



Karol V. Mason
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December 22, 2021

To: The John Jay College Community
Re: Fall 2021 Semester Reflections

Now that our students have completed their finals, and we're all preparing for a well-deserved winter break, I want to convey my warmest wishes for a happy holiday season. I'd also like to take this moment to thank you—our outstanding faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends—for your continued hard work, commitment to excellence, and service to others. When we started this fall semester together, we successfully navigated the challenge of returning to campus safely, and in the new year, we'll continue that journey together with everyone's well-being in mind.

This year we have a lot to be proud of. As demonstrated in our "[John Jay by the Numbers](#)" Faculty Development Day presentation: four-year graduation rates have increased by 11 percent, six-year graduation rates have increased by seven percent, and John Jay College has the highest transfer graduation rates of any CUNY college. This phenomenal increase in student success is due in no small part to our incredible faculty and staff. Our faculty continues to be the most productive within the CUNY family, with their average number of scholarship pieces far outpacing other CUNY faculties, and our total grants received by faculty and staff nearing \$30 million.

As you relax over the holiday season, I highly recommend reading the latest digital edition of our College's magazine, [Justice Matters](#). In this issue we dive into the work being done to develop a [culturally responsive, inclusive, and anti-racist curriculum](#)—hearing from the faculty members leading the charge and students experiencing the benefits. We get to know [Brian Kerr, Ed.D.](#), our new VP of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs. And fittingly, in the 20th anniversary year of [September 11th](#), we draw inspiration from our courageous John Jay heroes who helped save thousands of lives on that tragic day.

Once again, I thank you all for your hard work, creativity, and compassion. I'm always impressed with, but never surprised by, our community's concern for one another. As you enjoy a much-deserved rest and spend time with your family, friends, and loved ones, please continue to be diligent in your attention to vaccinations, boosters, testing, masking, and social distancing. I wish everyone in our John Jay College family a happy and healthy holiday season, and I look forward to what we'll accomplish together in 2022.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karol V. Mason".

President
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

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