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May 28, 2019

Re: End-of-Year Message

To the John Jay College Community:

This has been an incredible year for John Jay. I am tremendously proud of the many achievements of our community. I want to thank all of you for your hard work, and I'd like to share some reflections on the past academic year, highlighting the progress we've made together.

The class of 2019 is the largest graduating class in the history of the College, with 3,144 bachelor's degrees being awarded, along with 698 master's degrees. At Commencement this year, we will be celebrating our first [Accelerate, Complete and Engage \(ACE\) Program](#) graduating class, with 150 students receiving their degrees. John Jay students in the ACE program graduate at nearly double the national rate thanks to the ACE program's comprehensive support and advisement. This year's graduating class will also include 214 veterans, the largest number of veterans earning their degrees in the College's history. And, 12 of our graduates will be commissioned as officers in the U.S. military. These graduates honor our institution with their scholarship and service to our country. Our graduating seniors have also won numerous prestigious awards, fellowships, and scholarships, including the Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship and the Jonas E. Salk Scholarship.

Many of our 2019 graduates have been accepted to prominent law, medical, and graduate schools, while others are embarking on ambitious careers in law enforcement, healthcare, public management, and government. I am continuously in awe of the dedication our students have to public service, their communities, and their families. I look forward to seeing our graduating seniors succeed as John Jay alumni, and I am anticipating great things for our students returning in the summer and fall.

Our remarkable faculty members have guided these amazing students through an impressive academic year, while also making many noteworthy achievements of their own. This year, our faculty members have authored more than 40 books and hundreds of articles and papers. Our faculty helped to increase our grant-award dollars by over 50 percent from the previous year, reaching \$31,400,000, the largest amount for John Jay on record. *The Chronicle of Higher Education's Almanac* recently listed John Jay as seventh among more than 600 universities nationwide in terms of greatest increase in grant dollars. I'd like to extend my sincere congratulations to everyone who made these achievements possible.

I'd also like to recognize our dedicated staff. This talented community of professionals has played a vital role in the success of our College. As I said at our recent Bravo Awards ceremony, the contributions of our staff powers so much of what we do at John Jay—from raising funds to support student programs and staying connected to our alumni, to prospective-student outreach and keeping our community safe. Thank you for your continued commitment to the entire John Jay community.

Together we've reached some remarkable goals this year. Our 2019 Educating for Justice Gala raised a record-breaking \$1,045,000 to support the College's Honors Program. We collaboratively developed our [Vision for Undergraduate Student Success](#), a [document](#) that highlights our focus on improving key student success metrics, including graduation and retention rates—all of which I'm proud to say are climbing upwards. Our Research and Creativity Expo, with over 460 exhibits and performances, allowed everyone in the John Jay community to see the innovative work that our students and faculty execute. And this year, John Jay has been the convener for a wide array of justice-related events—from our annual Smart on Crime Conference and our Justice Media Trailblazer Awards, to gubernatorial bill signings and elected official announcements. John Jay is rightly seen as a nonpartisan location where justice issues can be discussed, examined, and elevated.

I look forward to seeing our graduating students, faculty, and staff tomorrow at our 54th Commencement. And next year, I'm confident that we will continue the incredible progress that we've made together.

Have a wonderful and productive summer.

Thank you,

Karol V. Mason
President

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