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To: The John Jay College Community
Re: Welcome Back

As the Spring 2022 semester at John Jay officially starts, I want to warmly welcome back our returning students, faculty, and staff, and extend a special greeting to all of our new students. It's going to be a rewarding semester for everyone. I'd also like to take this opportunity to share some important updates with you.

Our community's concerted efforts to continue our Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE or "Middle States") accreditation has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. This year, Working Groups across the College—including almost 80 people, composed of students, faculty, staff, and administrative leadership—have been hard at work writing a study of the College to ensure our re-accreditation. In March, we look forward to sharing a draft of the study with the entire community for comment. This process is an important part of holding ourselves accountable to our high standards.

I'm excited to announce that we have a new member of the Marketing and Communications Department. We recently appointed Kira Poplowski, Ph.D., as our Chief Communications Officer. Kira comes to us with a wealth of higher education experience after holding marketing and communications positions at Columbia University, Drew University, Harvard University, and Pitzer College. Along with leading the Marketing and Communications team here at John Jay, Kira is excited to make her mark by spearheading the highly anticipated work being done on our new College website. Please join me in welcoming Kira to our vibrant community.

As we happily greet our new students, I'd like to encourage them to attend our Weeks of Welcome events. These fun and informative gatherings, both online and on campus, are specifically designed to offer new students the opportunity to get to know our Bloodhound community.

We're also excited to celebrate Black History Month with a packed schedule of events, including our 32nd annual Malcolm/King Leadership Award Ceremony, the longest, continually running cultural event at John Jay. I hope everyone attends these events as we recognize the incredible achievements and contributions that African-Americans have made to this country.

New York State Governor Kathy Hochul announced that flags on state buildings will be flown at half-staff in honor of New York City Police Officers Jason Rivera and Wilbert Mora '18. Flags were lowered to half-staff at sunrise today, the day of Officer Rivera's funeral, and will be on February 2, following services for Officer Mora. Officer Rivera attended Borough of Manhattan Community College and Lehman College and Officer Mora is a John Jay College alumnus. Both of these brave officers were tragically killed in the line of duty. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families, friends, and fellow officers.

It's undeniable that we all bring a sense of enthusiasm and dedication to our work, but I also want to acknowledge the long and tiring road that we've been on for the past two years. I'm proud of how we

have pulled together to achieve significant academic, research, and institutional accomplishments. I'm amazed at how our inspiring donor community—who truly believe in John Jay's purposeful work—has repeatedly invested in our students. Yet, I know that it hasn't been smooth or easy and that the challenges brought on by the pandemic are still very much with us. I'm deeply grateful for what each one of you has done, and continues to do, to sustain and uplift our community. I look forward to sharing my appreciation in person as I learn how I can best support you in the days and months to come.

Please continue to help each other, inspire each other, and be fierce advocates for justice. I wish you a safe and successful spring semester.

Warmly,

Karol V. Mason
President
John Jay College of Criminal Justice