



Karol V. Mason
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March 2, 2021

To: The John Jay College Community
Re: Leadership Changes

I'd like to share some exciting news regarding upcoming changes in our senior leadership team. As I mentioned at our last Town Hall, I invite you to join me in thanking **Ellen Hartigan**, for her dedicated service as our Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs (EMSA), and welcoming our new Vice President for EMSA, **Brian Kerr, Ed.D.** Ellen's last day is this Friday, March 5, and Brian will join our team on Monday, March 15.

Almost two years ago, John Jay's EMSA Department had an immediate leadership need. **Ellen Hartigan**, actually came out of retirement and stepped up to the task to serve as our Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs. Ellen never approached this role as an interim, however, she dove in with a laser focus on improving our students' experience. Ellen streamlined operations and partnered directly with Student Council and the Student Activities Association to award funds to different student clubs and organizations in a more efficient manner. When I spoke with Ellen, she graciously attributed much of EMSA's success to her team. "Serving as EMSA's leader was quite an easy task thanks to the experienced and professional staff overseeing its numerous departments. The College is fortunate to have such talented individuals focused on recruiting and retaining all students," she said. "I also appreciated the confidence John Jay's leadership had in me to get the job done, supporting my recommendations as we focused on the success of our students." We're tremendously grateful for Ellen's service to our community.





I'm excited that **Brian Kerr, Ed.D.** will be joining our John Jay community as our new Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs from Queensborough Community College, where he has worked for the last 17 years. Brian brings with him over 24 years of experience in higher education, including extensive knowledge of academic affairs, diversity and inclusion, student affairs, and enrollment management. As Vice President for Student Affairs at Queensborough Community College, Brian has successfully supervised over 20 departments and programs, including: Admissions & Recruitment, Career Services, Health Services, Student Financial Services, Services for Students with Disabilities, Student Government, and Military & Veterans Services. Among many other things at Queensborough, Brian worked to streamline processes for students seeking advisement and collaborated with key campus stakeholders to implement new technology solutions to improve the student experience. Brian holds a Doctorate in Educational Administration from St. John's University, a Master's degree in Human Resource Management from SUNY Stony Brook, and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from SUNY Albany.

I know that he's eager to work with our EMSA team as they continue to support our talented students. I personally look forward to working with Brian for many years to come.

I'd like to acknowledge the EMSA Vice President Search Committee, particularly chair Kinya Chandler, for their commitment to finding the ideal candidate for this position. They stayed focused on their goal, even as we transitioned to a remote working environment. As a community, we owe everyone involved in this process a debt of gratitude.

Please join me in giving Ellen our thanks and best wishes, and, once Brian officially joins the John Jay community, please give him a warm Bloodhound welcome.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karol V. Mason". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Karol V. Mason
President

Brian Kerr, Ed.D.

Kerr brings over 24 years of progressive administrative and leadership experience in higher education within both academic and student affairs/enrollment management. In his current position as Vice President for Student Affairs at Queensborough Community College, Kerr has oversight of a division with 21 departments and programs providing leadership to the following areas: Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP); Academy Advisement; Admissions & Recruitment; New Student Engagement; Career Services; Center for International

Affairs, Immigration, and Study Abroad; College Discovery; Collegiate Science & Technology Entry Program (CSTEP); Counseling, Health Services; Student Financial Services; Services for Students with Disabilities; Men Achieving and Leading in Excellence and Success (MALES); Military and Veterans Services; New Student Engagement; Student Activities & Clubs; Student Government; Student Conduct & Academic Integrity; and Testing Services; among other student service areas.

Over the course of his 17-year career at Queensborough, Kerr has achieved significant accomplishments/outcomes in his roles as Dean for Student Development; Senior Director for Articulation, Transfer, and Educational Partnerships in the Division of Academic Affairs; Director of Academic Advisement; and Interim Chief Diversity Officer. Key accomplishments include centralizing the Queensborough Academies operation, which led to a more streamlined process for students seeking advisement assistance; collaborating with key campus stakeholders to implement new technology solutions to improve the student experience such as Starfish, Persistence Plus, SignalVine, and Virtual Schedule Builder; implementation of CareerTraq, a web-based tool designed to connect a student's academic interests to articulation agreements between Queensborough and various senior colleges/universities. Also, during his tenure at SUNY Stony Brook, he served as Associate Director of the Educational Opportunity Program. In this position, he helped to re-envision and rebuild retention efforts, revamp student recruitment outreach, and develop a grant proposal for new marketing initiatives that resulted in increased funding for their student population.

His educational credentials include a Doctorate in Educational Administration from St. John's University, a Master's degree in Human Resource Management from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the State University of New York at Albany.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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