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December 17, 2020

To: The John Jay College Community
RE: End-of-semester Success

As we approach the end of the semester and the end of the year, I want to express my sincerest thanks for your hard work, your resilience, and your commitment to the success of our community. I continue to be inspired—but not surprised—by the way that our students, faculty, and staff have come together to support and encourage each other. Reaching this important milestone is a testament to our strength as an institution, and as with any milestone, it's important to take stock in our collective growth and accomplishments.

In the beginning of September, John Jay College partnered with the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) to bring together a diverse range of speakers for a series of six public conversations about [the future of public safety](#). The culmination of this series is an ambitious [report](#) released this week detailing nine points of consensus among law enforcement, activists, public health experts, union leaders, and elected officials that can act as a “roadmap” to a more racially just system of public safety in America. I hope you'll take time to review the report, and I look forward in the new year to discussing the findings and reflecting together on what they mean for our work at John Jay.

This year's Annual Day of Giving raised over \$270,000 to support the [Student Emergency Fund](#). Over 40 volunteers participated in our phonathon and we reached over 800 people. Generous gifts of support came from over 400 donors, including a match from The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation, a match from an anonymous donor, and a gift of \$20,000 from our very own Student Council. I couldn't be prouder of how we all came together to support our wonderful students during these challenging times.

Answering calls from students, Allison Pease, our Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, and Dara Byrne, our Associate Provost for Undergraduate Retention & Dean of Undergraduate Studies have joined to lead in-depth discussions with faculty, staff, and students about what it means to create a culturally affirming, inclusive, and anti-racist curriculum. Highlights from these conversations are included in their podcast exploring the need for curricular reform to better serve our diverse student body. Their engaging conversations with faculty and students have further opened the door to our College-wide initiative for more culturally responsive curriculum. Listening to the [podcast featuring John Jay student leaders](#) is as informative as it is humbling, and I strongly suggest that everyone in our community listens to it.

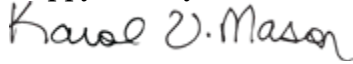
In light of the challenging times our country has faced, an unprecedented number of media outlets have turned to John Jay's faculty, students, and staff for their perspectives on issues of justice. In just six months, members of our community appeared in over 1,000 news stories. This heightened level of media exposure reflects not only our ability to shed light on issues such as the pandemic and racial justice, but also the public's trust in our community's knowledge and expertise.

Gratefully, our community has also received some much needed relief, empathy, and understanding during this challenging time. On December 4, a United States District Court in the Eastern District of New York vacated the bar on [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\) applications](#), which means that new applications can be processed for eligible immigrants. For support regarding DACA or any immigration concerns, we urge our students to reach out to the [Immigrant Student Success Center](#) for guidance.

Understanding the challenges surrounding remote-learning and living within a pandemic, CUNY recently authorized colleges to use a flexible grading policy, or Credit/No Credit policy, for the Fall 2020 semester. Students interested in participating in the flexible grading policy can learn more about it in the [letter](#) from Daniel Matos, Interim Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management and Senior Registrar.

As we end the year, I hope that everyone in our community takes time to enjoy the long holiday break while staying healthy and safe. I look forward to seeing you back on campus for an exciting Spring 2021 semester.

Happy holidays,



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President

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