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May 7, 2019

RE: Update on our Student Success Vision and Tonight's Record-breaking Gala for Students

To the John Jay College Community:

Everyone at John Jay should be proud that in 2018, our key student success metrics are continuing to improve. This includes our four-year graduation rate, our five-year graduation rate, and our student retention rate – all of which are climbing up. This is a tribute to the hard work of our students, the dedicated faculty, and so many staff. I'm excited to build on this momentum in the years ahead, and I'm writing to share with you some updates about our student success work.

Update on Student Success Vision document

As you know, we have been working collaboratively on John Jay's vision for student success. I want to thank everyone in our community who participated in the conversations over the last two years. I'm grateful for your ideas, and we've incorporated your feedback into the next iteration of our [Student Success Vision document](#) that is posted on our new Student Success [webpage](#), along with a [video](#) update about our work. These conversations have helped us develop a shared understanding of how we are doing, where we are headed, and what it will take to get there.

Initial Steps and What's Next

This vision will be the foundation for our next strategic plan that will be developed in 2020, but we're not waiting.

- Feedback from students during this process has already led us to develop new ways of sharing information about the many student resources available at John Jay through a social media campaign, printed materials available in all departments, and on our [website](#).
- I'm also excited to share that we've committed to funding and implementing the innovative Linking Experience, Academics, & Practice (LEAP) multi-year cohort support program. You'll hear more about this program next year, but it's important to note that when the Office of Undergraduate Studies launches LEAP next fall, for the first time ever, every incoming John Jay student will be able to receive the multi-year cohort support that can help them graduate.
- To support this work, I am pleased to announce a change to our organizational structure. This spring, the [Center for Career & Professional Development](#) and the [Registrar's Office](#) have each begun to report into the Provost's office. This change will allow John Jay to offer students even more integrated academic planning and career exploration. Under the leadership of Provost Yi Li and VP Lynette Cook-Francis, I am confident that this new structure will provide creative opportunities for collaboration across offices serving students' academic and career needs, allow for new cross-training of staff, and help us to continue to improve our seamless services for students.

A Record-Breaking Night for Student Success

To make this vision a reality, we must continue to raise funds to support our students and remove any barriers blocking their pathway to success. I'm thrilled to announce that the *John Jay Educating for Justice Gala* we are hosting this evening has raised more than \$1 million, a record-breaking achievement at John Jay, with all

proceeds dedicated to supporting our students in the Honors Program in upcoming years. This is an important step in our ongoing work to bring more resources to John Jay, and I'd like to thank our Institutional Advancement team, under the leadership of VP Robin Merle, for this amazing achievement.

We've come so far already, but there's so much more that we can do. What's exciting for me to see is the continual support John Jay students receive from our entire community. Everyone—from our faculty and staff, to our alumni and donors—helps our students pursue advanced study, find meaningful careers, and achieve social mobility through education.

Thank you again, for sharing our common vision of educating for justice and uplifting tomorrow's leaders.

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