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Re: Leadership Changes in the Provost's Office

To the John Jay College Community:

I am writing to share news about exciting transitions in the Provost's office.

After an extensive national search, we are delighted to welcome John Jay's new [Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Yi Li](#), an award-winning researcher and a champion for student success who brings decades of higher education experience to John Jay.

Provost Li grew up during a difficult period in China, when the Cultural Revolution occurred and public K-12 education was in disarray. At a time when teaching was considered "suspect," Li persevered, earned his degree, and developed a deep appreciation for education, equality, and optimism. Our new Provost fully understands the transformative power of higher education and is committed to our students' social mobility. With over three decades of professional and academic positions in higher education, extensive experience leading student success initiatives, and a proven track record for promoting diversity, Provost Li is well prepared to advance our academic mission of preparing fierce advocates for justice.

I am grateful for the work of the search committee, led by Dean Dara Byrne, as well as all those in the John Jay community who participated in the search process, for helping us find such an outstanding leader. I am eager to begin working with him.

As we welcome Provost Li, I'd also like to give my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Anne Lopes, who served as interim Provost and was a capable and valued partner during my first year as President. We are indebted to her for everything she's done during more than nine years of service to enrich the John Jay community.

During her tenure at John Jay, Dr. Lopes was instrumental in dramatically increasing graduate enrollment by more than 10% in just three years. Dr. Lopes also developed a comprehensive academic advising plan for undergraduate and graduate students, growing the advising center's staff from three to 10. She also oversaw the development and implementation of initiatives that led to boosts in student retention and degree completion.

Under her leadership our graduate offerings expanded with 16 new programs and four new online programs. Putting these existing programs online helped make John Jay a leader in online education in the CUNY system. I have every confidence that Dr. Lopes will continue to make an invaluable impact as the new Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Brooklyn College. We wish her much success in this new role.

Please join me in providing a warm welcome to Provost Li, and thanking Dr. Lopes for her many contributions to John Jay as she begins her new position at Brooklyn College.

Thank you,

Karol V. Mason
President

