



Karol V. Mason
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September 12, 2023

To: The John Jay College Community
Re: Welcome to Fall 2023 Semester!

Hello Bloodhounds! I am thrilled to welcome everyone to campus, excited to meet our newest students and eager to reconnect with returning students, faculty and staff. Our community thrives thanks to your talent and hard work and I write to share some of your recent accomplishments and our upcoming initiatives.

Our number one priority is student success and so many of our most recent graduates demonstrate this: [Dilan Morales Caro](#) who earned a full scholarship from Columbia for an MA in statistics, valedictorian [Sara Elshaer](#) who just started her job with the FBI, [Daniel Aguilar](#) who's doing research at Mount Sinai and [Tyra Volney](#) who received a full scholarship for an MA in forensic science. They represent the thousands of John Jay students who flourished as leaders our city, our state and our country need.

Our success stories don't stop with them. Our professors, like [Ke Li](#), [Henry Pontell](#), [Tarun Banerjee](#), [Sara McDougall](#) and [Shilpa Viswanath](#), are honored for their impactful and innovative scholarship and our current students, like [Devin Kozlosky](#) and [Stephan De Stefani](#), are additional examples of excellence. Our ACE and PRISM programs were [named finalists by Excelencia in Education](#) and we were ranked [#1 nationwide for our criminal justice program](#), [#11 for economic mobility](#) and [#7 for affordability](#).

We expanded our philanthropic support by raising a record \$6+ million in the last fiscal year and we hope to raise even more this year. Funds from alumni, friends and foundations are ever more critical as CUNY and most other colleges and universities face declining enrollment and state budgets.

Our efforts around ensuring that all are welcome in our community continued, with more to come. Thanks to support from the Petrie Foundation and Hillel, we held workshops and training on topics like Islamophobia, antisemitism and the psychology of hate. This work will continue this year with a student climate survey, multifaith gatherings and more.

Last but absolutely not least, we earned re-accreditation, along with an extremely positive assessment by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. We also continued to deepen our engagement on public safety through the [Mayor's Pledge](#) and our [Safe and Just Communities Summit](#), which featured leaders like Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, Baton Rouge Mayor Sharon Weston Broome, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries and Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg.

Thank you for everything you do to lift and energize our community, and I wish you the very best fall semester.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karol V. Mason".

Karol V. Mason
President
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

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