



*Karol Mason
President*

*524 West 59th Street
New York City, NY 10019
T. 212.237.8600
F. 212.237.8607
kmason@jjay.cuny.edu*

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RE: Celebrating our HSI status

To the John Jay College Community:

Many of you saw [my recent message about John Jay's incredibly diverse community](#), and I write today to acknowledge and celebrate one important aspect of that diversity related to our status as an Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI). I am tremendously proud that John Jay became a federal HSI as a direct result of Hispanic students expressly choosing to be a part of the John Jay community, and creating a responsibility in turn for our community to ensure that our Hispanic scholars—like all of our students—reach their goals.

Hispanic students account for 47% of our undergraduate population. And, in my eyes, promoting and celebrating our HSI status is a vital key for the success of all our students. Simply put, our HSI status is integral to who we are at John Jay, and when Hispanic students feel welcomed and included in our community, everyone is uplifted.

There's a core group of faculty, staff and students that have been dedicated to deepening John Jay's HSI status. I want to give a heartfelt thanks to the faculty and staff that have been leading the way to encourage us as a community to promote and explore our HSI status. We've got a lot of work ahead of us, but a key first step in these efforts is to engage in a community conversation about what our HSI status means, and how we can expand our understanding of that status beyond our enrollment numbers alone.

The [HSI Series of speakers](#) is bringing impressive numbers of attendees, with more speakers—such as [professor Stella Flores, speaking this Wednesday about our HSI status](#)—scheduled to join us for community dialogues about these issues. Our [new diversity website](#) has made our HSI status more visible, with the HSI logo proudly displayed. We're also working on these issues in many other ways, including expanding the Spanish language translations on our website and other materials. And this work will continue through our efforts to create and offer culturally-relevant curriculum, diversify faculty representation, and provide even more programs and services that enhance student success.

As I've said many times, and believe at my very core, diversity is one of our greatest strengths, and being both a Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) and a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) shows our ongoing dedication to ensuring academic success for all students.

I look forward to seeing you at future HSI events celebrating our College's diverse community.

Thank you,

Karol V. Mason
President
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

