



Graduates of Harper College in 2014.

# Harper's Promise Program

COLLEGE TUITION CAN BE EARNED THROUGH HARPER COLLEGE PROGRAM

THE COST OF A POST-SECONDARY education is steadily climbing, creating barriers for students with financial limitations. Harper College—in partnership with Barrington 220 and nearby School Districts 211 and 214—is working to reduce that burden through the new Harper Promise program. Students who meet certain academic and community service criteria throughout their time at Barrington High School will earn their college education, free of charge. We asked Barrington 220 Superintendent of Schools Dr. Brian Harris some questions about the “promising” program.

**QB:** *The Harper Promise program sounds like a great opportunity for Barrington 220 students. How does it work?*

**BH:** Starting in the 2015-16 school year, incoming freshman will have the opportunity to apply for the Harper Promise program during their second semester. If students earn good grades, have a solid attendance record, and participate in community service, they will earn their first semester of Harper tuition-free. Students must continue to meet these standards while attending Harper

in order to maintain their scholarship for the remaining three semesters.

**QB:** *Is this program just for academically high-achieving students?*

**BH:** Harper Promise was designed with the average student in mind. The program requires students to maintain about a “C” or better throughout high school and college. The community service and attendance requirements are strict, but reasonable. I believe that this program is obtainable for any Barrington High School student with the grit and desire to qualify.

**QB:** *How is this initiative being funded?*

**BH:** This initiative is being funded entirely by Harper College and outside donors. Harper College and its Educational Foundation have pledged to raise \$10 million dollars to pay for the program’s start-up and continuation costs. If you are interested in donating to the program, more information is available at: <http://goforward.harper-college.edu/about/promise/give.php>

**QB:** *Why do you think Barrington 220 students should take advantage of the Harper Promise program?*

## HARPER PROMISE BY THE NUMBERS

Eligibility criteria for participation while attending Barrington High School:

**Attendance:**

Students may only miss the following number of days:

- Second semester of freshman year: 5
- Sophomore year: 9
- Junior year: 8
- Senior year: 7

**Minimum Grade Point Average:**

- Second semester, freshman year—2.0
- Sophomore year—2.25
- Junior year—2.25\*
- Senior year—2.3\*

\*No grades of D or F

**Community Service:**

Number of hours per year:

- Second semester of freshman year: 5
- Sophomore year: 10
- Junior year: 15
- Senior year: 20

**BH:** Barrington High School sends more graduates to Harper College each year than any other post-secondary institution. With a potential cost savings of about \$6,825 for families, this program will create unprecedented educational opportunities for our students. Barrington 220’s goal is to prepare our students for life beyond our district. The Harper Promise program creates a smooth transition for students to begin to realize post-secondary success, free of charge. I am excited to launch the program with the Barrington High School class of 2019.



DR. BRIAN HARRIS is the superintendent of Barrington 220. He may be reached at 847-842-3537 or by email at [bharris@barrington220.org](mailto:bharris@barrington220.org).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION WHILE ATTENDING HARPER COLLEGE:

**Minimum Grade Point Average:**

- 1st semester—2.2
- 2nd semester—2.3
- 3rd semester—2.5
- 4th semester—2.6

No grades of D or F

**Persistence:**

- A student must attend full-time each semester (minimum 15 credit hours)
- A student must attend each consecutive semester (fall/spring) until their certificate or degree is completed – up to four semesters
- Summer session tuition is not included in the program

**Community Service:**

Service requirements must be performed through a Harper-related program. Number of hours per semester:

- 1st semester: 10
- 2nd semester: 10
- 3rd semester: 10
- 4th semester: 10



President Barack Obama greets the student winners at this year's White House Film Festival.

BHS students who worked on the winning White House Film Festival video are (in back, from left) George Baldasano, Jack Coombs, Jeff Doles, Alex Gaul, and Matt Siapkaris. In front: Ariana Baldassano, RJ Sachdev, and Anusha Panchal



# A White House Invitation

Members of BHS-TV were invited to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue after their entry was named an Honorable Mention in the 2015 White House Student Film Festival.

IT IS NOT UNCOMMON FOR STUDENTS enrolled in the BHS-TV program at Barrington High School to have multiple Emmy Awards or other accolades to their name. The program is one of the best in the country, and is constantly churning out award-winning projects. But this year, students achieved a recognition never-before-seen at BHS: An honorable mention at the White House Student Film Festival, complete with an invitation to the White House to meet President Barack Obama.

“The students have entered the festival in the past, but have never won until this year,” said BHS-TV teacher Jeff Doles. “Being named an

Honorable Mention was a culmination of all the years in the past to build to where we were at that moment.”

The 2015 theme was, “The Impact of Giving Back.” BHS-TV’s entry focused on helping Schaumburg student Sabik Cohran raise money for new prosthetic legs, and the BHS Brother’s Keeper Club.

“With BHS-TV, we can make a different kind of impact with our video skills than with normal volunteering,” said student RJ Sachdev.

“We really had to dive into BHS history for this project, as some of these events were filmed several years ago. The success in the White House Film Festival was ours, but not without the help of

others that have gone through this program,” Jack Coombs said.

Doles, along with students Ariana Baldassano and Anusha Panchal, were invited to the White House in March to attend the film festival. Many of the winning films were played at the event, which was attended by President Barack Obama, actor Michael Ealy, and director Steve McQueen, among others.

“It’s something I’m never going to forget,” Baldassano said. “This is just the beginning of what’s to come. It doesn’t stop here. It’s a stepping stone for other bigger projects or bigger things that we will all go through in life learning how to help others.”

Learn more about the White House Film Festival and this year’s winners by visiting [www.whitehouse.gov/filmfestival](http://www.whitehouse.gov/filmfestival).