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TO: John Jay College Community

FROM: Keisha Pottinger-Moore, Director of Human Resources Operations

DATE: March 22, 2024

RE: Passing of Farris Barclay Forsythe



We are saddened to announce the passing of Farris Barclay Forsythe, on February 13, 2024 in Columbia, Maryland. At the time of her death, Farris had retired from her position in the Division of Student Development as Affirmative Action Officer/504 ADA Compliance Officer/Sexual Harassment Coordinator and Director of Accessibility Services in 2010. During her many years of service at John Jay she worked for and supported four Vice Presidents, the late Dr. James Malone, Dr. Roger Witherspoon, Dr. Richard Saulnier, and Dr. Berenecea Johnson Eanes (now President of California State University, Los Angeles).

Prior to joining the John Jay in 1973 and working as a Gittleson in the Office of Special Programs and later the Office of Student Development, Farris graduated from Howard University (HU) after majoring in Zoology. While studying at HU, Farris was an Academic Counselor at Trinity College, the nation's first Catholic liberal arts college for women (now known as Trinity Washington University).

While a graduate student, Farris was instrumental and collaborated to revive the John Jay College Chapter, PI Alpha Alpha Honor Society: The Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration. In 1979, she was awarded a Master of Public Administration (MPA) and a year later was appointed as an Assistant to HEO in the Office of Dean of Students. Later, Farris was promoted to Affirmative Action/Officer and in 1984 she was appointed to the dual role of Affirmative Action Officer and Director of Accessibility Services. She retired from John Jay on February 27, 2010.

Well known throughout the College and CUNY, Farris will be remembered for her kind and compassionate heart. She was dedicated to students with disabilities and played an integral role in the expansion of the resources of the Office of Accessibility Services. Her cheerful attitude, inherent kindness and dedication to the students of Accessibility Services were highly regarded and valued. She leaves a lasting legacy of love.

A Memorial Service will be held on April 6 in Columbia, Maryland.

We send our condolences to the Forsythe family.