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President

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Re: End of the Semester

To the John Jay College Community:

Before the winter break begins, I want to wish everyone a happy holiday season and thank you for all of the work that you're doing.

As many of you know, student success is our top priority here at John Jay, and seeing what our students and faculty have already accomplished this semester confirms what a special community we have at John Jay. At our 11th annual First-Year Student Showcase, I was overwhelmed by the amount of work, collaboration, and research done by our freshmen class. Over 375 first-year students participated in the showcase, and 73 faculty members, staff members, and student coaches guided them through the process. On the other end of the academic journey, I'm proud to report that 24 of our Accelerate Complete Engage (ACE) students are set to graduate this semester, completing their degrees in just three and a half years. And, coming in January, we'll be announcing the new Presidential Fellows for Curriculum-Driven Student Success. These faculty participants will examine our curriculum design and delivery methods to support student learning and engagement while upholding the highest standards of academic excellence.

Research sits at the core of our mission to educate for justice. The research that our faculty and students perform has lasting, positive impacts on our society. Empirical data reveals inconsistencies, highlights disparities, and has the power to open minds and change policies. That's why I'm thrilled that our nine inaugural John Jay Presidential Student-Faculty Research Collaboration awardees will be working with at least 17 students in substantive research, expanding their justice-focused education and knowledge of research methodology.

This semester we've come together as a community in so many special ways. We held our second annual Smart on Crime Innovations Conference that brought together some of the nation's top criminal justice leaders, all focused on making our criminal justice system more equitable and fair. We deepened our understanding of being a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) through our HSI Speaker Series, and celebrated Latinx Heritage month by recognizing the many contributions Latinx people have made to our country. By opening the new Immigrant Student Success Center, we're offering a safe space for immigrant students to receive critical support, reinforcing our belief and expectation that every student—regardless of status—deserves the opportunity to receive an education. And, as a community, we came together on Annual Day of Giving to raise over \$204,167 for the Student Emergency Fund, supporting our most vulnerable students facing food and housing insecurity, family crises, and catastrophic events.

Together we've reached some remarkable goals that we're poised to expand on in the coming year. Have a wonderful holiday season, and I look forward to working with you next semester to build an even stronger John Jay community.

Thank you,

Karol V. Mason
President

