

October 4, 2017

## Call for Proposals - Spring 2018 Faculty/Staff Orientation Week & Tech Fest

Spring 2018 Faculty/Staff Orientation Week is January 9 to 13. The President's All Campus Meeting will be Wednesday, January 10 and the Provost's Meeting will be on Thursday, January 11. What will the rest of the week offer? You tell us!



The Academy is now accepting proposals for Spring 2018 Faculty/Staff Orientation Week. We invite you to [submit a proposal](#) for an orientation week session or a Tech Fest e-Poster session **by Monday, November 6.**

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## Creating a More Socially Just Classroom: Academy Webinar with Dr. Durene Wheeler

What is social justice education? How does social justice education relate to teaching practices? Visiting speaker Dr. Durene I. Wheeler, Associate Professor in the department of Educational Inquiry & Curriculum Studies at Northeastern Illinois University, explores these two important questions in her upcoming webinar, Constructing Difference: Understanding the Role of Social Justice in Our Classroom. [Learn more.](#)

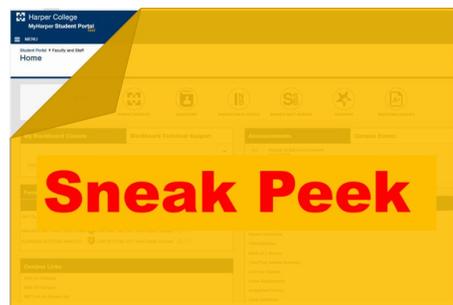


[Register for the webinar.](#) Please feel free to register even if you cannot view the session live. A recording will be emailed to you to view at any time.

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## New MyHarper Portal

On October 9, the new and improved MyHarper Portal will launch. Not only does it make it easier for students to access the things they need every day, but it offers a new dashboard-like design for faculty/staff who use the Student Information System (SIS).



New features that faculty and staff will like include:

- Quick links to Starfish, Midterms/Grades and Banner INB/SSB
- Quick view of a student's academic progress
- Quick view of unread emails

[Learn more and see dates to get a sneak peek of the new MyHarper Portal at an open lab session.](#)

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## Start Smart Training Session

With a number of changes with the counselor/advisor roles, FYS common assignments, and a new career tool on the Portal, we understand that you may be looking for an opportunity to ask questions and discuss how your courses are going. This session will get you up to speed on all things Start Smart as well as Focus 2-the new career tool on campus. We also hope that faculty take this opportunity to discuss how things are coming along in their sections, which also gives us feedback to take back to the Start Smart team. Cookies and drinks will be provided. [Learn more and RSVP.](#)

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## Open Educational Resources and Student Engagement

Achieving the Dream recently released a study on Open Educational Resources (OER) that indicates, "students are at least as or more engaged using OER courses than students in non-OER classrooms." At the same time, "students saved, on average, about \$134 per course." [Continue reading.](#)



The Harper Open Educational Resources Community of Practice has just formed and is still seeking new members. [Fill out an application to join.](#)

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## Making the 4 Connections in Your Classroom

In 2010, in an effort to improve course dropout rates, Odessa College sought out the common thread between their courses which had the greatest student success. What they uncovered are four simple, yet effective practices that can increase your connection to your students and promote student success in your face-to-face or online classroom.



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Starting this week, the Academy for Teaching Excellence is offering a two-part workshop, facilitated by Melissa Baysingar, Instructional Design Specialist, with guest presenter Marianne Fontes, Associate Professor of English, exploring the "4 Connections" and practical methods and tools for applying them in your own classroom.

Part 1: Thursday, October 5, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. OR Friday, October 6, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Part 2: Thursday, October 12, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. OR Friday, October 13, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

[Register Now](#) (Select Workshop 2 of the Cornerstone Series.)

## Talking Teaching & Learning

### Cell Phones in Classrooms as Coaching Opportunities

*Written by Stephanie Whalen, Chair, Academy for Teaching Excellence & Associate Professor, English and Interdisciplinary Studies*

All faculty members teaching at the college level have undoubtedly had to face the issue of cell phone use in their classrooms. There are many philosophies as to how to deal with the distraction ranging from ignoring it to enforcing strict penalties. There are several YouTube videos about teachers resorting to smashing phones in order to make a statement about texting in class. Certainly, though, there are ways to reduce digital distractions without resorting to violence. Some faculty



develop elaborate policies. Some give extensive pep talks. Some stand next to students until they put their phones away. Some faculty have even staged incidents with phones as props to get their point across. How do you handle cell phones in the classroom? If you are still developing your policies about mobile devices, here are some suggestions that may turn this problem into an opportunity for mentoring. [Continue reading.](#)

## Deafhood and Allies on Our Campus

*Written by Elke Weinbrenner, Associate Professor, Liberal Arts, World Languages*

Do you know the appropriate use of terms such as "deafness," "deaf and hard of hearing," or even "hearing impaired" and the diverse needs that accompany these terms? Have you ever thought, "These deaf students' writing is awful, what is wrong with them?" Or, "Do I really need to caption this video? It will take too much work."

Have these questions ever crossed your mind? [Continue reading to learn more.](#)

## Upcoming Programs & Workshops

### [Making the 4 Connections in Your Classroom](#)

Thursday, October 5, 6 p.m.

Friday, October 6, 9:30 a.m.

### [Smart Start Training Session](#)

Monday, October 16, 3:30 p.m.

### [Writing Strategies for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students](#)

Friday, October 27, 9 a.m.

### [Constructing Difference: Understanding the Role of Social Justice in our Classrooms \(webinar\)](#)

Wednesday, November 8, 12 p.m.



## Academy Calendar

## What's Happening @ Harper?

- [Disability Awareness Week Events](#)
- [Distinguished Alumni Reception](#)
- [Diversity & Inclusion Workshops](#)
- [Diversity Symposium](#)
- [Domestic Violence Awareness Event](#)
- [Fall Career Changers Workshop Series](#)
- [Harper College: How it all began](#)
- [Mindfulness Sittings](#)
- [One Book, One Harper 2017-18: Laughs](#)
- [Take 5](#)
- [Understanding and Teaching Adult Learners in an Accelerated Program](#)



## Save the Date

**October 23 - 29, 2017:** "Doing More Together" Giving Back Week: 50th Anniversary Event

**January 9 - January 13, 2018:** Spring 2018 Faculty/Staff Orientation Week

**Friday, March 16, 2018:** Faculty Retreat

**Academy News Submission**

Academy for Teaching Excellence | 847.925.6174 | Building D, Room D281  
[academy@harpercollege.edu](mailto:academy@harpercollege.edu)  
Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Visit our Website**

The mission of the Academy for Teaching Excellence is to create a vibrant teaching and learning culture for full-time and adjunct faculty that cultivates professional development in support of student success.

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Harper College enriches its diverse communities by providing quality, affordable, and accessible education. Harper College, in collaboration with its partners, inspires the transformation of individual lives, the workforce, and society.

