



Dr. Kenneth Ender with Harper College students outside the Avanté Center.

Harper College Looks Ahead to a Strong Future

MORE THAN 50 YEARS AGO, HARPER COLLEGE PUT DOWN ROOTS IN A WIDE-OPEN PLOT OF FARMLAND AND HORSE STABLES IN PALATINE. FEW IMAGINED THE IMPACT THE INSTITUTION WOULD HAVE IN SHAPING OUR REGION. TODAY, HARPER HAS EMERGED AS A PREMIER COMMUNITY COLLEGE THAT'S UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO SERVE NOT ONLY THE NEEDS OF THE LOCAL WORKFORCE, BUT A GLOBAL ONE AS WELL.

TO HELP ENSURE A STRONG FUTURE FOR THE COLLEGE AND THE NORTHWEST SUBURBS, HARPER COLLEGE IS ASKING VOTERS A REFERENDUM QUESTION ON THE NOVEMBER 6 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION BALLOT. THE MEASURE—WHICH WOULD NOT RAISE TAXES—SEEKS UP TO \$180 MILLION TO SUPPORT A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PLAN THAT SPURS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, EDUCATES FOR TODAY'S HIGH-TECH JOBS, AND MAINTAINS AND IMPROVES CAMPUS INFRASTRUCTURE.

THE COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PLAN

Thousands of taxpayers, students, employees, community leaders, and businesses, through engagement sessions and surveys, stated that Harper is critical in providing affordable education to keep communities and local businesses competitive in a rapidly changing environment. They also helped define the following three priorities for Harper's 10-year campus master plan:

Drive Economic Opportunity in Our Community (\$28.5 million):

A new building facilitating collaboration and innovation will house:

- A hub for regional economic development (Small Business Development Center, Fast Track program, customized business training).
- A home for University Center partnerships with DePaul, Northern Illinois, and Roosevelt universities, providing more affordable, convenient bachelor's degrees on Harper's campus.
- A center to help residents keep skills current for today's workplace.

HARPER COLLEGE FAST FACTS

35,000 About **35,000 students** attend Harper each year (credit and noncredit).

520,000 Harper's district serves more than **520,000** people in **23** communities including Barrington, Barrington Hills, Inverness, Lake Barrington, North Barrington and South Barrington.

90,000 Harper has conferred nearly **90,000 degrees** and certificates in its history. The college's graduation rate is at an all-time high.

\$59,000 Students who complete the first two years of their bachelor's degree at Harper **save up to \$59,000** in tuition alone.

31.4% About one-third of high school graduates in Harper's district **enroll at Harper** within one year post-high school graduation.

4 Harper is one of only **4** community colleges in Illinois with a **Aaa credit** rating (highest possible from Moody's).

1.65 million Harper's **200-acre** campus includes **1.65 million square feet** of building space.

300 Harper's partnerships with about **300** area companies allow the college to provide apprenticeship programs with unique hands-on training in programs including IT, cybersecurity and insurance.

846 In the last three years alone, Harper's Small Business Development Center has **advised 846 small businesses**, helped create or retain **552 jobs**, helped start **85 companies** and assisted with **\$8.2 million** in small business capital.

Educate for Today's High-Tech Jobs (\$88.7 million):

- Modernize facilities and curriculum.
- Renovate 40-year-old facilities for academic programs in high-demand fields including business, accounting and early education.
- Expand and improve health careers and manufacturing facilities.

Maintain and Improve Campus Infrastructure (\$62.8 million):

- Maintain and replace infrastructure such as roofs, electrical, plumbing, and other aging systems.
- Invest in technologies to increase efficiency and ensure a safe campus.



"Harper College is a pillar in the community with a tradition of excellence. Modernizing curriculum and expanding facilities in high-demand fields such as health care ensure Harper's continued commitment to meeting the employment needs of the entire region."

– Harper College Trustee and Northwest Community Healthcare Board Chair Diane G. Hill, Barrington

"Today's global economy demands a workforce equipped with 21st century skills such as technical expertise, collaborative communication and the ability to continuously learn over a lifetime. If businesses can't find skilled workers here, they'll move elsewhere."

– Harper College President Dr. Kenneth L. Ender, Inverness

"This plan helps position the students of Harper College, and our community at large, for a strong future. Importantly, this plan also reflects a careful stewardship of the community's tax dollars."

– Harper College Board Chair Greg Dowell, Deer Park



RESPONSIBLE FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

Harper has identified opportunities to fund these three community priorities without raising taxes. Existing bonds from the year 2000 are due to be paid off in 2020. At that time, annual property taxes would decrease by approximately \$48 for a \$500,000 house (or \$23 for a \$250,000 house). If voters approve this plan, the College could issue new bonds for \$180 million by replacing those old bonds, and taxes would stay the same.

To learn more about Harper's community-driven plans for the future, visit harpercollege.edu/strongfuture.

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Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington was instrumental in outfitting the new Derrick and Joni Hamilton Surgical Technology Suite at Harper College, donating patient surgical tables, lights, scrub sink, instrument washing sink, a sterilizer, and other equipment. The facility illustrates how health careers students practice responding to the challenges of complex patient care in a controlled environment.



A student studies in the David K. Hill Family Library, an example of Harper's practice of renovating aging facilities to save in construction costs and support sustainability efforts.

Did You Know?

Middle-skill jobs (requiring education beyond high school, but not a four-year degree) account for 53 percent of Illinois' labor market, but only 42 percent of the state's workers are trained to the middle-skill level (National Skills Coalition). The number of job openings for nurses will be more than 1 million by 2024 (Bureau of Labor Statistics). Over the next decade, 3.5 million manufacturing jobs will need to be filled (Deloitte).



The Harper College Educational Foundation's HOPE Giving Circle has awarded six, \$10,000 scholarships to female Harper College students including these recipients.