

THE LEGACY CAMPAIGN

Your College – Your Community – Your Future

IT'S ALL
COMMUNITY
HERE.

IT'S ALL HERE



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Highland Community College,



As Highland Community College (HCC) approaches its 60th anniversary, we are reminded of the commitment and vision of those who initiated the Acres for Education Campaign. They saw the value of providing high-quality educational opportunities locally that were accessible and affordable for residents within the region. Faithful

to this mission, Highland remains "committed to shaping the future of our communities by providing quality education and learning opportunities through programs and services that encourage the personal and professional growth of the people of northwestern Illinois."

Like other educational institutions, Highland has been greatly impacted by the global pandemic. Initially, HCC's courses and services were quickly and successfully shifted to remote delivery. As restrictions loosened, adjustments were made on campus to allow both in-person and online options that would maintain safety guidelines without sacrificing the high-quality education and services that are indicative of Highland. While the challenges remain, the opportunity to reimagine is of even more importance. **Just as those involved in the Acres for Education Campaign imagined a community college in their region, there has never been another opportunity of this magnitude to reimagine what Highland will be in the future.**

As we slowly emerge from the restrictions of the pandemic, we have an opportunity to reimagine who we are as an institution, how we serve our district, and where we can have the most impact. We have an opportunity to reimagine how we engage our students in learning both in and out of the classroom and how our facilities and learning spaces can be modernized to ensure they support technology and active learning. Furthermore, we have an opportunity to capitalize on the changes of the past year and weave them into the fabric of the institution so that we emerge a more vibrant, nimble, and adaptive comprehensive community college.

The campaign that we are embarking on with the Highland Community College Foundation provides an opportunity for Highland to reimagine and position itself for the future. Student engagement and the growth of vital academic programs and partnerships are the focus of this campaign. As we envisioned what Highland could and should be in the future, needs were identified. By securing funding for these needs, Highland can continue to shape the future of northwestern Illinois by providing exceptional, transformational, educational experiences and outcomes. Highland can build on the legacy established to propel itself into a sustainable, student-focused future.

Thank you for supporting Highland's mission by giving in the past. Your continued support will provide the opportunity for HCC to pivot effectively so that we can continue to shape the future of northwestern Illinois by providing a high-quality, affordable, accessible education. We are excited about the reimagination opportunity that awaits us. Please consider supporting our vision so that we can continue to live out the legacy. Your support will position us to thrive.

Thank you,
Chris Kuberski
President, Highland Community College

YOUR COLLEGE

Growth and Success

Highland Community College has served as an academic leader, cultural beacon, and economic driver since its founding in 1962 by visionaries who recognized the potential of a comprehensive two-year institution in northwestern Illinois. Originally named Freeport Community College and offering late afternoon and evening courses at Freeport High School for just 300 students, Highland has grown to encompass an expansive campus with more than 2,000 students. Nearly 60 years later, we continue strengthening our legacy and have become one of the premier community colleges in the state, currently ranked seventh out of 48 peer colleges state-wide.

As a community college, our mission is built around meeting the needs of our greater northwest Illinois community through quality educational and cultural programs.

In addition to offering comprehensive academic programming with over 70 degrees and certificates, Highland is a beacon of cultural opportunity. Our theatre, arts, music, literature and lecture series are popular throughout the area. And our Cougars have a strong record of athletic successes.

Recent Accomplishments

Programs

- New academic programs, including criminal justice, mass communication, environmental science, phlebotomy and a part-time nursing program
- New Commercial Applicator Certificate, Horticulture Certificate, Medical Assistant Certificate, Early Care and Education Certificate, Precision Agronomy Certificate, Advanced CNA Certificate
- New dual credit opportunities, including expansion of early college program, CollegeNOW, and Linking Talent with Opportunity agreements
- Additional athletics programs: men's and women's cross country
- Highland Cougars basketball, bowling, golf, softball, volleyball, and baseball teams have all placed in high rankings in regional, conference, and national championships

Facilities

- New Chemistry lab
- New Mass Communication production facility
- Renovated Larry F. Kahl Gymnasium Carpeting and furniture upgrades
- Renovated Welding lab space
- Changed instructional and service delivery options due to COVID

Partnerships

- Elementary Teacher Education Pathway with Western Illinois University
- Articulation agreements with University of Northern Iowa, NIU, Columbia College, and University of Phoenix, Rockford University, Lewis University, National Louis University

At Highland Community College, we are grounded in mutual respect, ethics, integrity, honesty, and shared responsibility. Our mission is built around meeting the needs of our northwest Illinois community through quality educational and cultural programs. We provide vocational instruction, occupational training, developmental, general and community education, and student support services that recognize and meet the educational goals and needs of a diverse student population. We support economic development through partnerships with business, industry, chambers of commerce, units of local government, and other educational institutions. In addition, HCC provides community access to all college services and facilities. Our faculty and staff are held accountable on our core values of integrity, compassion, and respect.

YOUR COMMUNITY

Changes and Challenges

Highland Community College is committed to our student-centered philosophy of learning and the priorities outlined in our 2017-2022 Strategic Plan, which build on our well-established history of success. A recent economic impact study by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) states that Illinois community colleges boost the economy of their local communities by generating billions of dollars in state and federal income tax revenues and in local sales and wages. Community college graduates fill 48,000 jobs for major employers and advance the state's goal of 60 percent of adults with a college degree or marketable credential by the year 2025.

Like other community colleges in Illinois and across the country, Highland Community College serves multiple missions that include workforce training, remediating students in preparation for higher education, and community enrichment. However, the ability of Highland and our peer schools to deliver on these missions is being challenged by an economic landscape that has been dramatically altered by the recent economic crisis and by changing demographics.

Specific challenges are:

- Traditional funding model (1/3 state, 1/3 local taxes, 1/3 student tuition) no longer viable due to declining state support. Though serving over 67 percent of all higher education students, Illinois community colleges now receive less than 13 percent of total funding allocated for higher education
- Increased reliance on local tax revenues. Declining state support which limits access to underserved residents
- Declining base of K-12 students in our region which will likely cause a 10 percent decline in traditional students over the next 10 years Public transportation challenges for residents commuting within our large geographic district
- Increased demand for online, accelerated and weekend programs which require greater flexibility
- The majority of Highland's student population need some transitional coursework such as math, English or reading preparation prior to enrolling in college-level courses



YOUR FUTURE

The Vision

Highland Community College is committed to being a premier academic choice and a catalyst for economic vitality within our region for generations to come, offering greater access to innovative and experiential learning for both the traditional and non-traditional student. When visionary leaders like past HCC Foundation Board member Delbert Scheider launched the Acres for Education Campaign to create the college over 50 years ago, the college became a reality. Now, this campaign is needed to keep us relevant and to continue the legacy created by our founders. As a vital provider and partner, Highland Community College is shaping the future of northwestern Illinois by providing exceptional, transformational, educational experiences and outcomes.

The Legacy Campaign is focused on the following key funding priorities:

- Providing an exceptional student experience
Enhancing student engagement
- Expanding partnerships in career, technical and trades
- Increasing student-athlete participation
- Growing vital academic programs and partnerships



Our goal is to raise a total of \$4 million to support these priorities which include facility and laboratory upgrades; technical equipment; programming support; and scholarships.

SOLID PILLARS TO BUILD A STRONG FUTURE



Business, Technology and Agriculture

This division offers a diverse spectrum of business, career and technical and agriculture programs, and opportunities to pursue internships and other experiential learning opportunities. Programs such as Agriculture, Industrial Manufacturing, Welding and Electronics are in high demand, and we are **expanding our partnerships** with area employers such as Chrysler Automotive. Major needs include technical equipment, lab renovations and upgrades, plus a utility tractor and planter with precision technology.

Humanities, Social Sciences and Fine Arts

This **vital academic division is growing** with the introduction of new programs such as Mass Communication, Criminal Justice and the nationally respected Leadership Institute and Leadership Forum. Priority needs include a theater projection system, instruments and communications equipment; a deeper investment in faculty and globally recognized speakers; and more scholarships and tuition waivers.



HCC was the best decision of my young adult life. Not only did I enjoy two years on the Cougar baseball team, I saved money and got a great start in my nursing education.



Natural Science and Mathematics

This division houses a variety of programs: Biology, Chemistry Engineering, Environmental Science, Geology, Mathematics, Physics, and Pre-Professional (Chiropractic, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Veterinary). Remodels of learning spaces and updated curricula have been a top priority, with large-scale renovations still needed for the Biology and Environmental Science labs. Recruitment and retention efforts for STEM programs help increase demand and raise **student engagement** opportunities.

Nursing

Nursing is one of Highland's strongest and fastest growing departments with a concept-based curriculum preparing students to be critical thinkers from day one and **providing an exceptional experience**. This department offers 4-year and part-time nursing programs, medical assistant, phlebotomy and nursing assistant programs, and a new focus on online learning and simulation products. Among the greatest needs are a simulation hospital, a Sim Mom, and a Lab/Sim coordinator position.

Student Services and Development

This division touches every Highland student and is critical to **student engagement** and retention. It offers a wide range of services, including advising, career services, counseling, behavioral intervention, disability services, para-professional and peer tutoring, mentoring, and student activities and clubs. Priority needs are consolidating student services in an upgraded welcome center, establishing endowed funds for student programming outside the classroom, and a continued investment to the HCC HOPE Fund, an emergency student relief fund.



Student services have allowed me to get real help, such as guidance for what classes I should take and scholarship information. This helps me confidently go into each semester knowing I've got staff and faculty that have my back when I need it.



**“Highland will
always be home.”**

Elizabeth Priller, HCC Alum & Instructor

She built more than just a foundation at Highland Community College. She built a future.

Throughout Elizabeth Priller's journey, from high school student in the TRiO Upward Bound program to healthcare hero and nursing instructor, the College has always been a constant.

“Highland provided me with a superior lifelong education,” says the veteran nurse, who earned two degrees at HCC and now provides wellness services for local schools, businesses and agencies.

“Highland has been the foundation.”

Priller found a home at Highland, and she's proud to be using her skills to uplift the same community that supported her. Find out how you can support the home team at Highland.

<https://highland.edu/legacy/>

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**HIGHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION**