



Karol V. Mason
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August 26, 2020

To: The John Jay College Community
Re: Welcome Back

The new academic year at John Jay has officially started. I'd like to offer a warm welcome back to our returning students, faculty, and staff, and express how excited we are that a talented new group of students are joining our community. I know that this isn't how anyone envisioned their journey at John Jay, but even within this virtual world, know that our commitment to student success, professional growth, and community support is stronger than ever.

In an effort to keep our community safe and healthy, while also continuing to offer our students an excellent education, 99.5 percent of the instruction at John Jay College for the Fall 2020 semester will be conducted in a distance-learning format, as outlined in our detailed [Reopening Plan](#). Our goal is to have the lowest density of people possible on campus throughout the semester. For more information about the limited on-site access, please refer to today's [letter](#) from Mark Flower, our new Interim Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and Campus Coronavirus Coordinator, or contact him directly (mflower@jjay.cuny.edu) if you have any specific questions.

When we abruptly transitioned to a distance-learning model this past March, there wasn't much time to sharpen our online skills. But in record time, our faculty and staff shifted thousands of students to a virtual platform and adapted lessons to an online model. In spite of all the challenges, our community kept our students on track, and graduated the largest class in the College's history. Now, we're ready to build upon the skills we learned this past spring.

This summer, there have been some key leadership changes at John Jay that I'm happy to share with you. As stated earlier, **Mark Flower** is now our Interim Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. **Oswald Fraser** will be joining us in September as our new Assistant Vice President for Administration. **Daniel Matos** will continue to serve as Registrar and has also been appointed Interim Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management, where he will supervise graduate and undergraduate admissions, financial aid, and Jay Express. **Vincent Pizzuti** has been named Interim Director of Financial Aid. And, **Elsa-Sofia Morote**, Ed.D., is joining us as the Dean of Graduate Studies. Please join me in congratulating those taking on new roles and welcoming the newest members of our John Jay family.

One of the things that keeps our community connected—despite being physically apart—is our shared set of ideals. All of us are committed to advancing issues of justice, and all of us subscribe to the core values of: diversity, equity, integrity, justice, respect, learning, and scholarship. In the spirit of those values, I invite everyone to join me in our virtual panel discussion on [“Research, Practice, and Advocacy: Perspectives on Policing and Protests Six Years After Ferguson”](#) tomorrow, August 27, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. We have an exciting set of panelists joining us, please see the details below. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

In keeping with the College's core values, we have worked with CUNY on the University's new [Policy on Sexual Misconduct](#). The new policy was required by new federal regulations that went into effect this summer, but our commitment to preventing and addressing discrimination and harassment remains resolute and unchanged. CUNY and our Title IX office will share more details on the changes in this policy.

The times we're living in are challenging in so many ways, but as challenging as the times may be, the struggle has offered us new opportunities. It's given us the chance to view teaching and learning through a different lens. It's broadened our skills, and it's united us in an ongoing effort to stay connected and engaged. I know that the

coming year won't be easy, but I also know how committed our community is to making this academic year a success. Please continue to support each other, inspire each other, and be fierce advocates for justice.

Best wishes for a successful fall semester.

Karol V. Mason
President

RESEARCH, PRACTICE AND ADVOCACY: PERSPECTIVES ON POLICING AND PROTESTS 6 YEARS AFTER FERGUSON **AUGUST 27, 2020 | 5-6:30 PM**

MODERATOR: **Karol V. Mason**, President, John Jay College

VIRTUAL PANEL DISCUSSION FEATURING:



ISAAC BRYAN
Director of Public
Policy, Ralph J.
Bunche Center for
African American
Studies UCLA



**GLORIA
BROWNE-MARSHALL**
John Jay Professor
of Constitutional
Law/Civil Rights
Attorney



BENJAMIN B. TUCKER
NYPD First Deputy
Commissioner/
John Jay Alumnus



DAVID KENNEDY
Director of the National
Network for Safe
Communities at John Jay
College/Criminologist

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