

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

November 8, 2022

Dear Academic Affairs Colleagues,

A brief update on the CUNY Justice Academy and then some important shout-outs to staff who are, you know, rocking it.

CUNY JUSTICE ACADEMY what is it and why is it the most successful transfer program in CUNY and NYS?

Last week Karol and I hosted the Presidents and Provosts of CUNY's seven community colleges to reaffirm our 12-year dual-degree partnership in the [CUNY Justice Academy](#) (CJA), John Jay's pioneering transfer student program that allows students to begin their degrees at any of the 7 community colleges and then, upon completing their Associate's degree, enroll at John Jay without having to apply. What makes it unique?

- 9 unique John Jay degrees that exist nowhere else in CUNY: Criminal Justice, Fraud Examination & Financial Forensics, Forensic Science, Applied Math, Human Services and Community Justice, and Liberal Arts (English, History, Humanities & Justice, and Philosophy).
- John Jay academic advisors go to the community colleges consistently to advise students on events, engagement opportunities, and classes to take.
- Transition support in their first year at John Jay, including transfer seminars with peer success coaches.
- The highest transfer student graduation rate in CUNY and New York State @68.5%

STAFF WHO ARE DOING GREAT THINGS AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE, AKA, ROCKING IT

It turns out the John Jay Academic Affairs community is a group that enjoys celebrating others. As soon as I sent out the "faculty who are rocking it" email I heard from others celebrating more faculty AND STAFF who are doing great things and making a difference. This week I want to celebrate our amazing AA staff who are achieving our mission of academic excellence, student success, faculty success and administrative excellence.

Is there anything Wynne Ferdinand, Director of Educational Partnerships and General Education, can't do? She has been rocking it lately in preparing the CJA Summit, developing outstanding transfer curriculum with faculty, and leading our new Lecturers in a process of transforming foundational learning at the college.

In this time of restructuring Anna Austenfeld, Academic Program Specialist, has rocked at keeping our graduate students and Program Directors connected and informed.

Hugo Monroy Caceres, Associate Director for Academic Recovery led the Academic Recovery Advising team that rocked it for students at risk of losing their Excelsior Scholarship, retaining 80 out of 100 students at the college and helping 61% successfully maintain their scholarship.

Georgia Grammas, Associate Director for Freshman Advising rocked the freshman world by using a scripted survey to enhance the entering freshman advising experience. JJAY's Freshman Team Leaders successfully reached 82% (1009 of 1,226) of the fall 2022 class. Georgia, Senior Advisor, Joanna Madon, and Advising Systems Specialist, BJ White will be presenting their pre-advising survey at the CUNY IT Conference in December 2022.

The SASP academic recovery specialists - Fiona Kim (first years), Anna Huger (sophomores) and Kseniya Kosmina (transfers) – rock at providing engagement support for 2,500+ students returning to campus this fall. They organized welcome events, provide follow up to progress reports, host planning workshops for their cohorts, and direct them to winter acceleration classes. This group rocks because they are helping students continue to the spring semester!

And when it comes to staying on beat there is no one like Virginia Gardner, our Adjunct Manager. Virginia is that bassline working quietly in the background to make sure that our 800+ adjuncts and substitutes get appointed and paid.

I have long known she was a rocker, but Alison Orlando, Institutional Effectiveness Specialist has gone above and beyond in her support of the Middle States Self Study, fact-checking, re-checking and making absolutely clear that the 450 pieces of evidence of our self-study are accurate, legible and in order.

If you have ever received a grant, you know that Amrish Sugrim Singh, Director of Budgets and Contracts, rocks in how well he supports PIs. He is currently managing over \$30 million in grants and contracts.

Natalie Plaza, Faculty Services Specialist, uses her administrative excellence in the service of faculty success, keeping our personnel processes on track, on target and on time. Natalie, you rock!

The First Year Program Team - Nancy Yang, Jennifer Insignares, Joshua Amador - engaged over 1,000 freshmen in a summer bridge transition program, facilitated four Justice Talks with faculty to connect new students to the college's justice mission, and now organizing eight "Future Me" panel talks with professionals where students can explore their various areas of interests. After two successful summer bridge programs, Nancy and Jennifer presented on the innovative game-based program design and the summer program's impact on retention at the Students in Transition conference in October. Guess what? They rocked it.

Kharry Josiah, Forensic Science BA '23, has been helping the TLC expand its social justice resources and outreach tremendously. She has a keen eye for social injustice that translates into timely social media as well as website content and organization that rocks.

Thanks to all for the work you do to keep John Jay rocking.

Best,
Allison

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