with her mom and immediately enrolled in two more classes – realizing her plan to go to college full-time.

"I want to put my all into these classes and, without having to work all the time, I can," said Carmen, 18. "It's weird not to feel stressed about paying for college."

Harper launched Igniting Paths to Success in the summer of 2021 with the goal of helping 1,000 students from the community access and prioritize higher education for two academic years. Each semester, scholarship recipients must be enrolled in at least six credit hours, meet with their academic advisor, follow a required academic plan and maintain a 2.0 GPA to continue their eligibility for the scholarship.

Starting with the fall 2021 semester, a variety of Harper students have been making the most of the opportunity. The Ignite Scholars range from traditional-age students who are the first in their families to enroll in college to older students embarking on new careers to better support their families and fulfill their career goals.



FROM THE DESK OF  
**DR. AVIS PROCTOR**  
 PRESIDENT OF HARPER COLLEGE



As we emerge from the pandemic from the past two years, we are entering a revitalization phase of helping people start and complete their education which will ultimately lead to establishing better careers and brighter futures. We're coming back to a new way of life on campus with classes in person, virtual, or blended, and with additional services offered to students to facilitate access to much needed supports.

Community colleges play a critical role in our communities in helping individuals take steps to building a better future for themselves and their families. In May, we had the pleasure of awarding more than 4,000 degrees and certificates to over 3,000 students. I was delighted to honor the achievements of 1,466 first-generation students; 155 Promise Scholars; 226 Ignite Scholars and students representing 17 different countries. The youngest graduate was 15 years old.

With graduation also comes the appreciation for the donors who established more than 200 scholarships for our students. I am grateful to witness and share how this accelerates our students' achievements, including more than 500 students who have earned, or are currently earning, a degree because of a donor's contribution.

Thank you for investing in our students and for recognizing the value of higher education for a better future and a thriving community.

**2,800:** Number of graduates

**15-74:** Age range of graduates

**9:** Number of states  
graduates are from

**17:** Number of countries  
graduates are from

**900:** Number of health care  
and frontline students

**54:** Number of veterans  
who graduated

**1,466:** Number of  
first-generation students

**31:** Number of apprentices

**155:** Number of Promise scholars

**226:** Number of Igniting  
Paths to Success Scholars

**186:** Number of Finish Line  
Grants recipients

GRADUATION  
 by the **NUMBERS**

# Donor generosity inspires new scholarships

*The Harper College Educational Foundation thanks the donors of these new scholarships for their generosity and for inspiring Harper students to realize their dreams.*

**Beaubien Family University Center Scholarship** – Dee Beaubien and her family established this scholarship to support Harper College students who are enrolling or are currently enrolled at the Harper College University Center.

**The Evelyn W. Hunt Scholarship** – Community member Evelyn Hunt passed away in December 2021. This endowed scholarship was created through a planned gift from her trust and will support students with financial need at Harper College.

**The Honorable Timothy C. Evans Scholarship for Paralegal Studies Sponsored by NWSBA** – The Northwest Suburban Bar Association created this scholarship to support two Harper College paralegal students from diverse or underrepresented backgrounds.

**John R. Penkava Endowed Scholarship for Accounting Students** – Sandy Penkava, a Harper College alumna, created this scholarship in memory of her father. For adult accounting students, with a preference for veterans.

**The Kathleen and John Gilmer Student Success Scholarship** – Created in 2011 by Foundation Board member Kathy Gilmer and her husband John, they have expanded their scholarship to support a student during their final year at Harper College and their first year at a University Center partner school.

**Sandhill Home Charitable Fund Endowed Scholarship** – Anonymous donors used their donor advised fund to create this endowed scholarship that will support students at Harper who have financial need.

(Scholarships created as of 5/20/2022)



# INSPIRE

*Build A Better Tomorrow*

## INSPIRE CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The Inspire Campaign quietly kicked-off in the late summer of 2020, and since then, more than 36 new scholarships have been established to inspire Harper students.

These scholarships were created by a variety of people - alumni, faculty, staff, retirees, community groups, businesses, volunteers and community members – all of whom wanted to invest in Harper students. No matter the affiliation with Harper College, one constant remains, these scholarships will build a better tomorrow for Harper students.

As of **May 31, 2022**, close to **\$28,000,000** has been raised for Harper students and programs. This is 93% to our goal of \$30 million. We appreciate the support of everyone who has pledged their support of Harper students – whether it be through an endowed scholarship, transfer scholarship or planned gift.

If you would like to build a better tomorrow for Harper students, their families and our community, please let us know.



# C.H. Johnson Memorial Scholarship

## pays it forward

Upon graduating from Austin High school in Chicago, my dad attended Wright Junior College in Chicago in the mid-1930s to become an automotive mechanic. In 1946, he was able to secure a new car dealership franchise for Hudson Motor cars. I often worked there on weekends and summers at an early age running errands, shoveling snow, sweeping up and such. In the late 1950s – early 1960s, my dad employed three men of color, two of which worked their way up to the full mechanics level.

On numerous occasions, customers would bring their cars in for service, and upon learning that a mechanic of color would be working on their vehicles, they requested a white mechanic. My dad would be called, and he explained that all the mechanics were qualified, and he would guarantee their work. When a customer insisted on a white mechanic, my dad would politely suggest they take their business elsewhere, which many did.

I witnessed this several times personally and heard about numerous other occasions. Being young myself and considering the era, I did not fully comprehend the magnitude of his actions and stance until many years later. Unfortunately, my dad died unexpectedly at age 48 when I was 18 years old.

Considering my dad's training from Wright Junior College and his early stance on diversity, I want to honor and acknowledge his memory. His community college education paved the way for a successful career for him, as well as a means for supporting our

family. I had an early "learning" of diversity, equity and inclusion from my dad during a very controversial time in our country's history.

I attended Harper for one course in the summer of 1968 when I was working towards my undergraduate degree in accounting at Northern Illinois University. The Harper campus was under construction at that time; the class was held at Elk Grove High School.

My goal is for these scholarship recipients to get their education and, as part of their life's path, to "pay it forward" to others. They can encourage friends, family, and others to further their education in the path best suits them. Perhaps the recipients might be in a position to assist others financially sometime down the road. Such encouragement in whatever form will compound the benefits of this scholarship.

My favorite tradition at Harper is graduation day, whether it be the Honors Convocation, the formal full school graduation ceremony, or the high school equivalency graduation. The families attending exude their pride in the family member being recognized. The family youngsters seem to be awed by the whole experience, which hopefully motivates them to take a similar path, expanding on their own potential. The hope and future vision on the graduates' faces is a mini reward for me to witness their success.

### Herb Johnson

Harper College Trustee

Founding Donor, C.H. Johnson Memorial Scholarship

*“Because of this scholarship,  
I am able to continue my  
studies at Harper and get  
on track to graduate.”*

**Joanna Wiater**

2021–2022 C.H. Johnson Memorial  
Scholarship Recipient



Pictured left to right: Scholarship Recipient, Malgorzata Lonska, Laurell Garner and Jaspreet Kaur.



Stacey Hannem and Christopher Schneider with Helmut Publ (right).

## Distinguished Alumni returns to Harper for presentation and reconnects with Harper faculty

Christopher J. Schneider and Stacey Hannem are well-respected sociologists. They're both doctors in their field and serve as professors at Canadian universities. They have written, and edited major works focused on crucial social issues. They recently co-authored a new book, *Defining Sexual Misconduct: Power, Media, and #MeToo*.

And they both admit that when they took their first steps as college students, neither knew what sociology was.

The collaborators (who are also a couple) laugh about this now, given their success in the field as well as their endless fascination with subjects within. Chris learned about sociology after he enrolled at Harper College in 1997. While taking Introduction to Sociology, helmed by now-retired professor Helmut Publ, Chris' curiosity about sociology became insatiable. Because of the access he had to his professors, Chris could easily gain advice, book recommendations and more.

"As a straight white man, I knew what racism and sexism were, but I didn't experience it," said Chris, who grew up in Hanover Park and Schaumburg. "Sociology opened up my eyes to learning about the experiences of other people, as best I could."

Introduction to Sociology wasn't just a class for him; it was a "mind-blowing experience" that led him to an associate degree at Harper, a Bachelor of Arts degree at Northeastern Illinois University, a masters at Northern Illinois University and a doctorate at Arizona State University, teaching and writing on his chosen subject – media – along the way.

With similar interests at separate institutions (Chris is a professor at Brandon University; Stacey chairs the Criminology department at Wilfrid Laurier University), the couple began to build a life together. Then they decided to write a book together.

Chris describes *Defining Sexual Misconduct* as something that could not have been written by just one of them.

"This book is absolutely a product of both of us, 50/50," Chris said. "She brought training, research and background in sexual violence. I've always been interested in how media informs culture."

The couple, who were together when #MeToo caught fire, began having very specific conversations about sexual harassment and misconduct in relation to their genders and lived experiences – not to mention their academic expertise.

"We thought, 'We should bring all of these things together,'" said Chris, a 2021 Harper College Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

In April, the co-authors visited Harper College and spoke about *Defining Sexual Misconduct* to students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community. A reception, book signing, and meet-and-greet followed, including a reunion with Chris and his first sociology professor, Dr. Publ.



# GRADFEST

CELEBRATING CLASS OF 2020, 2021 & 2022



## Recent alumni mark grad achievements at Gradfest

In early June, alumni from the classes of 2020, 2021, and 2022 came together to celebrate their graduation from Harper at Gradfest, a festival style event which recognized and acknowledged the three Harper College classes. About 300 attendees gathered and listened to music, took part in activities, graduation photo opportunities and enjoyed lunch.



## Save the date

*Please save the date for these upcoming Harper College alumni events:*

- |                             |  |   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Thursday, July 14</b>    | <b>Harper Alumni Guitar Concert</b>          | at the Harper College Outdoor Pavillion |
| <b>Sunday, August 7</b>     | <b>Harper College Night</b>                  | at the Schaumburg Boomers Game          |
| <b>Thursday, October 20</b> | <b>Distinguished Alumni Awards Reception</b> | at the Wojcik Conference Center         |

For more information, visit [harpercollege.edu/alumni](http://harpercollege.edu/alumni).

# HOPE Giving Circle Update





## HOPE Giving Circle's Women at the Table event brings together women in media

In April, nearly 60 women gathered to hear the insights and perspectives of female leaders in the media industry at the HOPE Giving Circle's annual Women at the Table event.

The event featured panelists Mahdu Krishnamurthy, Diversity Editor/Education Writer, Daily Herald; Jeanne Sparrow, Speaker, Consultant, Media Personality and Lisa Stamos, Publisher, Quintessential Media Group.

The panel, moderated by Kim Pohl, Harper's Director of Communications, touched on topics concerning women in media leadership, how they have carved careers in the industry and overcame obstacles to become effective leaders, and the importance of both receiving and providing mentoring.

Women at the Table is hosted by the HOPE Giving Circle, Harper's College's women's affinity program. The HOPE Giving Circle brings together women of diverse backgrounds with a common goal of supporting women in achieving their educational goals and empowering them to reach their full potential. Members combine their resources to make a greater collective impact on the lives of women pursuing higher education at Harper College through scholarship support, mentoring, and professional development opportunities. To learn more, please visit [harpercollege.edu/foundation](http://harpercollege.edu/foundation) and click on HOPE Giving Circle or call 847.925.6701.



HOPE panelist Lisa Stamos and HOPE Executive Member Sam Oliver (2nd and 3rd from left) with event attendees.

### THE HOPE IMPACT

**38**

Members

**62**

Donors

**\$255,000**

Raised (since 2015)

**\$180,000**

in Scholarships Awarded  
(since 2015)

### SPONSORS:

**AMITA HEALTH**<sup>TM</sup>  
ST. ALEXIUS MEDICAL CENTER  
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ELK GROVE VILLAGE

**Heartland  
Bank** and Trust  
Company  
MEMBER FDIC

Linda J. Lang

# Motorola Solutions Foundation Distinguished Faculty Award

Dr. Richard Johnson has been selected as the 2022 recipient of the Motorola Solutions Distinguished Faculty Award, the highest faculty honor at Harper. This recognition comes with a \$3,775 award, funded through the Motorola Solutions Endowed Award for Teaching Excellence.

Rich is a champion for globalized learning in his classroom, undergraduate writing, literature, the Humanities and social justice. He has worked diligently to institutionalize International Education at Harper College. His overarching mission is to foster global education, develop international awareness through collaborative programs, enhance the knowledge of global dynamics, cultural diversity, and world issues for students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community and celebrate the world's cultures and traditions.

One of Rich's notable highlights is his work in creating the Global Region of Focus, which offers faculty the professional development experience of a graduate seminar in a region that concludes in a two-week field seminar in representative countries and a curriculum infusion project. This effort has impacted more than 7000 Harper College students. Students who enrolled in Global Region of Focus classes had increased persistence and completion rates. Under his leadership, the Office of International Education has been honored nationally with the NAFSA Paul Simon Spotlight Award for Campus Internationalization (2018) and the IIE Andrew Heiskell Award for Internationalizing the Community College (2020).

Rich's commitment to students is further evidenced in his work creating the Global Scholar of Distinction. This distinction recognizes students who have demonstrated the capacity to consider intercultural and international perspectives across academic disciplines and the willingness to actively explore issues relating to global equity, justice and peace. Rich has been a leader in implementing and assessing Harper's revised World Cultures and Diversity graduation requirement. In addition, Rich



has successfully acquired competitive grants to support global education initiatives and has been intentional about the inclusion of underrepresented student groups in these opportunities. His dedication is further demonstrated in his efforts with the development of the Social Justice Leadership Certificate Program. The most significant illustration of Rich's excellence is recognized through his contributions in the classroom. He has taught developmental and credit-level English and Humanities to students during his tenure at Harper. He has played an active role with learning communities, the Honors Program, and numerous study abroad programs with students, staff and other faculty.

At his core, he is a teacher. Dr. Richard Johnson has made tremendous contributions to the experience of Harper students, faculty and staff, and he is a well-deserving recipient of Harper's 2022 Distinguished Faculty Award.



# Motorola Solutions Foundation Award for Excellence

*Since 1981, Motorola Solutions has sponsored its Award for Excellence, the highest honor a Harper College student can earn.*

The Award honors a student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in STEM, information technology or public safety academics, extracurricular activities, and community service while attending Harper College, focusing on supporting students from underrepresented populations, including females, people of color, people with disabilities, veterans and others. This year's Motorola Solutions Foundation Award for Excellence recipients are Jonathan Lasso and Yosi Mendoza. Both students received scholarships for \$5,000 each.

Jonathan Lasso is a first-generation college student. His family immigrated to the United States, and he is a Latinx student. Jonathan is part of Harper College's Engineering Pathways Program, and his goal is to work in the automotive engineering sector. He plans on attending the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign in the Fall of 2022. Jonathan has a 4.0 GPA. He is

also part of the One Million Degrees program and a member of the Harper Club, Harper Society of Engineers. Outside of school, Jonathon works 15 hours a week as a cashier.

Yosi Mendoza's family immigrated to the United States from El Salvador to escape the terrorism during the Salvadorian Civil War of 1977. She is a first-generation college student. Yosi is an adult student with an 11-year-old daughter. She is studying law enforcement and has a 4.0 GPA. Yosi works full-time as a supervisor in the restaurant industry while she is pursuing her degree.

"This scholarship has a significant meaning to my life. It supports me to continue pursuing my passion. It provides hope for students that want to fight for a better future. This scholarship transforms lives and helps individuals use their talents to shape a better future for the next generations to come," said Yosi Mendoza.





## Chicago White Metal Casting, Inc. Scholarship supporting workforce development

Our relationship with Harper College began approximately 10 years ago when we brought on interns from Harper's Manufacturing program. After his internship, one of those interns joined Chicago White Metal and is currently our Traffic and Materials Manager. Because of the success we saw early on with the internship program, we knew that Harper's Manufacturing program was solid and was preparing individuals well for the future. Therefore, we wanted to find a way to continue our support for years to come. We created the Chicago White Metal Casting Scholarship a short time later.

The funding comes from the Chicago White Metal Charitable Foundation, which Walter Treiber Sr. created on November 13, 1961. Mr. Treiber founded Chicago White Metal in 1937. During World War I, he immigrated to the United States from Germany, arriving here with minimal education. Mr. Treiber always felt that education was very important, and he did not want others to miss out on the formal education that he never received. As a result, he created the Charitable Foundation with the primary focus of supporting advanced education. This same focus guides our Charitable Foundation today, and the scholarships for Harper College students support his ideals.

For Chicago White Metal, Harper College's Manufacturing program is where students can learn trades and provide direction into industries that need the next generation's attention and support. We need to make more products in America again and bring jobs back to America. Harper's program supports what our country so desperately needs.

*"We knew that Harper's Manufacturing program was solid and was preparing individuals well for the future."*

**Eric Treiber**

Chicago White Metal hopes that scholarship recipients will appreciate and understand the importance of manufacturing to the future of America and will want to have a career and be part of the rebuilding of our manufacturing infrastructure.

**Eric Treiber**

Founding Donor, Chicago White Metal Casting, Inc. Scholarship



*"My passion is to become a machinist. I LOVE working with my hands while using machines and blueprints to produce metal parts."*

**Roberto Olvera**

2020-2021 Chicago White Metal Casting, Inc. Scholarship Recipient





**Harper  
@Work**

Connecting Business  
and Community

## Creating a talent pipeline in the community: Apprenticeships

Harper College Apprenticeship Programs are industry-driven, high-quality career pathways to serve the workforce's needs. They are designed to help employers recruit, develop and retain talent in a grow-your-own staff model. Graduates complete the program with either an Associate of Applied Science degree or certificates from Harper College, their Registered Apprentice Department of Labor Certificate of completion verifying proficiency in their occupation, third party credentials and hands-on industry experience.

Harper will assist with recruiting candidates to the program, and apprenticeship students receive concierge service from Harper, including a dedicated student success coach to see them through the program. Harper's Apprenticeship Program has a proven track record of producing strong results for employers and workers.

Apprenticeship partners include Zurich North America, who celebrated Harper alumni who work at Zurich in 2019 with a Harper@Work: Alumni Recognition Program at their North American headquarters in Schaumburg.

Sabrina Wilks, a current General Insurance Apprentice with Zurich North America, became unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, with a new job and a path to a degree, Sabrina

is grateful for this experience. "I've loved being a student again. This program really gave me a sense of purpose and pride when I needed it most."

### Available Apprenticeships

- Banking and Finance
- CNC Precision Machining
- Mechatronics Technician
- General Insurance
- Graphic Arts Print Production
- Industrial Maintenance Mechanic
- IT (Information Technology) Generalist
- Marketing and Sales Management
- Supply Chain Management

**New for 2022!** Certified Nursing Assistant and Medical Assistant Certificates (Local hospitals are piloting these programs to fill the shortage in their health career staff.)

# Thank you to our Business Champions

The Harper College Educational Foundation is grateful for the sponsorship support of our 2021-2022 Business Champions.

To sponsor an event or learn more, email Kristyn Meyer at [kmeyer@harpercollege.edu](mailto:kmeyer@harpercollege.edu).

\$10,000 +

## Robbins Schwartz

\$7,500 +

## LEGAT ARCHITECTS

\$5,000 +





**\$1,000 +**

20/10 Engineering Group, LLC

Financial Elements, Inc

AMS Mechanical Systems, Inc.

Heartland Bank and Trust

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Holabird & Root, LLC

Barney & Karamanis LLP

K & M Printing Co., Inc.

Berger Excavating Contractors, Inc.

Nation Pizza and Foods

Combined Roofing Services LLC

Pinderski & Pinderski, Ltd.

Cornerstone National Bank & Trust Company

RESTORE

Eriksson Engineering Associates, Ltd

RSM US LLP

Sponsors secured as of May 1, 2022.

## Harper@Work: Corporate Virtual Mentoring

*The Harper College Educational Foundation launch a new corporate engagement initiative – Corporate Virtual Mentoring.*

We know the benefits that mentorship has on students – opportunities to engage with mentors who can provide guidance, support, career modeling and networking can be life-changing experiences. Many of the Harper College Educational Foundation's corporate partners have asked how they and their employees (some of whom are Harper College alumni) can help Harper College students beyond the financial support of scholarships.

In response to this request, the Foundation launched a pilot program with three of our valued corporate partners – Clearwater Capital Partners, Motorola Solutions and Vistex – to pair their employees with Harper students for limited-term, virtual mentoring.

Mentors attended a one-hour virtual orientation to learn more about Harper College and mentoring in general. After completing a short application, mentors were matched with Harper College students. From May to July, mentors and mentees were asked to meet virtually two to four times over Zoom, Teams, Webex, email or text.

This fall, the Foundation plans to roll out the program to a larger audience of corporate partners and students. If your business would like to get involved with the Corporate Virtual Mentoring program, please contact the Foundation at **847.925.6490**.



## Foundation guests experience the Harper classroom

*On April 28, a group of community members, alumni and Harper volunteers experienced three Harper College programs through the lens of a student with an interactive campus tour.*

During the event, guests visited four academic areas of the College - the Simulation Hospital and the Surgical Technology, Chemistry and Law Enforcement and Justice Administration programs. Guest met faculty and experienced learning first-hand with hands-on activities, similar to students' experiences in the classroom. Students from the Chemistry Club and the Forensics IV class were on hand to meet with the guests, guide them through activities and share how they have been impacted by scholarship support. The Foundation will be planning additional experiential tour opportunities in the fall. If you would like to learn more, please contact the Foundation at **847.925.6490**.





# REALIZING *DREAMS*

*After two years of hosting virtual Realizing Dreams events, the Foundation was pleased to offer in-person or virtual attendance options for this year's Realizing Dreams event.*

The event welcomed 145 donors and students who gathered for a program from Harper College President, Dr. Avis Proctor and scholarship recipient Kelly Jackson. The donors and students then broke out into small group sessions for brunch and guided conversation following the program. Donors spoke on why Harper is a philanthropic priority, and students shared the difference receiving a scholarship makes in their lives.

Realizing Dreams is an annual event for scholarship donors and donors of \$1,000 and above. If you would like more information about creating a scholarship, contact [foundation@harpercollege.edu](mailto:foundation@harpercollege.edu) or call 847.925.6490.

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*"Socioeconomics do not define you. You are allowed to change the ending until you feel complete. And sometimes, the hand you are dealt may be tough, but please do not let that harden your heart or put out your fire. Because with a little (or a lot) of hard work, you may just meet a group of people who sees you, who believes in you, like the donors of your scholarship. I could not have done this without the help of you and your loved ones. Kindness really can change lives. Thank you for helping me realize my dreams."*  
*Donor Sponsored Scholarship recipient, Kelly Jackson's remarks at the Realizing Dreams brunch on Saturday, April 23.*

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## The Professor Powell and Larry Moats Extra Five Minutes Faculty Award

The Professor Powell and Larry Moats Extra Five Minutes Faculty Award was created in 2012 by Larry Moats, a former member of the Harper College Board of Trustees and a Harper College Distinguished Alumni Award honoree, in memory of his Harper College mentor, Professor Robert Powell. Professor Powell was a founding faculty member of Harper College and a beloved English teacher and Dean of Liberal Arts. Harper students are asked to submit nominations to recognize teachers that have inspired them, given them extra time and made a difference in their lives.

Dr. Rita Gura, PT, DPT, Program Coordinator/Assistant Professor, Physical Therapist Assistant Program, is the 2022 Professor Powell and Larry Moats Extra Five Minutes Faculty Award recipient. The Student Government Association chose Dr. Gura for her dedication that has gone beyond an instructor's expectations. Multiple students shared their gratitude for Dr. Gura, stating that "Her dedication to students' learning is highlighted through her willingness to alter her curriculum to provide a simulated clinic during the Pandemic and by taking the time to address individual students learning needs. She ensures a welcoming classroom environment and is available for her students outside of the classroom setting."

Congratulations, Dr. Gura, for being recognized by your students for the impact you are making on their lives.

## Retiring Educational Foundation board members

This June, four talented volunteers stepped down from their service on the Harper College Educational Foundation board. We thank them for their inspired support of Harper College students. From their leadership of the Promise program and fundraising campaign, growth of the Foundation's scholarship endowment and expansion of Harper's alumni program,

these leaders have made a lasting impact on Harper for past, current and future Harper College students. Thank you for your vision and partnership.

**Dee Beaubien**  
2014-2022

**Dan Klaras**  
2017 - 2022

**Warner Cruz**  
2020-2022

**Jake Sadoff**  
2013 - 2022



Jake Sadoff and Dee Beaubien were honored with Emeritus Board member status at the June board meeting. Both have served at least nine years on the Board and have served in leadership roles. Dee was the Vice President, Board Membership and Chair of the Major Gifts Committee. Jake has chaired the Golf Open for five years and led the Alumni committee.





Georgeanna Mehr (left) and Bill Kesler (right) with Sheila Kesler at a Foundation event.

## Bill Kesler and Georgeanna Mehr honored as James McGrath Award recipients

*Former Harper College President James McGrath created the James McGrath Award as a tribute to those special people who have unselfishly given time, effort and funds to uphold the institution's excellence.*

The McGrath Award has been awarded to 36 recipients since its inception in 1986. The 2022 recipients of the McGrath Award are Bill Kesler and Georgeanna Mehr.

Bill Kesler retired after completing 18 years of service for HSBC Finance Corporation (formerly Household International). Over his 38-year career in financial services, Bill developed an extensive background in investment management, interest rate risk management and liquidity risk management. He received a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Colorado State University.

Bill served on the Board of Directors with JourneyCare, where he was the Past President of the Board of Trustees of the Hospice Foundation of Northeastern Illinois. Bill also served as Past President of the Barrington Area United Way.

Bill served on the Harper College Educational Foundation Board from 2013 to 2021 and is currently an Emeritus board member. In addition to serving on many committees and co-chair positions during his nine-year tenure, he also held positions on the executive board as President, Past-President and continues to serve on the Finance and Investment Committee.

Bill and his wife Sheila started an endowed scholarship, the Thomas E. Irwin Chemistry Scholarship, in honor of Sheila's father.

Georgeanna Mehr retired in 2019 as the President of Hoffman Estates Community Bank, a branch of Barrington Bank and Trust Company, N.A. She holds an Associate Degree from the College of Lake County, received her Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Elmhurst College and started her Certified Financial Planner certification at Harper College.

Georgeanna has been actively involved in several community organizations, including the Barrington Area United Way, Good Shepherd Hospital and as the Treasurer for Art in the Barn for 20 years. She was former President of the Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce and is a mentor for EB211. Georgeanna and her husband Gregg both serve as mentors for One Million Degree students at Harper College, and Georgeanna serves as an instructor for the Financial Literacy classes.

Georgeanna joined the Educational Foundation Board of Directors in 2011 and has served as Foundation President and Vice President of Development and as Chair of the Hope Giving Circle.

Gregg and Georgeanna have an endowed scholarship at Harper College, The Gregg and Georgeanna Mehr Endowed Scholarship for Women.

Georgeanna and Bill were honored at the May 10 Harper College Convocation ceremony.

## Ways to give: planned gifts

*Build a bright future for future generations while creating your legacy.*

Harper students rely on gifts from donors to make their educational journeys become a reality. By establishing a planned gift with the William Rainey Harper College Educational Foundation, donors can ensure that future generations of Harper students will experience that same support in reaching their goals.

### Include Harper College in your will or trust

- Include a gift (restricted or unrestricted) to the William Rainey Harper College Educational Foundation in your will or trust.
- Indicate a specific amount or a percentage of the balance remaining in your estate or trust.
- Please tell us about your gift so we may recognize you for your generosity now.

### Donor-Advised Funds

- If you have a donor-advised fund, consider using it to make a grant to the Harper College Educational Foundation.

### Gifts of Stock or Appreciated Assets

- Transfer appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares you have owned for more than one year to Harper College Educational Foundation. We sell your securities and use the proceeds to support Harper students.
- You receive an income tax deduction for the fair market value of the securities and pay no capital gains tax on the transfer when the stock is sold.

We can work with you to customize your gift and interests. Please contact Heather Zoldak, CFRE, Associate Executive Director/Major Gifts, at [hzoldak@harpercollege.edu](mailto:hzoldak@harpercollege.edu) for more information.

The Harper Heritage Society recognizes donors who have included the William Rainey Harper College Educational Foundation in their estate plans. To date, more than 50 individuals or couples are members of the Harper Heritage Society. This year, we welcome two new members: **Gerald and Mary Smoller**

Have you already included Harper in your estate plans? Please let us know! We would love to talk to you about your gift and welcome you to the Harper Heritage Society.

## Let us know your communication preferences

While we still rely on postal mail to communicate with our donors, alumni and friends, the Foundation is increasing the number of electronic publications we produce. Select event invitations, the quarterly Alumni e-news and the Foundation e-newsletter are shared via email. We now offer the opportunity to receive the Catalyst magazine, tax receipts and gift solicitations electronically via email.

If you would like to change your mail preferences or add a new email to receive electronic communications from the Foundation, please visit [harpercollege.edu/foundation](http://harpercollege.edu/foundation) or use the QR code to the right.





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## 33rd Annual Golf Outing

The Harper College Educational Foundation hosted its 33rd Annual Golf Outing on June 13, 2022, at Inverness Golf Club. 110 guests joined for a beautiful day on the golf course supporting the Resource for Excellence Fund. Proceeds from this event fund student scholarships and emerging educational initiatives at Harper College. This year's event was presented by Robbins Schwartz and sponsored by 30-plus corporate partners (see Business Champion list on page 16-17 for details).

Guests enjoyed 18 holes of golf on one of Chicagoland's most pristine courses, as well as contests and challenges. Each foursome enjoyed the chance to putt with Harper College President Dr. Avis Proctor on Hole 18, access to a high-powered golf ball launcher, and the opportunity to help students through the Score for Scholarships putt-putt game. This year's event raised over \$135,000 for vital educational resources.

The Annual Golf Outing takes place each June and is the Foundation's signature fundraising event. For more information about the 2023 Outing or how to participate as a Business Champion, contact Kristyn Meyer at [kmeyer@harpercollege.edu](mailto:kmeyer@harpercollege.edu) or **847.925.6468**.

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, sex, gender-related identity, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status or sexual orientation. 30813 MO 6/22

