

November 20, 2018

Hello HW Family,

I hope this communication finds you well, in high spirits, and ready to enjoy some much needed time with family! I am continuously grateful for all of you, your leadership and dedication to our students at Harold Washington College. Recently, I read the book, *Leaders Eat Last* by Simon Sinek, in it he writes: *"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."* I was inspired by this quote because in the various meetings I've had with the district office and community members, I often hear how HW is always "leading" the way. We lead the way for the city and district because what we do isn't for us, it's for the students who we inspire. I'm grateful for you in taking the lead, taking risks, and inspiring our students and one another.

Before we go off this week I want to share a few updates with you.

ICCCP Last Week:

Last week I attended the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents meeting where we learned about the various changes to elected seats in Illinois – including how a new governor might impact the ICCB, IBHE, and ICCTA. Much of the conversation revolved around potential capital for colleges across the state. This is a good sign given HW is embarking on its capital plan requests in the New Year. It is great to interact with all 48 community college presidents from across the state, and engage in discussions that affect all of our students. Please know Harold Washington College is at the table engaging in these state level discussions.

HW College Specific Strategic Plan

The college continues to move forward on the development of its college specific strategic plan. As we shared during the State of the College, our students' success is at the heart of our plan. As a result of the conversation we had, several faculty and staff have joined the eight working teams. I am grateful for the time and commitment that everyone is putting into developing what promises to be a true "renaissance" of a plan, knowing that we are not reinventing any wheels, but strengthening the great work this community continues to engage in.

Equity Discussions and the HW Narrative

In the coming weeks some staff, faculty and leaders of HW will engage more deliberately in conversations about equity. In the last year, HW was the recipient of the Pathways-to-Results grant awarded through ICCB that supported the research and development of conversations focused on equity in our CTE programs. Many thanks to the collaborative team of administrators, faculty, advisors, and tutors who made this opportunity possible, as well as Associate Dean Asif Wilson who led the initiative as the Project Manager. These conversations and research continue to teach us that in our plans for the future, we as a college, must continue to embrace an "equity" lens in our actions and supports for our students. In addition to the work occurring with ICCB, the college and district are partnering with the Partnership for College Completion and the Illinois Equity Attainment Initiative,

which will include four-year institutions from across the state, as well as several community colleges to engage in conversations not only pertaining to equity within our walls, but also equity in Illinois policy, on transfer agreements, and the like. We look forward to being part of these discussions and sharing this important work with the HW community.

DePaul/Washington Academy Partnership

A year ago I had the opportunity to attend a meeting with Dr. Esteban (President of DePaul University), our Chancellor and our Provost to discuss deepening the HW/DePaul transfer partnership. I am pleased to announce that starting Fall 2019, the DePaul/Harold Washington Academy will enable 100 selected CPS Star Scholarship students to complete an associate degree offered by Harold Washington College on DePaul's Loop Campus. While working on their associate degree, Academy students will have access to a myriad of DePaul services. Upon successful completion of their associate degree, these students are guaranteed admission to DePaul. Our hope is that Academy students will be able to make a seamless transition to the next step in their college career with no debt and be well on their way to earning a DePaul bachelor's degree.

As I mentioned, the college continues to engage in many great initiatives and we will continue to share as information unfolds. In the meantime, I hope you have a peaceful Thanksgiving with your family and friends. Let's keep dreaming and inspiring one another to do great things!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Ignacio López, Ed.D. | President
Harold Washington College | City Colleges of Chicago
30 East Lake Street | Chicago, IL 60601
P: 312.553.5901 | E: ilopez@ccc.edu
www.ccc.edu/hwc

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