



Karol V. Mason  
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June 1, 2022

To: The John Jay College Community

Re: End-of-Year Reflections

I'm extremely proud of how our community came together this year to support our students, further our mission, and make a difference. I'd like to share some reflections and highlight some of our remarkable accomplishments.

Our 55th Commencement ceremony yesterday was unique as we saluted three graduating classes—2022, 2021, and 2020. The Class of 2022 is the largest graduating class in the history of the College, with our students earning 3,444 undergraduate degrees and 1,017 graduate degrees. Find highlights from the ceremonies [here](#).

In May, we held our [Educating Fierce Advocates for Justice Gala](#), and it was a rousing success. Thanks to a collaborative effort across our community, we raised more than \$900K (and counting) and 100 percent of net proceeds will benefit our student success initiatives.

Hosted by [Laura Jarrett](#), over 300 guests gathered, including students, faculty, alumni, community partners, and friends. The night included a special tribute to NYPD Detective Wilbert Mora '18 to celebrate his life, legacy, and commitment to service. We also honored Michele Norris, Columnist for the *Washington Post*; Broderick Johnson, Executive Vice President, Public Policy and Digital Equity, Comcast Corporation; and Shari Bryant '05, Co-President, Roc Nation Label.

We continue to convene leaders around public safety and criminal justice reform issues facing our communities. This year, we proudly hosted a series of conversations with New York City's district attorneys and public defenders; were joined by city and state public officials to discuss civic engagement, heritage, and social justice; and marked the 20th anniversary of 9/11. We also held our first [New York State Bail Reform Conference](#), organized by the Data Collaborative for Justice, on the impact of bail reform.

I'm happy to announce that John Jay is partnering with My Brother's Keeper [Reimagining Policing Pledge](#) and will lead initiatives designed to help officials transform their approach to public safety. We also deepened our commitment to our [Future of Public Safety Initiative](#), led by Erica Bond, our Vice President of Justice Initiatives.

This year has been far from easy. We continue to contend with the pandemic and, more recently, multiple mass shootings, including the racially-motivated shooting in Buffalo, the attack at a church in California, and the murder of 19 children and two teachers in Texas. As overwhelming as these tragedies feel, we must continue to help create safer communities and advocate for justice.

I'm confident that the incredible progress we made this year will continue into the future, thanks to the dedication of every member of our community. I hope you have a productive and restful summer.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karol V. Mason". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karol V. Mason  
President  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

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