

THIS IS THE PLACE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

As John Jay's latest ad campaign proudly states, "This is the year for social justice. This is the place for social justice." This academic year has proven that those words are more than just a motto for our students.

Along with their counterparts across the country, John Jay students added their voices to local and national dialogues about systemic racism and the role of higher education institutions in modern society. Last semester, students led by the new Black Student Union held a peaceful demonstration in solidarity with the Concerned Student 1950 movement from the University of Missouri. The Mizzou students became a national news story in November when they issued a list of demands to campus administration, demanding that racial tensions at the university be addressed. Their protests, including one student's hunger strike and a show of support from the football team, resulted in the president's resignation and a greater general discussion about racism that extended to college campuses throughout the United States (*see graphic on back*).

When classes began in the spring, we saw another display of student activism when the student-run Social Justice Project (AKA "SoJust") initiated a series of teach-ins and demonstrations around the topics of 1) the name of our college and John Jay's legacy, 2) the Black Lives Matter movement, 3) CUNY divestment in private prisons, 4) tuition hikes and 5) union contract issues. Students prompted dialogue in the Atrium, at campus town hall meetings, and on social media.

Their involvement in social justice advocacy comes at a time when those of us in Student Affairs are seeking more than ever to understand and evaluate the ways in which students develop certain "essential skills" during their time in college. Specifically, we are promoting **communication, critical thinking, healthy living, leadership & teamwork, and social justice & civility** as skills much valued by employers and essential to an engaged life. We were thrilled to see our students putting many of these into practice: They communicated effectively, using carefully planned digital media campaigns to support their in-person messaging. They showed leadership and teamwork, encouraging fellow students to use their voices to affect change. And they helped us all to think about social justice here at home, with civility and a willingness to have difficult conversations. Together, they brought the John Jay mission to life, as our students so often do.

- Lynette Cook-Francis, VP for Student Affairs
@VPCookFrancis



John Jay students gather in the Kroll Atrium, holding signs of support for Concerned Student 1950 and the Black Lives Matter movement at colleges across the country.

The Social Justice Project (@SoJust_Project) sends a tweet, calling for the name of the college to be changed to Frederick Douglass College of Justice.



SocialJusticeProject @SoJust_Project · Feb 11
#SoJust Press Release: Frederick Douglass College of Justice -
evemote.com/shard/s687/sh/... @timjacobwise @zelliemani
👤 Cornel West, Tim Wise, Michael Yarbrough and 7 others

FREDERICK DOUGLASS
COLLEGE OF JUSTICE



JUSTICE AT JOHN JAY

Results are in from our Spring 2016 Pulse Survey, issued to a random sample of over 260 John Jay students. We asked students about social justice on campus. Here's what they had to say...

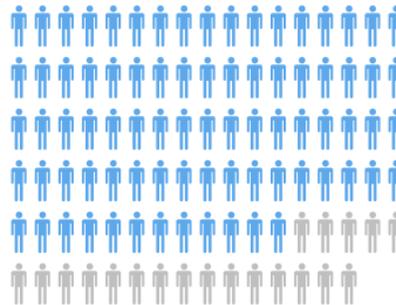
69% of students were aware of at least one social justice campaign on campus.



Study performed by Sangdong Tak, Student Affairs Research Assistant

80%

of students said social justice campaigns on campus made them proud to attend John Jay

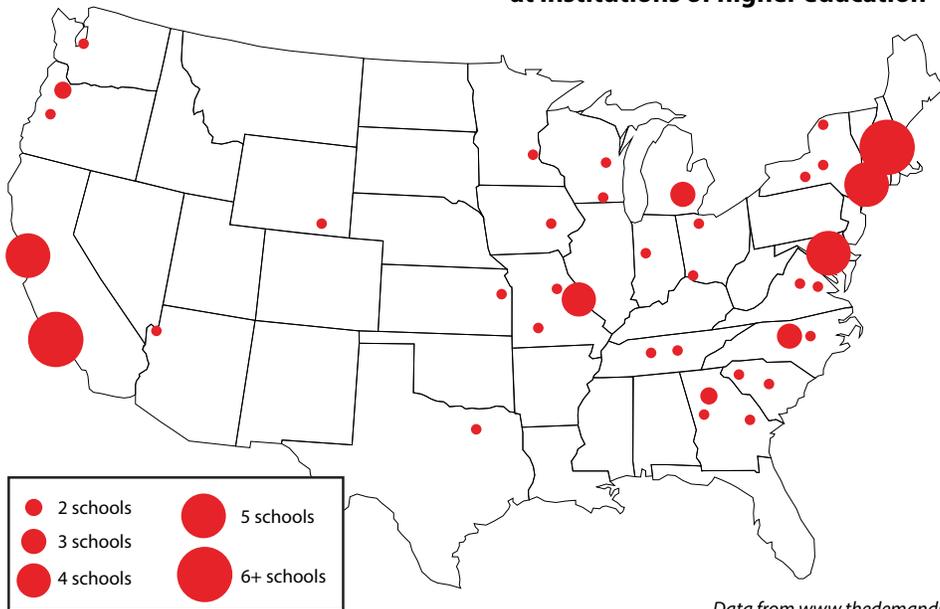


77% of students surveyed are interested in becoming more active in social justice campaigns on campus.

77%

THE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE

Lists of Demands Issued re: Racism on Campus at institutions of higher education



Data from www.thedemands.org

Student groups at a number of college campuses have issued formal lists of demands to their institutions, calling for issues of inequality, racism, and investments in private prisons to be addressed. The map at left was created using information from www.thedemands.org, where a full list of individual schools and their specific demands can be found. This map shows the geographic dispersement of such calls to action throughout the United States.