February 8, 2017
To: The Campus Community
From: Lynette Cook-Francis, Vice President for Student Affairs
Re: Commencement 2017 Date and New Venue

The Division of Student Affairs and the John Jay Commencement Committee are excited to announce that Commencement will be held on **May 31, 2017 at the Arthur Ashe Stadium** in Queens, NY. This is great news for John Jay College!

Difficult choices about who to invite to commencement should no longer be an issue for students. We will continue to have a morning and afternoon ceremony, and will have access to 12,000 seats per ceremony. **Students will be receiving SIX (6) tickets** instead of the traditional three (3), with the opportunity to get more once all students who are eligible to graduate and want to attend commencement receive their initial allotments. As part of making this decision, we surveyed the graduating students in the fall. An overwhelming 1,270 people responded and ranked more tickets as their priority, with 72% indicating that they preferred having commencement at Ashe Stadim if it meant receiving more tickets. Furthermore, we will likely eliminate the secondary market for tickets, which has long been a source of concern for students and administrators alike.

The stadium itself costs substantially less than other venues we have used. Ashe Stadium now has a retractable roof allowing us the luxury of a larger, less costly space without fear of inclement weather. We are also anticipating that parking costs for families will be less expensive than in Manhattan. For transit commuters, the 7 train takes visitors directly to the stadium.

If you are graduating this year, please visit www.jjay.cuny.edu/graduation regularly for updates and information. In addition, follow us **@jjcstudents** on Instagram and Twitter and like us on Facebook for up-to-the-minute information, fun activities celebrating commencement and much more. Faculty and staff should also visit the graduation webpage and click on Information for Faculty & Staff.

Congratulations Class of 2017!