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To the John Jay College Community
RE: Celebrating Latinx Heritage Month

Today I'm excited to commence our community's celebration of [Latinx Heritage Month](#). We're proud to host a series of events designed to acknowledge and applaud the many achievements and contributions from the Latinx community.

At John Jay, we know that diversity is our strength, and a vital aspect of that diversity comes from our Latinx students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters. John Jay is a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) expressly because our Latinx students chose to make it one. Our undergraduate student body is 46 percent Latinx, and those numbers are growing with each entering class. This year's freshman class is 50 percent Latinx.

As a community, it is our responsibility to ensure that our Latinx scholars—like all of our students—feel supported throughout their academic journey here at John Jay. It's our continued goal to create a space that authentically incorporates the rich diversity of our Latinx students' heritage into our programming and curriculum. Because, when our Latinx students feel welcomed and respected, everyone in our community is uplifted.

Even as we celebrate, however, the events this month will also provide an opportunity to remember and reflect on recent racially motivated acts of violence against the Latinx community—such as the terrorist attack in El Paso, Texas. These acts of terror run counter to who we are as a college focused on justice, an HSI, and the values of diversity and inclusion that are the bedrock of our institution. As a community, it's essential for us to stand in solidarity with the Latinx community and call out the false and hurtful characterizations of our Latinx community members and immigrants that directly contribute to these intolerable acts of hate.

I hope members of our community will participate in this year's [Latinx Heritage Month events](#), including joining me at a celebratory reception on September 26, at 4:00 P.M., in the New Building, 9th floor conference room. I'm also looking forward to attending the Day of the Dead celebration hosted by the LLS Department along with student clubs La Voz, LASO, and JJ DREAMers on October 31. This event will include two scholars from the southwest, Irma Montelongo, Ph.D., of the University of Texas El Paso

(UTEP) and Nicholas Natividad, Ph.D., from New Mexico State University to speak on the impact of the mass shooting at El Paso. Please check the [events calendar](#) and website for more information.

I hope that this celebration of Latinx Heritage Month gives everyone in our community the opportunity to feel connected, supported, and empowered. Because the more we learn about each other, the more we value our shared humanity.

Thank you,

Karol V. Mason
President

WATCH NOW: President Karol V. Mason's Latinx Heritage Month 2019 Welcome Remarks

