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To the John Jay College Community:

I'd like to extend a warm welcome back to our returning students, faculty, and staff. We are so happy to see you again. I also extend a special welcome to our new students and transfers—you should know how happy we are that you've joined the John Jay family.

Walking around campus, the energy and excitement of the new academic year is palpable. Everyone is motivated to help our students grow intellectually and reach their fullest potential in life. I'd like to draw your attention to some of the newest programs, events, and leadership changes, all aimed at enhancing our students' experiences at John Jay.

We have begun work on a new [Student Success Initiative](#), a working vision for undergraduate student success. With this initiative, everyone in the John Jay community—students, faculty, staff, and administrators—has the opportunity to discuss ways in which we can enhance our students' academic experience, heighten academic excellence, and help get more students across the graduation finish line. Please visit the [website](#), where I invite you all to share your thoughts and continue this conversation with us throughout the year.

We will be hosting our second annual [Smart on Crime Innovations Conference](#) on September 25th and 26th, and I hope many of you will join me in attending. Last year our main goal was to continue the momentum for criminal justice reform. This year we're tackling tough questions that are often avoided—such as the inextricable link between racial justice and criminal justice reform. Through presentations from national leaders, advocates, researchers, and practitioners, we hope to move the needle forward on the criminal justice reform conversation. As John Jay community members, you do not need to pre-register for the conference to attend afternoon breakout sessions or a special pre-screening of a new HBO documentary film "[The Sentence](#)" which portrays a family coping with the consequences of mandatory minimum sentencing. Just visit the registration table by the Lynch Theatre and show your John Jay ID to receive a conference badge which will give you access to this free event right here on campus.

We also have two very important new members of our leadership team here at John Jay. Provost [Yi Li](#) brings more than three decades of higher education leadership. His record for launching effective student success initiatives, his ability to increase diversity in STEM programs, and his deep appreciation for the transformative power of an education, all perfectly align with John Jay's mission. And, I'd also like to extend a very warm congratulations to [Robin Merle](#), who has become our permanent Vice President for Institutional Advancement. Robin has already made significant contributions while serving in this role in an interim capacity, and we are grateful to have her continued leadership spearheading our ambitious fundraising campaign and increasing critical financial support for students and faculty.

I'm excited seeing all the familiar and new faces in the halls of John Jay. We're going to accomplish great things in the coming year. Stay focused. Expand your horizons. And let's enjoy this journey together.

Thank you,

Karol V. Mason
President