# PRESIDENT'S **REPORT**



#### September 2023

Dear Harper College Community:

While August marks the official kick-off of the fall semester and new academic year, our Hullabaloo event is another major milestone in the semester when our students forge lasting relationships with peers, faculty and staff, grow into leadership roles and ignite a passion that can possibly lead to a national championship as one of our Speech and Debate students shared with me! It was a picturesque midwestern day for this year's event and the Quad was full of students, faculty and staff sharing information about programs, services, clubs and

activities available to our Harper Hawks. Earlier in the semester, approximately 500 students participated in the Tie Dye event customizing their own Harper College t-shirt. Additionally, the campus was aglow for the celebration of Neon Night at the Outdoor Pavilion, where more than 600 students danced, played dark mini golf, and enjoyed a carnival style food buffet. These events and other activities like them help us live our mantra of *You Matter, We Care* by creating a sense of belonging and community for our students.

As we diligently work to build community on campus, we also strive to meet students where they are in our community as Amie Granger shared at our Committee of the Whole meeting this month. To build upon these efforts, we participated in Achieving

#### Campus News . . .

Academic and Student Affairs Updates Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Finance and Administrative Services Advancement, Marketing and Communications Legislative Affairs Strategic Alliances and Innovation Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness Workforce Solutions

the Dream's (ATD's) Community Vibrancy Cohort Midpoint Peer Learning Session. Dr. Karen Stout (ATD's CEO) and members of her team helped the executive teams from multiple colleges examine their efforts to reach populations who historically have been disconnected from postsecondary education and how they contribute to building equitable and economically vibrant communities. We will continue these engagements to strengthen our work and contribute to the development of a playbook or guide on how other colleges can accelerate their strategies to leverage their "localness in new ways."

As we continue innovation on outreach strategies, I am pleased to report that Harper has been awarded another National Science Foundation grant - the Enabling Partnerships to Increase Innovation Capacity (EPIIC) for \$400,000. This grant will provide resources to expand the Business and Industry Leadership Team (BILT) model for employer engagement working in a cohort model with five other colleges. The BILT model engages employers in meaningful ways to identify knowledge, skills and abilities in emerging fields to include in program curricula to ensure relevancy and preparedness of our graduates to successfully enter the workforce or transfer to upper division programs. Hats off to Dr. Maria Coons, vice president of strategic alliances, Dr. Susanne Brock, senior director of innovation and development, and Abigail Nichols, manager of grants administration, for their dedicated efforts to earn this grant and thanks to the leadership of Dr. Ruth Williams, provost, and Deans Yolonda Barnes, Rita Gura, Joanne Ivory, Kimberley Polly, Jaime Riewerts, who will be closely involved in adopting the BILT model to enhance our academic offerings.

Finally, let's be sure to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month! We have numerous events and activities planned, including a Harper Fiesta on October 2 hosted by our admissions team featuring food, music, and opportunities





for the community to connect with admissions representatives and members of our Project Assistance, Surpassing Obstacles (PASO) team. We will also be hosting Sabor Latino, an annual celebration featuring great Hispanic food and performances.





#### Academic and Student Affairs Updates

#### Employee Highlights

- Resources for Learning: Harper Manager Publishes Book for Baseball's Stretch Run
  - Congratulations to assistant manager of academic support, Sandra Marchetti, on the publication of her new book of poems, *Aisle 228*. The collection centers on the Chicago Cubs, going to games with her father, and listening to baseball on the radio. Published by Texas A&M University Press, the book also highlights milestones across baseball in the past 70 years leading to the Cubs' 2016 World Series championship. *Aisle 228* is Sandra's second full-length collection of poetry. She also authored *Confluence* (Sundress Publications, 2015) and four chapbooks of poetry and lyric essays. <a href="https://www.tamupress.com/book/9781622889556/aisle-228/">https://www.tamupress.com/book/9781622889556/aisle-228/</a>.

#### Division/Program Highlights

- Advising Services
  - Our collective Advising Services team has officially launched our revised Differentiated Communication Plans for our General Advising, Center for New Students and Orientation, Fast-Track, One Million Degrees, Women's Program and Career & Technical Programs Specialized Programs to better support student retention, outcome goals with Developmental Education Reform Act (DERA) compliance, and supporting completion and successful outcomes with our Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) cohorts. The plan will become more immersive with higher touchpoints with students to build a sense of belonging, and to also have greater collaboration with our stakeholders on campus to build a heightened advising presence and support student retention.
- Business/Social Science
  - The business department's innovative approach to class resources sets it apart by exclusively embracing Open Educational Resources (OER) and Inclusive Access materials starting summer of 2023. This strategic decision reflects the department's commitment to enhancing the academic experience for all students while simultaneously addressing the rising costs of education. By leveraging OER, freely accessible online learning materials, the department ensures that students have equitable access to high-quality content without financial barriers. Inclusive Access further complements this initiative by providing digital course materials at a significantly reduced cost through partnerships with publishers. This combination not only promotes a level playing field for all learners but also fosters a collaborative and progressive learning environment where cutting-edge business concepts are explored through a diverse array of resources. As a result, the business department not only cultivates academic excellence but also demonstrates a forward-looking dedication to accessible and inclusive education.
  - The business department's career experience classes were developed over the summer and offer students a unique opportunity to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world application. Starting this fall, through immersive experiences like the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) Sustainability Challenge and the Costa Rica Sustainability Challenge; students are exposed to pressing global issues and tasked with devising sustainable business solutions. Our internship in Crowdfunding equips students with hands-on knowledge of fundraising strategies in the digital age and supports our IDEAShop's 3D printed Toys for Tots program, while the Dream Job Experience guides them through a collection of uniquely curated virtual work experiences with Fortune 50 companies.
  - The IDEAShop, Harper's Makerspace and Entrepreneur Center, has achieved remarkable milestones this summer, which underscores its dedication to innovation, learning, and community development. IDEAShop Solutions program demonstrated its ability by achieving substantial sales figures, with revenue of \$5,245 in May, \$2,891 in June, and an impressive \$5,089 in July from internal product sales alone. The center also showcased its commitment to nurturing young talent by successfully organizing 15 camps, attracting a total of 175 campers. This endeavor did not go unnoticed, as the NBT Foundation recognizes the center's impact every year and awarded it an increased grant of \$17,500 for this year's camps.



#### • Liberal Arts

- Point of View 2022, Harper's Literary Magazine, won first place in the National Literary Magazine competition, run by the Community College Humanities Association. This is a first-time win at this level for the publication. We are so proud of our outstanding student editors and all the contributors, faculty co-advisors Karen Patterson and Jessica Walsh, and we are honored to distribute Point of View, a journal with over 50 years of history at Harper.
- Resources for Learning
  - The Semester Loan Technology Program continues to be an essential resource for student success and includes Chromebooks, graphing calculators, and Wi-Fi hotspots. During the first three weeks of the fall 2023 semester, a total of 387 graphing calculators, 272 Chromebooks, and 116 Wi-Fi hotspots were checked out to students. Additionally, during the first week, the library collaborated with the Box Office to issue student ID cards in the library. Seventy-nine student ID cards were issued during that time, thus streamlining the loan process, and saving students' valuable time. To meet the unique needs of AED students, library faculty provided guided tours of the library space and resources. During the guided tours, circulation department staff members checked out a total of 97 Chromebooks to AED students.

#### Events

- New Student Programs: New Student Convocation
  - The 2nd New Student Convocation took place last month and gave students the opportunity to engage with faculty and staff from their Areas of Interest. The event featured faculty and alumni celebrating students' decision to attend Harper.
- Health Careers
  - Harper College Health Careers welcomed Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Gretchen Evans late last month for the fall semester Interprofessional Education Immersion Day. She spoke to 130 students from eight different health careers programs about resilience and the power of hope. Her inspiring story highlighted her impressive 27-year military career, which was ended suddenly by an injury that left her with a traumatic brain injury and the loss of her hearing. Afterwards, Gretchen visited The Center for Student Veterans and Military-Connected Students on campus. The health career students participated in interprofessional breakout groups following the presentation to discuss teamwork, collaboration and how to address hopelessness in patients.
- Student Engagement:
  - The Thrive @ Harper Well-Being Bash occurred, which featured a variety of campus and community
    partners who shared information about mental health services and information about well-being. Over
    200 students attended the event, and 185 students completed at least five of the 10 scavenger hunt
    questions, which contained mental health related information and resources.
  - Student Engagement once again hosted Welcome Tables and Welcome Wagons to greet students as they returned to campus for the fall semester with employees staffing information tables greeting students with giveaways and free coffee and pastries. Welcome Wagons transported students around campus, provided students with the opportunity to win Harper College giveaways and Starbucks gift cards, and answered student questions. Campus roamers were a new addition this year as employees walked through campus with the main goal of finding students who may need help. An astounding 130 employees volunteered to fill 195 volunteer spots by staffing a table, roaming the buildings, or zoomed around campus on a Welcome Wagon to help students feel truly appreciated by the campus community! We would also like to acknowledge the employees and students that were unable to work an official Welcome Week volunteer position but took the time to help a lost student, provided guidance and support when needed, and created a welcoming environment for all. A special thank you to Harper



Wellness, One Stop, the Campus Set Up Crew, Roads and Grounds, and the Harper College Police Department who were all instrumental in supporting the overall success of these initiatives!

Speed Painter, Evan Struck, amazed students and employees alike with his creations of the Harper Hawk, Frida Kahlo, and Michael Jordan. While enjoying the show, participants were treated to free Starbucks drinks and had the chance to connect with representatives from Student Engagement, Harper Wellness, The Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Campus Recreation, Black Student Union, Pride Club, International Students Association, FAUNDS, Latinos Unidos, Student Veteran's Association, Asian Student Association, and South Asian Student Association. In total, 486 Starbucks drinks were ordered and served!

## By the Numbers

- Advising Services: Advising Services Outreach for July 29 August 28, 2023
  - Advising Services (CNSO/Women's Program and Advising Services/OMD) served students during the peak period for the fall 2023 semester with the following:
    - 3,385 Student appointments conducted
    - o 13,604 Received and supported student phone calls
- New Student Programs: Center for New Students and Orientation
  - The Center for New Students and Orientation with the assistance of Women's Program, Advising Services, and OMD advisors saw 2,352 students who participated in the fall 2023 New Student Orientation program, resulting in a conversion rate of 91.7% for new, degree-seeking students.
  - In order to build connections to the campus and a sense of belonging, new students participated in multiple touchpoints including Welcome Sessions, first semester advising, Blackboard activities through the Take Flight New Student Blackboard shell, and New Student Convocation.
- Registrar
  - Evaluations by the Numbers July and August 2023
    - Transcripts Reviewed as of September 1, 2023
      - Transcripts reviewed April to August 2022: 1,413
      - Transcripts reviewed April to August 2023: 1,658
        - 453 Transcripts were reviewed in August of 2023, which is the highest number of transcripts reviewed during the month of August within the last 10 years.
      - Evaluated an additional 245 transcripts for the fall 2023 registration period for a 17.34% increase compared to fall 2022.
    - Graduation Numbers:
      - Credentials awarded fall 2021 through summer 2022: 4,296
      - Credentials awarded fall 2022 through summer 2023: 4,406
      - Increase total: 110 credentials 2.56%



	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023
Associate in Applied Science	201	206	86	125	196	107
Associate in Arts	244	429	197	288	461	153
Associate in Engrg Science	4	18	5	8	31	9
Associate in Fine Arts	3	2	3	3	7	1
Associate in General Studies	38	62	31	42	74	30
Associate in Science	128	179	86	169	185	97
Certificate 30 hours or more	51	61	35	49	60	60
Certificate 9-29 hours	293	293	90	262	207	189
Certificate less than 9 hours	117	503	95	123	512	77
General Education Core Curric	245	411	180	273	465	143
Total	1,324	2,164	808	1,342	2,198	866

- o Fall 2022 vs. fall 2023: 18 credentials, a 1.36% increase.
- Spring 2022 vs. spring 2023: 34 credentials, a 1.57% increase.
- Summer 2022 vs. summer 2023: 58 credentials, a 7.18% increase.
- One Stop
  - For the month of August, One Stop processed 16,119 inbound contacts. We received 10,795 phone calls, 3,688 e-mails, 1,858 chats, and 1,570 walk-ins.
  - The One Stop also completed outbound call campaigns involving IPEDS/Stop Out students and temporary registration/payment commitments totaling 1,387 calls with a connect rate of 39%.
- CRM Operations
  - $\circ$   $\,$  We have integrated financial aid check-list items with Salesforce from Banner.
  - Our Salesforce Chatbot handled 49.7% (923) of the 1,858 chats received last month, while a live staff member answered 50.3% (935). The top three topics asked by contacts were "How do I apply?" (174), "Course Information" (110), and "How and when will I receive my financial aid?" (76).
- Admissions Processing
  - The Admissions Processing Office successfully processed a high volume of admissions documents. These efforts ensured that students could progress to their next steps in the admission process and provided timely access to critical data for various departments, including academic departments, the testing center, financial aid, and registration.

Application and Transcript Activity							
2023	Jun	Jul	Aug				
Web Applications	1,505	2,032	2,862				
Web Applications Troubleshooted	409	641	907				
Student Type/Program of Study Change Requests		268	365				
processed							
High School Transcripts	1,563	505	616				
College Transcripts	460	398	589				
SAT Composite	626	164	193				
ACT Composite	20	33	14				
High School IDs Entered	83	132	822				
NLN Composite	13	14	41				



## Supporting the Strategic Plan

- Advising Services
  - Launch of Harper Arc Program in Advising Services
    - The Harper Arc Program launched for the fall 2023 semester aims to create a strong foundation for success to support students of color by pairing them with a specialized academic advisor who also identifies as a person of color. The program also has a key focus to reduce equity gaps for our Black and Hispanic students by building sense of belonging and provides a tuition incentive, \$250 tuition waiver, to reduce financial gaps. The Harper Arc Program advisors also use a strength-based approach to support each students' holistic needs using a stratified care communication approach with weekly support to each of their students and will help each student stay on track with completing six core requirements of the program. The program has inducted 50 new fall 2023 full-time/part time and degree-seeking/credential-seeking students, and our academic advisors are already making an impact on their persistence.
  - Six Key Requirements of the Program to Qualify for the \$250 Tuition Waiver for spring 2024
    - New fall 2023 Black or Hispanic student enrolled full-time or part-time in at least six credit hours and must be degree or credential-seeking.
    - Must enroll in at least one English or math course in the fall 2023 semester and successfully complete the course with a C or better.
    - Meet weekly, in-person and/or virtual, with assigned Arc Program advisor to build self-efficacy based on the strengths-based model.
    - Attend at least one monthly workshop hosted by our Arc Program advisors.
    - Attend at least two events during the semester held by various organizations on campus.
    - Must register for spring 2024 classes by November 17, 2023.

#### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

- The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion hosted our 2nd Annual Cultural Center Kick-Off, with over 300 students attending! This reflects a 33% increase in attendance from last year. Students enjoyed a live DJ, food, and fun. We also gave opportunities for them to win coffee and gas gift cards. Special thanks to colleagues that stopped by to support the event your presence was noticed and appreciated.
- We were excited to launch the second year of Guiding Learners to Intentionally Develop Efficacy (GLIDE), a structured peer mentorship program designed to support the success of Black and Latinx students and decrease the equity gaps identified in our data. GLIDE provides students with an experienced peer mentor, introduces them to a network of faculty and staff on campus, and exposes them to an array of cultural activities, academic workshops, and social opportunities throughout the year. All 40 mentees and 10 mentors attended the kickoff session.
- The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion hosted a new luncheon, designed to focus on building community for our Black students, who have the largest equity gaps in our data, and introduce them to campus resources. The lunch was attended by almost 60 students and colleagues. Students met their fellow peers and faculty/staff from various areas of the college. Students also invited us all to attend the first basketball game of the season and we agreed to host a pre-game social! Details forthcoming.



### Finance and Administrative Services

#### Human Resources

- Human Resources completed the second phase of the implementation process for Oracle Recruiting and Journeys. As part of the implementation, we are adding job sourcing (3000+) websites to post positions and attract more diverse faculty and staff candidates.
- The work for the campus wide equity and compensation study is underway with the assistance of CBIZ. Job analysis questionnaires are being completed.
- Digital Transformation: Harper College presented the wonderful work that we are doing with Oracle Fusion. A session "Life After Go Live" gave an opportunity for Harper to share with others the work that we are doing as well as some future plans. We also provided an on-demand session that will be made available to thousands of conference goers for future viewing. Oracle asked us to provide this information.

#### Risk Management

- Emergency door numbering has been completed on the Palatine and Prospect Heights campuses. Door numbering will assist first responders respond to campus emergencies quickly and efficiently and provide a consistent template for communications. It will also provide a secondary benefit for wayfinding on campus.
- On September 12, we implemented a campus-wide Armed Intruder Drill in which students, employees and partners (Sodexo, Follet, Centers, NCH, Palatine Park District) were able to Run or Hide and use their best judgment to get to a safe place. To monitor the exercise in real time, evaluators were deployed throughout the campus in reflective vests and a SimCell (simulation cell) was set up to issue communications on multiple platforms and identify areas for improvement. Representatives from other colleges and agencies were also present to observe the exercise. As planned, we will use observations and survey results to improve our emergency preparedness.

#### Advancement, Marketing and Communications

#### Advancement

- As of August 31, 2023, the Foundation has raised \$2,080,624 in donations. This reflects 80% progress to goal for the 2023-24 fiscal year. \$31,921,360 has been raised for the Inspire Campaign, which represents 106% to goal. The campaign officially ends on June 30, 2024.
- Three new scholarships were established in the Foundation: The Pepper Family Foundation Endowed Scholarship, the Janet Trede Memorial Nursing Scholarship, and the InZone Summer Endowed Scholarship. This brings the total of new donor-sponsored scholarships created since July 1, 2020, to fifty-eight.
- In September, the Foundation launched the second year of its Corporate Mentorship Program. Fifty mentors representing 14 businesses committed to coaching Harper students and alumni in a series of virtual meetings by December 1. Students are selected based on their alignment with their mentor's career and educational journey. Of the 40 students accepted into the program so far, half are female students, four are parents, five are military-connected, five are LGBTQIA+, 17 are first-generation college students, and 17 are racial/ethnic minorities.



• Harper Talks Alumni Podcast launched its fourth season in September 2023. The first episode features Andy-John Kalkounos. Andy-John is a restaurateur, actor, real estate professional, and currently serving as the Palatine Township Supervisor. A 2010 Distinguished Alumnus of Harper College, Andy-John joins the podcast and discusses his varied professional roles, his Greek heritage, his experiences at Harper College as a piano and theater student, and the importance of being present in our lives. The podcast has produced 30 episodes since its launch in 2020 and is co-produced by WHCM Harper Radio and Harper College Alumni Relations.

## Community Relations

• Thanks to the addition of two part-time outreach specialists, Community Relations has been able to implement projects that were on hold due to limited availability. This past June, we began partnering with Faith Feeds Mobile Food Pantry. Each week the pantry sets up at a different high-density apartment complex in Palatine, Rolling Meadows, and Arlington Heights totaling five locations per month. Outreach Specialist, Paula Byrd, has been hosting a Harper resource table along with the pantry to help people understand the resources and services available to them. Since June, we have reached more than 1,700 families. We will continue hosting a table through November and then rejoin the pantry in the spring.

## Marketing Services

• Marketing Services produced the *Harper College Bucket List:* 67 *Things to Do While You're at Harper* to welcome students to the fall semester and raise awareness about the many opportunities available at Harper. The campaign includes a print brochure, website, and social media postings. You can view the <u>complete list of 67 things here</u>.

#### Media Relations

- The Daily Herald, Journal & Topics newspapers, and Patch ran articles about Harper's Office of Access and Disability Services celebrating 50 years of disability services at the college.
- Community College Daily, Comps Mag, the Daily Herald, Journal & Topics newspapers, and other news outlets reported on Harper receiving the Advanced Technological Education grant from the National Science Foundation.
- The Daily Herald, Journal & Topics newspapers, and Patch published stories about Harper student-artists whose work was selected by Dr. Proctor for the 2023 President's Art Selection Award.
- Forbes and NBC Chicago published stories highlighting the best employers in Illinois, including Harper, which made the top 30.
- The Daily Herald wrote an article about paper maps and digital directions, quoting Mukila Maitha, associate professor of geography.
- The American Journal of Transportation included Harper as one of the best colleges or universities to offer training for working in transportation fields.
- The Daily Herald and Patch ran pieces about instructors Bethanie-Michelle Statler (biology) and Ranjani Murali (English) and how their time as Diverse Faculty Fellows shaped their approaches as educators.
- Journal & Topics newspapers ran an article about Harper being honored for excellence in financial reporting.
- The Daily Herald ran a piece highlighting that the Barrington Area Chamber of Commerce will be honoring Dr. Proctor at its Outstanding Women Leaders Awards Luncheon.





- The Daily Herald and Patch previewed Harper's Fall Film Series.
- The Daily Herald wrote about a new District 214 teacher, Shane Rayburn, who is a graduate of Harper's first Promise Program cohort.
- The Daily Herald published a story about Harper student Bernie Bluestein celebrating his 100th birthday.

## Legislative Affairs

- State Representative Nabeela Syed toured campus in late August as part of relationship-building efforts. This was State Rep. Syed's first visit to campus since she was elected representative of the 51<sup>st</sup> district. Tour stops included the cultural center, Hawks Care, the simulation hospital, surgical tech suite and dental hygiene.
- Dr. Proctor, Dr. Coons and Jeff Julian attended the Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce Legislative Luncheon which included a panel featuring many of the college's Illinois elected officials including State Reps. Crespo, McLaughlin, Mussman, and Syed, and State Sens. Castro, McConchie, and Murphy. The panel was moderated by Mayor Bill McLeod.
- Chief of Staff and Legislative Affairs Liaison Jeff Julian attended the AACC's Advocates in Action conference in Washington, D.C. Advocates in Actions is "a two-day program designed for community college leaders who want an insider's view on how Washington formulates higher education policy and who want to become more involved in the federal legislative process." Jeff also held meetings with staff members from the offices of Representatives Krishnamoorthi, Ramirez and Quigley as well as Senators Durbin and Duckworth to discuss issues such as support for workforce Pell.

## Strategic Alliances and Innovation

• The regional Infrastructure Transportation Task Force that Harper has been leading met with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning to review the parameters of a study they are conducting to better understand the transportation challenges in the region. The Northwest Cook Transit Coordination Study is being conducted in four phases. The first phase includes a review of existing conditions and the demand for additional public transportation options. The review will include fixed route buses, flexible bus routes, micro-transit options and paratransit. Public engagement opportunities will be conducted where citizens can provide their input.

## Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness

The Office of Institutional Research has developed a Power BI report to help visualize the findings from the
most recent Community Scan. The Community Scan interactive report will allow the campus community to
identify areas to celebrate and opportunities for improvement. For example, almost 70% of residents were
aware that Harper offers associate degrees that transfer, but only 30% were aware of the apprenticeship
programs. In addition, the report has multiple filters to facilitate drilling into results to derive more nuanced
insights.





- The Starfish student success system has been configured and set up to support the early alert program for fall 2023. The initial set of student progress surveys were sent to faculty in September for the first eightweek sections and will continue through November for other parts of term. Early alert monitoring includes 33% of this semester's credit students. Students were selected based on the intersection of predictive analytics and those who are part of our IPEDS cohorts, which directly influence official fall-to-fall persistence and graduation outcome measures.
- Automated email nudges from the Starfish system were sent to 166 students enrolled in the First Year Seminar course (FYS 101) who had not accessed Blackboard within the first two days of the semester. The nudge reminded students of the importance of engaging early and often with the learning management system. After the nudge, 75% (N=125) of the students connected with an Orientation Leader and/or subsequently logged into the student success course. Orientation Leaders were able to address any technical issues faced by students and provided encouraging reminders about the importance of early academic engagement.

#### **Workforce Solutions**

- In August, the Lifelong Learning Institute (ages 55+) held its first Chautauqua. Popular in the early part of the 20th century as a form of intellectual discussion, it has evolved into a way of recreating historic events from the past. In this event, performers recounting the life of Carl Sandburg and Bob Dylan performed incharacter. The day began with a performance of Harper's own Back Porch Revue. With about 50 people in attendance the value of using American folk music as a way of understanding our history was examined.
- Besa Sadiku, manager workforce initiatives, joined ICCB at the Governor's tent during the Illinois State Fair last month in Springfield. Ms. Sadiku represented Harper and shared information about Apprenticeship Programs.
- In mid-August, DB Schenker North America welcomed their first cohort of 16 apprentices in a new
  partnership with Harper College. During this "Apprenticeship Kick Off" event, apprentices were welcomed
  by Wendy Gatz, apprenticeship program manager at DB Schenker, William Waldron, DB Schenker
  regional air manager, and by Dr. Michelé Smith, vice president workforce solutions at Harper. A member
  from the Village of Schaumburg's Office of Economic Development, Harper College faculty and staff, and
  members of DB Schenker's leadership team were present to congratulate the new apprentices.



