

## ROBERT C. K. HARPER, EdD

Dallas, TX • (214) 259-6060 • Connect@drrobertharper.com • [LinkedIn Profile](#)  
Presidential Candidate | Higher Education Executive | Fundraiser | Student Success Strategist

---

### EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Mission-driven higher education executive with nearly two decades of progressive senior leadership experience across Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, Institutional Effectiveness, and External Partnerships. Proven record of advancing student success, enrollment growth, accreditation readiness, fundraising, and community engagement—particularly within HBCU, faith-based, and first-generation student context. Recognized for visionary yet pragmatic leadership, strong board and stakeholder collaboration, and the ability to translate institutional mission into measurable outcomes and long-term sustainability.

---

### CORE COMPETENCIES

- Visionary & Strategic Leadership
  - Enrollment Growth, Retention & Completion
  - Fundraising & Resource Development
  - Financial & Operational Stewardship
  - Shared Governance & Board Collaboration
  - Academic Quality & Accreditation
  - Institutional Effectiveness & Assessment
  - Student-Centered Innovation
  - Community & Church Engagement
  - Alumni Relations & External Partnerships
- 

### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

#### *Doctor of Education*

**Major:** Developmental Education

Grambling State University, Grambling, Louisiana

**Concentration:** Instructional Systems and Technology

**Dissertation Title:** *Developmental Students' Cognitive Styles, Attitudes, Learning Behaviors, and Motivation in Two-Year Colleges in East Texas*

#### *Specialist in Education*

**Major:** Educational Leadership and Instruction

Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Natchitoches, Louisiana

**Concentration:** Educational Technology

#### *Master of Education*

**Major:** Education

Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Natchitoches, Louisiana

**Concentration:** Educational Technology

#### *Bachelor of Science*

**Major:** General Business Administration

Louisiana State University in Shreveport, Shreveport, Louisiana

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Chief Executive Officer**

Helping Others Prioritize Education (HOPE) Initiative, Dallas, TX

2019 – Present

Provide executive leadership and strategic direction for higher education institutions, school districts, municipalities, and youth-serving organizations nationwide. Lead organizational strategy, fundraising, program evaluation, and stakeholder engagement initiatives aligned with student success, workforce development, and college and life readiness.

#### MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Secured more than \$1 million in external funding from foundations, corporations, municipalities, and higher education partners to advance college readiness, workforce development, and student success initiatives.
- Led enrollment management and recruiting strategies for multiple 4-year institutions, driving significant enrollment growth and strengthening institutional visibility.
- Built and sustained cross-sector partnerships at multiple levels, including law enforcement, professional sports organizations, parks and recreation departments, business and industry, and faith-based institutions to expand resources and community advancement.
- Appointed to the inaugural National Skills Coalition WIOA Advisory Council, contributing strategic insights and an executive perspective to guide national workforce policy development.
- Forged a regional partnership with Region 8 Education Service Center to expand mental health access and services across four rural school districts, addressing critical student and community needs.

### **Vice President of Programs**

Higher Education & Learning Professionals Consulting, College Station, TX

2017 – 2019

Provided executive oversight for program development, implementation, and evaluation across multiple education and workforce initiatives. Led long-range planning efforts and ensured alignment with organizational mission, financial sustainability, and impact goals.

#### MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Implemented revenue-generating strategies grounded in cost-effective practices, strengthening sustainability and optimizing resource development.
- Established strategic public-sector and community partnerships to advance youth-police engagement, crime prevention, and trust-building initiatives within underserved communities.
- Led growth initiatives that increased youth participation, expanded leadership pipelines, and delivered measurable gains in positive youth development outcomes within historically marginalized populations.

### **Executive Dean of Student Engagement & Retention**

Eastfield College (Dallas Community College District), Mesquite, Texas

2016 – 2017

Senior-level leader overseeing student engagement, retention, and co-curricular programs supporting enrollment persistence and completion. Served as a key advocate for student success

within the institution and managed a multimillion-dollar budget to enhance student experience and retention efforts.

**MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Restructured and scaled the first-year and transfer academic advising to improve student onboarding, persistence, and degree progression.
- Expanded Career Services and redesigned the Career Resource Center to strengthen career readiness, employment engagement, and post-graduation outcomes.
- Introduced strategies to support and develop over 30 professional staff across advising, orientation, career services, student organizations, and retention initiatives, resulting in improved service quality and measurable student success outcomes.

**Assistant to the Vice President of Academic Affairs/Dean of Lower College**

Texas College, Tyler, Texas

2012 – 2016

Senior academic leader responsible for lower-division academic operations, student success initiatives, and institutional effectiveness functions at a private, faith-based Historically Black College and University. Led efforts to assess and improve core curriculum programs through data analysis, student feedback, and accreditation standards, and acted as a liaison providing updates, strategic input, and implementing leadership directives.

**MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Provided strategic leadership for the revision of the core curriculum to ensure full alignment with Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board standards.
- Secured external funding to successfully implement a summer bridge program, redesign First- and Second-Year Experience initiatives, and expand academic support services, resulting in improved transition and retention and graduation rates.
- Directed strategic academic planning and successfully implemented the SACSCOC Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) titled “Don’t Talk About It, Write About It”, advancing student learning outcomes and institutional effectiveness.
- Oversaw accreditation-related assessment, satisfactory academic progress, and co-curricular learning frameworks to ensure compliance, accountability, and continuous improvement.
- Built strong cross-divisional partnerships with faculty and senior leadership to advance institutional priorities and foster a culture of academic excellence and shared responsibility.

**Associate Vice President for Student Services**

Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas

2011 – 2012

Provided executive leadership for comprehensive student services operations, including admissions, recruitment, new student orientation, counseling, student conduct, and leadership development. Spearheaded collaborative efforts across multiple departments to create an integrated support system that promoted student success, retention, and holistic development from initial engagement through graduation.

**MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Stabilized enrollment by executing data-informed recruitment and outreach strategies aligned with the needs of diverse and mission-driven student populations.

- Secured external funding to establish a behavioral health resource center and expand holistic student support services, advancing retention, persistence, and student well-being.
- Advanced culture of student success, equity, and belonging through the implementation of targeted, high-impact programs supporting academic achievement, personal development, and inclusive excellence.

### **Director of Enrollment Management**

Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas

2010 – 2011

Directed the overall enrollment management strategy, overseeing recruitment operations and outreach efforts to strengthen enrollment pipelines and institutional visibility. Leveraged data analytics and collaborated closely with academic departments, student services, and senior leadership to align enrollment goals with institutional priorities.

#### **MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Led a comprehensive redesign of admissions operations to create a more student-centered, equitable, and data-informed enrollment system, improving access, efficiency, and applicant experience.
- Secured external funding to launch the state’s first Mobile Go Center at an HBCU, expanding statewide access to college readiness, career exploration, and financial aid resources—particularly for rural and underserved communities.
- Developed and executive a graduate-level articulation agreement, strengthening academic pipelines and expanding post-baccalaureate opportunities for students pursuing advanced degrees.

### **Director of Student Development & Diversity**

Northeast Texas Community College, Mt. Pleasant, Texas

2009 – 2010

Provided strategic leadership for a comprehensive, mission-centered co-curricular student experience that advanced engagement, leadership development, belonging, and student persistence. Led the design and implementation of diversity and inclusion initiatives and partnered with academic leaders and student affairs professionals to align programming with institutional priorities and retention goals.

#### **MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Directed the development of a peer mentoring framework recognized by the Texas Education Agency for its impact on student support and persistence.
- Led the integration of minority-content curricular initiatives, strengthening academic relevance and advancing institutional goals for inclusion, equity, and student engagement.
- Co-Led the launch of the Minority Matters Initiative, a targeted success strategy that improved retention, engagement, and outcomes for minority male students through intentional advising, mentoring, and leadership development.

### **Director of Institutional Effectiveness**

Northeast Texas Community College, Mt. Pleasant, Texas

2007 – 2009

Provided executive leadership for institutional effectiveness, accreditation, and data-informed decision-making to strengthen academic quality, fiscal stewardship, and long-term sustainability.

Led campus-wide assessment, accreditation processes, and comprehensive academic and administrative reviews to ensure compliance, accountability, and continuous improvement.

#### MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Led successful SACSCOC accreditation and substantive change compliance efforts, safeguarding institutional standing and strengthening a culture of accountability and continuous improvement.
- Directed campus-wide institutional research and analytics to deliver board-ready insights that informed strategic planning, budget priorities, and resource allocation decisions.
- Oversaw comprehensive academic, administrative, and student support program reviews, driving data-informed improvements in quality, efficiency, and institutional effectiveness.
- Implemented modern data and reporting systems to enhance transparency, streamline assessment processes, and support evidence-based policy development and long-term planning.

#### **Coordinator of Instructional Technology (Title III)**

Northeast Texas Community College, Mt. Pleasant, Texas

2005 – 2007

Provided institution-wide leadership for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of instructional technology to strengthen faculty effectiveness and support high-quality teaching and learning. A key contributor on multidisciplinary instructional technology and multimedia team, ensuring scalable, faculty-centered support services. Led the administration of distance learning and continuing education offerings, expanding access, instructional capacity, and instructional reach.

#### MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Led the Faculty Innovation Center to advance faculty excellence through instructional technology integration and culturally responsive teaching practices.
- Directed a comprehensive overhaul of e-learning infrastructure and pedagogy, strengthening instructional design quality, faculty capacity, and student engagement.
- Established institutional policies and best practices for online and hybrid instruction to ensure quality, accessibility, and accreditation compliance.
- Built strategic partnerships with educational technology vendors to modernize digital learning environments and adopt emerging, high-impact solutions.

#### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

- Adjunct Faculty, Texas College
- Adjunct Faculty, Texas A&M University—Texarkana
- Adjunct Faculty, Northeast Texas Community College
- Adjunct Faculty, Northwestern State University of Louisiana

#### **REFEREED PUBLICATIONS**

##### **Journal Articles**

Tarlton, E., **Harper, R.**, Blessett, B., Williams, B. & Carter, J. (2020). Addressing Social Inequity: A Case Study of Success. *Journal of Public Management & Social Policy*.

Flowers, A., Robinson, P., Bonner, F., **Harper, R.**, & Tarlton, E. (2014). Still Leaving Black Males Behind: Revisiting Debunking the Myths Meritocratic Education; A Policy Focus on Black Males in P-20 Schooling Context. *The National Journal of Urban Education & Practice*.

Flowers, A., **Harper, R.**, & Lopez, A. (2014). Nontraditional Students of Color Integrating Teaching and Technology. *PAACE Journal of Lifelong Learning*.

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**Harper, R.** & Favors, T. (January 2026) *Effective College, Career and Life Readiness Programming for Community Centers*, City of Ft. Worth Parks and Recreation Department, Ft. Worth, Texas

Draw-Hood, R., Hunt, T. & **Harper, R** (August 2023) *Social Justice Summits: Enriches Youth and Strengthening Communities through Civic Engagement*, National Urban Extension Leaders Southern & 1890's Regional Conference, Houston, Texas

**Harper, R** (April 2023) *Activating Social Justice for Our Present and Future Social Generations*, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas

**Harper, R** (April 2022) *A Conversation on Social Justice*, Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB), St. Louis, Missouri

**Harper, R** (April 2022) *Social Justice, Advocacy Leadership, and Ethics*, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas

**Harper, R.**, Bonner, F., & Matthews, B. (March 2021) *Competency, Community, & Collaboration: Working with Higher Education Partners to Change the Perception of Social Justice and Building Trust on Campuses and in Communities*, Texas Alliance of Black School Educators, Virtual

Tarlton, E. & **Harper, R.** (March 2019) *College & Career Readiness*, Louisiana Student Success Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana

**Harper, R.** & Lowry, K. (November 2016) *Retaining Targeted Student Groups*, Entering Student Success Institute (Center for Community College Student Engagement), San Antonio, Texas

Lowry, K., Wilson, D. & **Harper, R.** (October 2016) *Black Male Success*, National Council on Black American Affairs, Dallas, Texas

Tarlton, E. & **Harper, R.** (May 2014) *Lifting the Academic Veil*, New Directions/New Horizons Program (Round Rock ISD), Round Rock, Texas

**Harper, R.** (November 2013) *Dream Builder Academic Counseling: A G.A.M.E. Plan to Promote Academic Success*, MEN LEADERSHIP Conference—Mountain View College, Dallas, Texas

**Harper, R.** (April 2013) *Establishing a Framework for Success: Understanding the Unique Characteristics of Black Millennial Male Students*, Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB), Indianapolis, Indiana

**Harper, R. & Goodwyn, L.** (February 2013) *Best Practices for Millennial Developmental Learners: Strategies for Pioneering Educators*. National Association for Developmental Education, Denver, Colorado

**Harper, R. & Tarlton, E.** (February 2013) *Recruitment: The High School/College Disconnect*, American Association of Blacks in Higher Education, Atlanta, Georgia

**Harper, R.** (November 2012) *Best Practices for Black Millennial Males at Small, Private Historically Black Colleges*, Texas Higher Education Journal, Austin, Texas

**Harper, R. & Tarlton, E.** (April 2012) *Preparing for the Academy: Connecting the Dots to Success!*, Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB), Indianapolis, Indiana

**Harper, R. & Dickens, R.** (March 2012) *Diverse Millennial Students: Are We Helping Students or Holding Their Hands?* Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education, Dallas, Texas

**Harper, R.** (September 2009) *Brother-to-Brother: Peer Mentoring Program*, Texas Gear UP, Houston, Texas

**Harper, R. & Ogunyemi, O.** (February 2009) *Developmental Students' Cognitive Styles, Attitudes, Learning Behaviors, and Motivation in Two-Year Colleges in East Texas*, National Association for Developmental Education, Greensboro, North Carolina

### **RESEARCH GRANTS, CONTRACTS & PROJECTS**

*(Running Grant Total: \$1,518,960)*

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) "Staff Development & Recruitment Support" Clayton State University Contract (\$23,850), Spring 2026

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) "Beyond Hoop Dreams: College & Career Readiness" National Basketball Association Foundation (\$25,000), Spring 2026

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) "Social Justice" National Football League Foundation, Player Matching Grant (\$10,000), Spring 2026

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) "Graduate Recruitment" Prairie View A&M University Contract (\$30,000), Fall 2025

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) "Shop With A Cop: Community-Police Relations" Ft. Worth Police Department Donations (\$52,510), Fall 2025

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) "Building Safer Communities" City of Ft. Worth Crime Control and Prevention District Grant (\$300,000), Summer 2025

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Youth Football” National Football League Foundation, Summer Camp Grant (\$2,000), Summer 2025

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Community-Police Relations” Walmart Spark Good Local Grant (\$5,000), Spring 2025

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Social Justice” National Football League Foundation, Player Matching Grant (\$10,000), Spring 2025

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Graduate Recruitment” Prairie View A&M University Contract (\$135,000), Spring 2025

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Shop With A Cop: Community-Police Relations” Ft. Worth Police Department Donations (\$68,370), Fall 2024

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Youth Violence Prevention and Youth Development Initiative” Players Coalition Charitable Foundation Grant (\$25,000), Fall 2024

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Youth Football” National Football League Foundation, Summer Camp Grant (\$2,000), Summer 2024

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Youth Development for Ft. Worth” Harbourview Foundation (\$25,000), Spring 2024

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Beyond Hoop Dreams: College & Career Readiness” National Basketball Association Foundation (\$25,000), Spring 2024

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Social Justice” National Football League Foundation, Player Matching Grant (\$10,000), Spring 2024

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Regional Entrepreneurship and Equity Initiative” St. Tammany Parish Development District (\$43,500), Fall 2023

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Youth Football” National Football League Foundation, Summer Camp Grant (\$2,000), Summer 2023

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Undergraduate Recruitment” Texas A&M University Texarkana Contract (\$95,000), Spring 2023

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Social Justice” National Football League Foundation, Player Matching Grant (\$10,000), Spring 2023

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Pathways for Success” Hogg Foundation for Mental Health Grant (\$54,000), Fall 2022

**Robert Harper** (*Subcontractor*) “Dream Big College Readiness Program” Prairie View A&M University, Powell Foundation (\$120,000), Spring 2022

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Social Justice” National Football League Foundation, Player Matching Grant (\$10,000), Spring 2022

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Youth Football” National Football League Foundation, Summer Camp Grant (\$3,000), Summer 2022

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “College, Career & Life Readiness” City of Daingerfield, TX Grant (\$10,000), Spring 2022

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Community-Police Relations” City of Linden, TX Grant (\$10,000), Summer 2021

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Youth Football” National Football League Foundation, Summer Camp Grant (\$3,000), Summer 2021

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Social Justice” National Football League Foundation, Player Matching Grant (\$10,000), Spring 2021

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Social Justice” National Football League Foundation, Player Matching Grant (\$45,000), Spring 2020

**Robert Harper** (*Co-Principal Investigator*) “Social Justice” National Football League Foundation, Player Matching Grant (\$160,000), Spring 2019

**Robert Harper** (*Co-Principal Investigator*) “Youth Football” National Football League Foundation, Summer Camp Grant (\$1,500), Summer 2018

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “AVID Implementation” Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, AVID Postsecondary Project Grant (\$5,000), Summer 2015

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “AVID Implementation” Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, AVID Postsecondary Project Grant (\$11,000), Spring 2014

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Work-Study Mentorship Program” Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Tutoring Grant (\$50,000), Fall 2013

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “AVID Implementation” Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, AVID Postsecondary Project Grant (\$10,000), Spring 2013

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Mobile Go Center” Texas Pioneer Foundation, Recruitment Grant (\$104,730), Spring 2011

**Robert Harper & Janice Toliver-King** (*Co-Principal Investigators*) “Screening and Information Resource Center” Morehouse College, School of Medicine 2011, HBCU Behavioral Health Capacity Expansion Mini-Grant (\$7,500), Fall 2011

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Project Stop Now” U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, Mini-Grant (\$2,000), 2011-2012

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Closing the Gaps: Increasing Higher Education Awareness” Walmart Community Grant (\$1,500), Spring 2010

**Robert Harper** (*Principal Investigator*) “Increasing Access to Technology” Technology Community Mini-Grant (\$1,500), Spring 2010

### **COLLEGEWIDE COMMITTEES**

(*Career*)

- President’s Executive Cabinet
- Strategic Planning Committee
- Institutional Effectiveness Committee
- SACS/VCT Committee
- THECB Undergraduate Advisory Committee
- Instruction & Student Development Committee
- Graduate Goals & Objective Committee
- Centennial Planning Committee
- Title III Steering Committee
- Faculty Advisory Committee
- Distance Education Committee
- Professional Development Committee
- Minority Recruitment Committee
- Multicultural Mentoring Committee

### **LEADERSHIP INVOLVEMENT & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- William R. Harvey Leadership Institute Fellow, Hampton University
- Community College Student Development Leadership Institute, National Council on Student Development
- Silver Anvil Award, Public Relations Society of America
- WIOA National Advisory Council, National Skills Coalition
- Liaison for HBCUs, Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education
- Beyond Ready 4-H Planning Team, Prairie View A&M University
- National Association for Developmental Education
- American Association of Blacks in Higher Education
- Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education
- North Texas Community College Consortium
- Northeast Texas Alliance of Black School Educators