



PRESIDENT'S *REPORT*

June 2024

Dear Harper College Community:

I am happy to report that two of our faculty members were recognized at the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) 2024 Annual Convention in Lombard, IL. Professor Kelly Taylor was nominated for the Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Award and Nancy Marquez, graphic arts lab assistant, was nominated and received the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award. Both faculty were recognized for their stellar support of students and innovation in their teaching. Their dean, Dr. Joanne Ivory, Chair Bill Kelley, Dr. Maria Coons, members of their families and I were there to celebrate their recognitions at the ceremony. Congratulations to Nancy and Kelly for representing Harper College well at the state level! Furthermore, Dr. Coons was recognized with a Certificate of Merit award for her exemplary service to the Board. Dr. Coons is retiring at the end of this month after a storied career both in the classroom and in our administration. I want to recognize and thank her again for her 37 years of tremendous service to Harper College. She has served under three different presidents in a variety of roles always focused on student success and innovation in all that she has done. We wish Dr. Coons the best in her next chapter!

As a lead member institution of the Chicago's [Bloch Tech Hub](#) established under the CHIPS and Science Act, we are patiently waiting for news from the Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration on possible funding for us to support the critical need to grow Quantum Information Science and Technology (QIST) professionals in support of our national security and global competitiveness. Governor Pritzker's budget also includes significant funding to grow the QIST industry. Additionally, we received word from Senator Tammy Duckworth's office that she has selected our FY25 Congressionally Directed Spending request for inclusion on her list of projects. Our request for \$500,000 will support our work to establish a training center for quantum technicians. Later in this report, you'll read about our work to prepare for implementation of projects supported by FY24 "earmark" funds from Senators Duckworth and Dick Durbin. I am thankful for the continued support of our students and community members by our federal elected officials. Further, since my last report, a team of us pictured below were fortunate to visit an FBI-sponsored day-long workshop on *Securing Quantum Assets* at Fermilab. This invitation-only visit signifies that we're embarking upon new paths in the rapidly changing field of emerging technologies.

- Campus News . . .**
- [Academic Updates](#)
- [Advancement](#)
- [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#)
- [External Affairs](#)
- [Finance and Administrative Services](#)
- [Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness](#)
- [Strategic Alliances and Innovation](#)
- [Workforce Solutions](#)





Last month, I joined the Workforce Solutions team, the Economic Development commission members of Hoffman Estates, and the Village of Hoffman Estates Mayor for a C-Suite breakfast meeting. I provided an overview of Harper College including students being served along with national honors and awards. Dr. Maria Coons presented our BILT model followed by Dr. Ruth Williams who shared information about new programming in Cybersecurity, Aviation Maintenance, and Psychiatric Technician certifications. Dr. Michelé Smith provided an overview of the college's workforce solutions specifically designed for business and industry. After convening, several of the attendees expressed interest in connecting with us at a deeper level. These types of engagements are core to our mission as the community's college.

Finally, while summer offers an opportunity to momentarily catch our breath, we are still serving our summer students as well as numerous children from our local communities as part of our InZone program. That means the campus continues to bustle with activity including students, employees and community members enjoying our beautiful outdoor spaces on campus whether walking, biking, eating outside, or using our tennis courts. Meanwhile, our dedicated faculty and staff are hard at work concluding their projects for the fiscal year while they ready for the activities of the next academic year. I am quite proud of the great work we've done this year!

Academic Updates

By the Numbers

- Enrollment Services
 - The chatbot managed the majority of inquiries, assisting with over half of the total chats received. The chatbot managed 56% (872) of the 1,568 chats received, while live staff members addressed the remaining 44% (696). Top topics of inquiry included "General Course/Schedule Information" (122), "Summer Classes" (117), and "Registering for a class" (93).
 - Staff members efficiently managed a high volume of cases, calls, and in-person visits, ensuring smooth operations across various communication channels. Staff processed 3,317 CRM cases, including emails and forms, 3,145 calls, and 1,597 in-person visits in the One Stop, Admissions Outreach and Testing Center.
 - We sent over 18,000 broadcast emails to students and clients. Emails included KUDOS messages to spring semester students and Promise Scholarship previews.
- Harper Wellness organized refueling stations for students before and during finals weeks by providing students with grab-and-go food items and mental health/wellness resources. Over 300 students were served during these two refueling station events.
- Hawks Care
 - In the month of May, 97 students accessed the Food Pantry; 56 meetings were held with the Manager, Childcare Case Manager, or Resource Specialist; eight students visited the Career Closet.

Events

- Legal Studies Coordinator Carol Carlson-Nofsinger gave a presentation to the Illinois Paralegal Association in May, during a Lunch and Learn session on Letters of Intent used in commercial real estate transactions.

Highlights

- Division/Program Highlights
 - Harper Wellness closed out the academic year by helping five nutrition interns receive their required clinical hours for their community wellness rotation at Harper Wellness. Over the course of the FY2023-24 academic year, more than 95 nutrition consultations were provided for employees and students.

Advancement

- The Department of Alumni Relations hosted an Engineering Alumni Reunion earlier this month in partnership with the engineering faculty. More than 30 guests attended the luncheon and networking event on the quad. The event fosters relationships between alumni and allows them to stay connected with Harper College.
- The Foundation hosted its 35th Annual Golf Outing this month at The Club at Wynstone. The event united 107 golfers representing organizations throughout the Chicagoland area. Twenty-three local businesses participated as event sponsors with proceeds going to the Foundation's Resource for Excellence Fund. Twenty-one Harper employees volunteered at the event to raise funds for Harper students. \$170,000 was raised for Harper students and programs.
- As of June 5, 2024, three new scholarships/awards have been established in the Foundation: Finish Line Grant, Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award, and Patricia G. Bourke Endowed Nursing Scholarship. This brings the total number of new donor-sponsored scholarships created since July 1, 2020, to 75.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- The SAFE ERG (Staff, Administrators, and Faculty for Equality Employee Resource Group) marched in the Buffalo Grove Pride Parade earlier this month. Over 40 students, staff and faculty participated and wore shirts that read, “You Belong at Harper College.”
- The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion hosted 125 events during the FY2023-2024 academic year, which included 31 training sessions. Additionally, there were more than 5,000 visitors to the Cultural Center, which reflects an 18% increase from last year.
- Harper was well represented at the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE), with 16 faculty and staff members attending.
 - Dr. Tamara Johnson, who is also on the National Advisory Council for NCORE, co-facilitated an all-day preconference session on, “The Professionalization of DEI Practices” and co-presented a session titled, “Aspiring DEI Leaders: What You Need to Know.”
 - Dr. Bhasker Moorthy, Leah Kang, and Gerardo Cruz co-presented a session titled, “Supporting Faculty and Staff of Color through an Employee Resource Group and Mentorship Program.”
- Several Harper faculty and staff participated during an NCORE 2024 poster session, including:
 - Drs. Joanne Ivory and Brittany Barber: “Professional Advancement as a Social Justice Warrior in Higher Education: Pigeons vs. Eagles”
 - Dr. Stephanie Whalen, Andre Berchiolly, DuBoi McCarty, and LaVonya Williams: “Engaging in Our Truths: Mythical Constructs and Archetypes of Resistance in Professional Development”
 - Michael Bentley and Dr. Eric Bohman: “Teaching Toward Justice: Bridging the Gaps and Birthing Change-Makers with Social Justice Education”

External Affairs

Communications

- The Communications team pitched, secured placement, and/or helped facilitate 10 articles that appeared in local and national media publications. In total, 96% of Harper media mentions were positive or neutral in tone. Among the highlights are:
 - The *Daily Herald*, *University Business* and *Patch* published articles, also shared by the ICCTA and Achieving the Dream, about the Lyft Pass Program and how it is helping students focus on their academic pursuits.
 - The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran stories about recent graduate/scholarship recipient Andrea Perez Chavez and the bond she formed with donors Thom and Carol Lange.
 - The *Chicago Tribune* and *Pioneer Press* wrote articles about Wheeling Township working with Harper Business Solutions to identify gaps in mental health services resources for its community.
 - *Streets Blog Chicago* wrote an article about the success of recent Pace bus routes, highlighting the increased ridership on the Harper-dedicated route 697.
 - The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* published pieces about Harper’s Commencement Ceremony.
 - *Forbes* discussed Harper’s successful apprenticeship program in partnership with Zurich American Insurance Company.
 - The *Daily Herald* highlighted Harper’s Women’s Track and Field team winning back-to-back national championships, while also spotlighting Coach Jim Macnider’s awards for leadership.
 - *Hispanic Executive* profiled One Stop Advocate Jorge Perez.
 - The *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran articles previewing Harper’s annual Summer Concert Series.

- The *Daily Herald* published an article about the grand opening of the American Jobs Center in Wheeling, co-hosted by Harper.

Legislative Affairs

- The Governor signed the FY25 budget into law this month, his sixth and largest at \$53.1B, which included a two percent increase for community colleges as well as a \$10 million dollar increase for MAP grant funding.
- Local Democrats named Arlington Heights Village Trustee Nicolle Grasse the new state representative for the 53rd House District replacing former Representative Mark Walker. State Senator Walker replaced former State Senator Ann Gillespie when she took a role in Governor Pritzker’s administration. Grasse is a hospice chaplain and an ordained minister with the United Church of Christ.

Marketing Services

- Senior Graphic Designer Julie DeMarco has been selected to participate in the 2024-2025 NCMPR Leadership Institute, June through February. Julie will work alongside 15-20 marketing and public relations colleagues from community colleges across the country in online and in-person professional development activities and projects from June 2024 to March 2025.

Finance and Administrative Services

Human Resources

- The Human Resources Department has completed its work on the college’s compensation study. Employees are receiving notifications the week of June 3 and will go into effect starting July 1, 2024.

Risk Management

- Harper College has installed 11 Flock Safety License Plate Readers on campus. Nine have been installed on the Palatine campus and two at the Learning and Career Center in Prospect Heights. License plate readers play a critical role in the national crime and safety conversation. This is true especially as communities, businesses, and public institutions increasingly rely on technology to drive insights to generate leads and solve and prevent criminal activities. Unlike reactive security systems, license plate recognition systems provide proactive, data-driven, actionable evidence.

Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness

- Dr. Kathy Coy, Matt McLaughlin, and Ron Serio presented “Unlock the Power of Data Sensemaking to Support Student Momentum” at the Association of Institutional Research (AIR) Annual Conference in Denver, CO. This session was chosen to be among a select group of featured sessions based upon receiving top scores in draw and quality from the AIR review panel.
- Student artifacts have been collected for the assessment of general education outcomes. This spring, a large-scale assessment of the Communication outcome and a follow-up assessment of the Quantitative Reasoning outcome are being conducted. More than 100 faculty have submitted over 1,700 student artifacts as part of these general education assessments. During the summer, student artifacts will be scored, and the data analyzed. Results will be presented to the campus in early fall.



Strategic Alliances and Innovation

Grants Office

- In May, Innovation and Development applied to the U.S. Department of Education for a three-year, \$500,000 grant for the Advanced Semiconductor Equipment and Nanotechnology Technician (ASCENT) project. This project is a Congressionally Funded Community Project supported by Senator Duckworth. This project includes developing and implementing a new career pathway for individuals seeking employment in jobs generated from the 2022 CHIPS and Science Act investment and the expansion of microchip manufacturing across the U.S. The new apprenticeship program and technician-level credit certificate will be designed to specifically build and strengthen the region's semiconductor equipment technician workforce. The ASCENT project includes activities that will increase access to high-wage careers, deepen academia-industry partnerships, create a diverse talent pipeline to meet workforce demands in the Chicagoland region, and provide economic mobility opportunities for district residents.
- In May, Innovation and Development applied to the U.S. Department of Education for a one-year, \$1,000,000 grant for the Supporting Advanced Fire and Emergency Services Technology Initiative (SAFE Tech Initiative). This project is a Congressionally Funded Community Project supported by Senator Durbin. The SAFE Tech Initiative aims to: 1) equip the ESTC with cutting-edge technology and equipment; 2) enhance the training capacity to educate over 940 firefighters and first responders annually; 3) address the evolving needs of local fire departments through modernized training programs; and 4) foster diversity and inclusivity in the firefighting profession. The SAFE Tech Initiative represents a critical investment in the future of public safety and emergency preparedness in the northwest suburbs of Chicago. By equipping Harper's ESTC with advanced technology and equipment, the initiative will enhance the training of firefighters and first responders, address workforce needs, and foster a diverse and skilled workforce dedicated to community safety.
- In May, the Innovation Accelerator under the leadership of Dr. Susanne Brock, Senior Director of Innovation and Development, was recognized by the League for Innovation in the Community College as the 2023-2024 Innovation of the Year award winner. This award celebrates the Innovation Accelerator's focus on rapid development and delivery of emerging technology programming (e.g., Cybersecurity, AI, Cloud Computing) to meet regional employer demands for a skilled workforce. Innovation in this context signifies a paradigm shift, testing ideas that can lead to transformed operational and educational experiences.

Workforce Solutions

- The Career Skills Institute, a job skills program for students with intellectual disabilities, held its 2024 graduation ceremony last month. The seven students who completed the program invited family, friends, and Harper College dignitaries to see them handed their certificate of completion by President Proctor and to celebrate their accomplishments.
- Also in May, Darice Trout, Senior Director of Workforce Solutions and Job Placement, Julie Sabella, Experiential Program Manager, and Besa Sadiku, Manager Workforce Initiatives, attended the Workforce Readiness Summit in Carpentersville, hosted by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America of Dundee Township and OTTO Engineering, Inc. The event focused on bridging the gap in technical STEM careers for under-represented youth. Summit Keynote Speaker was Brynt Parmeter, Chief Talent Management Officer at the United States Department of Defense. Brynt emphasized the importance of apprenticeships and innovative approaches to workforce readiness, aligning with national strategies to bolster STEM opportunities.



- The Apprenticeship Office welcomed two new employer partners who plan to have apprenticeships for fall 2024.
 - Pan American Bank and Trust from Palatine for the Banking and Finance Apprenticeship Program.
 - Weiss-AUG Group Diemasters from Elk Grove Village for the Mechatronics Apprenticeship.
- The JPRC staff serviced 42 workshops, classroom presentations, and/or information tables in the spring semester.