

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

August 27, 2024

Dear Academic Affairs Faculty and Staff,

As we welcome each other and our students back for the fall semester I can't help but marvel at all that we, together, have accomplished. In the last ten years we have doubled our 4-year graduation rates and increased our 6-year graduation rates by 13 percentage points. We have the most successful graduation rate for transfer students in all of New York State. We have become the third largest grant-earning institution in CUNY and our faculty produces the most scholarship per person in all of CUNY. We produce the third highest number of Black applicants to law school in the country after Howard University and Georgia State, and Black students graduate from John Jay at 5 percentage points above the national average. We are a top baccalaureate origin institution for Hispanic Doctoral applicants in the country. The diversity of students in our Economics and Philosophy majors mark those programs out for national distinction. We are diversifying every field we touch and making them more just.

Living our mission and defining our community by the values of opportunity and justice demands that we aspire to a graduation rate above 55%. To pursue our aspirations, my administration and I will build on John Jay's past achievements by focusing on 3 priorities:

1. **Student Success:** Create a singular and coherent Undergraduate Foundations program that students know is for them, communicates to them in one voice, and can be navigated easily. This will include student communities; guided general education pathways; just-in-time communications; and career exploration that leads to academic success, internship and experiential learning, and post-graduate success.
2. **Academic Excellence:** Update our curriculum to make it rigorous and relevant for the world our students will lead in the next generation, while focusing on helping more students succeed in these courses.
3. **Administrative Excellence and Support:** Invest even more in faculty and staff development – and our research enterprise – so John Jay is a sought-after home for big-hearted and brilliant people striving for student success and academic excellence.

Being a public college committed to making accessible the privilege and transformative power of an education is powerful work. Alongside each of you, I look forward to creating an even better and more just version of John Jay.

Sincerely,

Allison