



PRESIDENT'S *REPORT*

October 2023

Dear Harper College Community:

Over the past two months, we hosted two of our longstanding and signature events at Harper College with the 15th Annual Assessment Fair and the 20th Annual Diversity Symposium. Faculty, staff and students attended both the fair and symposium learning from incredible keynote speakers, presentations on best practices and the enlightenment and momentum that comes from conversation and collaboration on a college-wide level. I was particularly inspired by the keynote of the Assessment Fair delivered by Dr. Divya Bheda, a senior fellow at the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). True to her steadfast commitment to outcomes and assessment, Dr. Bheda surveyed participants and the instant feedback given via a word cloud was the audience's perception for additional focus on outcomes at the classroom level. Furthermore, our Diversity Symposium keynote speaker Dr. Nataka Moore presented on "Understanding Anti-racism." Additionally, I was glad to see the symposium offer sessions on the Jewish and Palestinian experiences which, while planned in advance, provided some much-needed spaces for reflection and discussion with the tragic events occurring in the Middle East. Our community has been directly impacted by the war and I encourage everyone to continue supporting students and colleagues in these difficult times.

Regarding our community, our college enrollment and presence on campus continues to grow and many have expressed that our campus vibrancy is near or at pre-pandemic levels. From an academic standpoint, we have had several program accreditation visits this fall and are quite proud of being the only community college in the nation recognized by the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education for our Health Careers division's commitment to interdisciplinary learning in our Center for Interprofessional Simulation and Innovation. Our graduates entering the healthcare field are better prepared to serve in their various roles as they learn more about the interconnectedness of each role and its critical importance in patient care.

On the national front, Trustees Bill Kelley, Herb Johnson, Student Trustee Kei Smith, Dr. Maria Coons, and I attended the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Leadership Congress at which Chair Kelley and I gave two presentations. As expected, it was a great sharing and learning experience that will serve to strengthen our governance and student/ organizational success. Also, I'm pleased to report that Harper received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award that recognizes colleges and universities demonstrating an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. We are pleased to be one of six community colleges nationwide to receive this distinction. Paired with our recognition from the Illinois Community College Trustees Association for the 2023 Equity and Diversity Award, our work to close equity gaps and remove barriers through focused solutions is earning the recognition it truly deserves while shining a light on the spectacular job being done by our faculty and staff in and out of the classroom. It takes all of us working together to yield tangible and improved outcomes on student success and our organizational culture.

Campus News . . .

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As you'll note later in this report, our Grants Office team continues to successfully execute its charge bringing in over \$5 million across three grants: Childcare Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS), Enabling Partnerships to Increase Innovation Capacity (EPIIC), and Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions (DHSI). We are fortunate to have such a strong team developing new revenue streams to allow us to innovate and improve student success programs, services and outcomes across the college.

In sum, this has been a busy, productive and phenomenal month on many dimensions! We should all be Harper Proud as we continue our work with dedication and resolve to fulfill our mission and vision of transforming lives, the workforce and society through quality, affordable and accessible education and being an innovative and inclusive institution, the community's first choice, and a national leader for student success!



Academic Updates

Division/Program Highlights

- **Academic Support Center Promotes Student Success with Supplemental Instruction (SI) Program**
 - In fall 2023, the Academic Support Center's SI program has expanded to serve students and faculty across 55 course sections in 10 disciplines. Student SI Leaders have already seen 451 students this term. Classes supported are considered "historically difficult," in which some students are more likely to earn grades of D/F/W.
 - Midterm survey data from fall 2023 reveals that 100% of students "would recommend SI to another student" and 98% are "more satisfied with [their] Harper experience because of SI."
 - The Academic Support Center will be holding information sessions to expand the program to new courses for the spring term.
- **Enrollment Services:** The Striving Toward Educational Prosperity (STEP) program is dedicated to helping Black students and their families feel welcome and supported in college. STEP will serve as a student's guiding hand as they graduate from high school and enter college. STEP's inaugural event will be on Thursday, October 26.
- **Health Careers:** The Center for Interprofessional Simulation and Innovation (CIPSI) in the Health Careers Division provides health career students with learning experiences that develop collaborative skills for the purpose of improving health outcomes.
 - CIPSI is now nationally recognized as an Interprofessional Education (IPE) Center by the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education.
 - CIPSI is one of five IPE Centers in the state of Illinois.
 - Most notably, Harper College is the only community college on the national directory with an IPE Center signifying a dedication to IPE initiatives.
- **Interdisciplinary Programs and Student Success:** The Center for New Students and Orientation conducted 26 Career and Educational workshops as part of the embedded advisor program in the First Year Seminar sections this fall. These workshops are designed to help students explore academic interests and declare their Program of Study and Area of Interest as part of the Path for Success and prepare students for their educational planning appointment with their academic advisor.

Events

- **Enrollment Services:** Admissions Outreach hosted our first "Harper Fiesta" event for prospective students and their families earlier this month. Seventy-six prospective students attended with guests, 175 attendees total, and the overall feedback on the event was overwhelmingly positive.
- **Student Engagement:**
 - The Fall 2023 Buddy System Kick Off in September was hosted by Harper Wellness with 50 students participating in several icebreakers and other "get to know you" activities led by the Harper Wellness Student Aides.
 - Student Engagement's Third Annual Harper Fall Fest in early October had 2,000 attendees. Free pumpkins were provided, along with live entertainment from Angie K, pizza sponsored by Title IX, and opportunities for students to learn about resources and carve and/or paint pumpkins.
 - For National Coming Out Day on October 11, Pride Fest was held. Student Engagement partnered with student members of the Pride Club, the SAFE Employee Resource Group, and Harper Wellness in celebrating National Coming Out Day with a parade throughout the campus followed by information tables, activities, conversation, and refreshments in the Student Center Lounge.



By the Numbers

- **Enrollment Services:** Our Salesforce Chatbot handled 48.1% (496) of the 1,032 chats received last month, while a live staff member answered 51.9% (536). The top three topics asked by contacts were “How do I apply” (111), “Course Information” (61), and “Password Issue” (36).

Supporting the Strategic Plan

- **Advising Services:** Harper Arc Program in Advising Services
 - The Arc Program held its first workshops to support new cohort members in a virtual and on-campus format in September, and sessions will be held several times each month for the fall 2023 semester to support a variety of topics (Financial Literacy Series with the Office of Financial Aid, Time Management, Career Preparedness Series with JPRC, etc.). The mission of the Harper Arc Program is to reduce equity gaps and provide opportunities to support the needs for Harper College’s students of color and is driven by a transformational and strengths-based partnership with an Academic Advisor who also identifies as a person of color.
 - Collaboration with the Office of Outcomes Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness has aided in the dissemination of several surveys in September/October to better understand the initial needs of Arc students, and to gain insight for continued support of their degree/certificate completion.
 - Efforts are currently in progress in October to partner with the newly launched STEP outreach program to create a seamless transition for Black students and their families to also join the Arc and/or Guiding Learners to Intentionally Develop Efficacy (GLIDE) Programs to support their educational journey.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- Congratulations to Dr. Tamara Johnson for being selected as a new senior-level member of the National Association of Personnel Administrators (NASPA) African American Women’s Summit Faculty, based on her accomplishments and significant impact in the field of higher education!
- This month the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion co-hosted a successful 24th Annual Sabor Latino with Latinos Unidos for Latinx Heritage Month. The program featured authentic cuisine and a variety of cultural performances. The event was well attended with approximately 195 students, faculty, staff, and community members.
- In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness and Latinx Heritage Month, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion co-hosted the Lunch N’ Learn session on Breast Cancer Awareness: Why Your Density Matters with Harper Wellness and Latinos Unidos. The presentation covered breast density basics and resources to learn about additional screening options. The presentation included 25 students, faculty, staff, and community members in attendance.
- This month we also held the annual Diversity Symposium with the theme "ANTI: Meeting at the Intersection of Oppressions." Nearly 200 students and employees participated for a transformative experience to learn from several speakers discussing topics such as anti-racism, anti-Semitism, the disability movement, LGBTQIA+ allyship, the Palestinian experience and more.



Finance and Administrative Services

Facilities Management

- Building B Central Steam Boiler Plant Upgrade Project: The scope of work for this project includes replacement of two high-pressure steam boilers (B-1 and B-2). It also includes upgrades of the controls, sanitary sewer, water services, and other requirements per the feasibility study. Construction is underway and is scheduled to be completed in February 2024.
- Building E Film Screening Classroom Lab Addition: The scope of work for this project includes construction of the film screening lab addition, replacement of two existing air handling units, and redundant heat for select sprinkler piping. Construction is underway and scheduled to be completed in August 2024.

Human Resources

- The Human Resources Department will move forward with the implementation of the Oracle Recruiting, Journeys, Learning and Volunteering modules with a November 13 go-live date.

Information Technology

- IT hosted a team of nine members from multiple French universities who visited Chicago to attend the Educause Conference. IT shared Harper's HyFlex implementation, Technology Strategic Plan, and IT Governance.
- IT coordinated a Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA) assessment conducted by Campus Guard. Multiple stakeholders across the college participated, including Financial Aid, OneStop, the Registrar's office, and IT. Campus Guard will deliver the report by the end of November.
- An FBI agent presented an overview of cyber threats, trends, and strategies earlier this month to celebrate Cybersecurity Month. Nearly 100 people attended, including students and colleagues from other colleges.

Risk Management

- A new weather warning system was installed on campus. The system includes three warning stations (soccer field, softball field, and on top of the library), and a weather station located on the press box of the soccer field. We also have 30 users who have access to the system on their cell phones.

Advancement, Marketing and Communications

Advancement

- The Inspire Scholarship Campaign has reached \$31,996,462 as of the end of September. Eight new scholarships were established in the Foundation - ITServe Alliance Scholarship sponsored by Chicago Chapter, ITServe Alliance Scholarship sponsored by the AB2 Consulting Inc. by Vincent Berkman, Northwest Community Hospital Endowed Nursing Scholarship, Brandt Foundation Endowed Scholarship, Tichy Family Scholarship, Tichy Family Second Chance Scholarship, Patricia Mulcrone Memorial Scholarship, and Global Learning Opportunities Broaden Education (GLOBE) Endowed Scholarship. This brings the total of new donor-sponsored scholarships created since July 1, 2020, to sixty-five.
- Nearly 60 guests attended the Harper College Educational Foundation's Interactive Tour event last month. The event invited Foundation donors, Helping Others through the Power of Education (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 in four college areas. Participating departments included: Zoology, Fashion, HVAC, and Physical Therapy.

- On November 8 at noon, recent alumni are invited to attend the free webinar: Building Your Financial Future. This webinar gives alumni the opportunity to gain practical insights into managing finances effectively and will cover the essential pillars of financial planning that every recent alum should understand. The webinar is co-hosted by Harper Alumni Relations and the Harper Professional Advisors Committee and will feature financial advisors from Baldwin Financial. Visit harpercollege.edu/alumni for more info.
- As of October 16, the Foundation has awarded scholarships to 359 students for the 2023-2024 academic year. This figure does not include the Promise Scholarship.

Community Relations

- The Community Relations team has had a busy fall semester with community and business partner events, school tours and other events on campus including:
 - The GOA Regional Business Association's Business at the Ballpark Expo where Harper was a Homerun Sponsor for the annual event. Businesses and community members received materials about Harper's business services, upcoming events, and college resources. Representatives from community relations and workforce solutions networked with other vendors and attendees.
 - Late last month, Community Relations and Access and Disability Services hosted the Annual Directions College and Career Fair for the second year. Harper provides facilities for the event so families from Districts 211, 214, and 220 can attend the event to learn about post-secondary career training and college options and supports, available to young adults with disabilities. More than 200 people attended the keynote and fair with over 50 vendors.
 - Earlier this month, we welcomed 25 high school students and educators from Germany visiting the area through the Palatine High School exchange program. The students spoke with representatives from the Office of International Studies, Admissions and World Languages. While on campus they visited the Manufacturing and the Metal Fabrication lab, made coasters in the Makerspace, and enjoyed lunch. The students were interested in learning about our students' experiences and exchange opportunities in college.

Marketing Services

- The Harper College episode of the award-winning television program [The College Tour \(TCT\)](#) debuted on Harper's [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#) in mid-October. The episode shares Harper's story through the authentic lens of 10 current students and recent alumni. TCT began sharing Harper's episode on October 18 through its website, social media channels, and various streaming platforms. TCT will also distribute Harper's episode to more than 60,000 high school counselors nationwide. In February 2024, Harper's episode will debut on Amazon Prime as part of TCT's tenth season. Along with the student features, TCT recorded [three TCT Conversation segments](#):
 - Navigating Financial Aid
 - Ask Admissions
 - Coffee with the President, featuring Dr. Avis Proctor
- Patrick Kelly, web content manager, received the Red Stapler Award for best presentation in his track at this month's HigherEdWeb Conference. His presentation was titled, "Get Comfortable with AI."

Media Relations

- The *Daily Herald* and *Northwest Herald* wrote pieces about the increased student enrollment this fall at area community colleges, highlighting Harper's numbers. The stories featured quotes from Bob Parzy, associate provost of enrollment services.



- *Journal & Topics* newspapers, the *Daily Herald* and *Patch* posted stories about Harper receiving the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine.
- *Community College Daily* and the offices of U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth posted pieces about Harper receiving grant funding via the Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions Program from the U.S. Department of Education.
- WBBM News Radio and the *Daily Herald* ran stories about the U.S. Department of Education awarding Harper the Childcare Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) Program grant.
- The National Science Foundation (NSF) and *Mirage News* published posts about the grant funding Harper was awarded as part of the NSF's Enabling Partnerships to Increase Innovation Capacity (EPIIC) Grant.
- *Community College Daily*, *Facility Safety Management*, *Industrial Safety* and *Hygiene News* and other news outlets reported on the Susan Harwood Training Grant Program funding that Harper received from OSHA.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran stories rounding up the four federal grants recently received by Harper.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* published profiles of Harper student, Kate Guerrero, who won the 2023 Soon to Be Famous Illinois Author Manuscript Project Contest after taking classes taught by Community Education (CE) instructor, Laura Ehrke.
- *Yale News* interviewed former Harper Professor Paul Szipiera about the Planetary Studies Foundation's recent meteorite collection donation to Yale University's Peabody Museum.
- *Journal & Topics* newspapers wrote an article about Harper's partnership with the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital.
- The *Daily Herald*, *Patch* and *Journal & Topics* newspapers ran articles about the Harper College Police Department taking part in the Pink Patch Program to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
- *Cargo Airports & Airline Services* published a story highlighting Harper's apprenticeship program with DB Schenker.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* posted preview stories about Harper's Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony.
- The *Chicago Sun-Times* profiled Dan Spees, a regular member of Harper Wind Symphony and Jazz Ensemble, who is a double-lung transplant survivor.
- *Journal & Topics* and *Patch* published pieces about Harper's Sonography Program offering free ultrasounds.

Legislative Affairs

- Dr. Proctor, Dr. Coons, and Jeff Julian hosted Cook County Commissioner Maggie Trevor on campus for a meet 'n' greet and discussion on the college's transportation initiatives. During the meeting, Commissioner



Trevor shared her unique connection to Harper College as her mother, Rena Trevor, led the Women's Program and was instrumental in its early successes.

- Dr. Proctor and Jeff Julian also welcomed Cook County Commissioners Scott Britton, Kevin Morrison, and Maggie Trevor to campus for the Cook County Equity Fund Town Hall.
- The Illinois General Assembly is back in session this week for its two-week Veto session. There are several hot topics under consideration in addition to the Governor's vetoes, including the extension of the \$75M Invest in Kids income tax credit for private school scholarships as well as a bill that would allow legislative staff to unionize. There is no expectation that the General Assembly will consider any legislation related to the Chicago Bears' possible move to Arlington Heights.

Strategic Alliances and Innovation

Grants Office

- In September, Harper was awarded \$400,000 from the NSF as part of its EPIIC grant program. Harper is serving as the lead institution for a five-institution consortium comprised of Ivy Tech Community College (IN), Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MS), Washburn University Institute of Technology (KS), and WSU Tech (KS). The primary goal of this three-year grant is to build institutional capacity to grow external partnerships for workforce programs to make them more responsive to regional workforce needs supported by the development of a scalable, replicable framework for community and technical colleges transitioning from traditional advisory committees to the nationally recognized Business and Industry Leadership Team (BILT) advisory council model.
- In September, Harper was awarded a four-year grant in the amount of \$1,998,480 from the U.S. Department of Education through its Childcare Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program. Through this grant, Harper will develop and implement the Harper College Student Parent Success Program, a new subsidized childcare services program for low-income student parents, create opportunities for recipients to engage in parental education and family-oriented activities, provide access to a repository of internal and external family resources, and establish new and enhance existing community partnerships to support student parents in the district.
- In September, Harper was awarded a five-year, \$2,995,665 DHSI grant through the U.S. Department of Education. The Driving Student Success Through High-Impact Practices project will seek to improve student success outcomes through expanded academic support programs and professional development; enhance student support services and basic needs support; and improve the college's capacity to equitably evaluate initiatives to make data-informed decisions for leveraging fiscal resources for replication and scaling of successful initiatives. This grant supports establishing the centralized Hawks Care Advocacy and Resource Center, developing a student financial literacy program, and scaling the Connected Advising program.

Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness

- The fall 2022, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) cohort achieved the highest Path for Success milestone attainment rate yet, with 32% of students achieving the identified first-semester and first-year momentum milestones. This represents a six-percentage point increase from the previous fall 2021 cohort. Latinx students experienced the largest year-over-year increase in attaining the Path for



Success momentum metrics, with 27% of Latinx students in the fall 2022 cohort achieving the milestones, up from 17% from the fall 2021 cohort.

- In September, the Learning Assessment Committee and the Academy for Teaching Excellence held the 15th Annual Harper College Assessment Conference and Share Fair. More than 100 faculty and staff attended the conference. Additionally, students from the Embedded Peer in-Course Coach (EPiCC) program attended and engaged in multiple sessions. The conference, focusing on student learning assessment, included the keynote address Building Responsiveness and Serving Our Students: For Integrity, Efficacy, and Equity, presented by Dr. Divya Bheda, a senior fellow at the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). The conference highlighted the work of nearly 20 Harper faculty and staff, with posters and breakout sessions led by those representing a variety of areas of the college. These sessions included Assessing Student Learning in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (AI) that focused on how to re-frame the response to AI from punitive to educational, and Numbers and Tables and Graphs, Oh My! where participants engaged in discussion and explored ways that quantitative reasoning can be incorporated into many class discussions, regardless of subject matter.

Workforce Solutions

- Community Education is proud to announce that our writing student, Kate Guerrero, has recently won the 2023 Soon to Be Famous Illinois Author Manuscript Project Contest for her novel *Burn and Balm*. This honor is awarded with the involvement of all libraries in Illinois.

Kate has taken several classes with writing instructor Laura Ehrke, in which she worked on the novel, who stated that, “Her manuscript involves the early era of motherhood, along with the specific experiences that come with this period of parenting, tenuous friendships and plenty of stress.”

Kate is a freelance copywriter by day and continues to work on multiple writing projects including a second novel. <https://www.harpercollege.edu/about/news/archives/2023/posts/Illinois-Author-Contest-Kate-Guerrero.php>

- At the end of last month, apprenticeship opportunities were presented to parents and students with special needs from Districts 211, 214 and 220 during the Directions for College and Career event held at Harper College. The goal of the event is to provide every student with access to an academic and/or a career-oriented opportunity after high school and equip every student with the knowledge they need to succeed after graduation.
- PULSE Technology from Schaumburg is our new employer partner for IT Generalist and Marketing and Sales Apprenticeship Programs. They are committed to hiring apprentices for the fall 2024 semester.

