

# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

## September 24, 2024

Dear Academic Affairs Colleagues,

I am delighted to share a John Jay rarity: we begin this year with a balanced budget projection. Last year we started the year with a \$13 million deficit, but together we worked to balance the budget, which we achieved through greater scheduling efficiency, hiring freezes, reorganizing some areas for streamlined staffing, and reduced spending on temporary services and non-personnel items. With increased enrollment this year alongside these savings, we are enjoying a moment of fiscal stability.

In today's update I want to share the success of our Lecturers, introduce a new humanities scholarship program, and ask you to encourage students to participate in Career Con on Sept 30-Oct 2.

Allison

### **Lecturers Lead Student Success in the Courses They Teach**

Just two years since forming, the Lecturers' Consortium is meeting its goal of increasing students' success and building a teaching community of practice. Last year, in 47 courses serving more than 2600 students, the successful course completion rate of a C grade or better for Lecturer-led sections was at least 3% higher than the overall pass rate, in some cases as much as 12% higher.

What is the Lecturers' Consortium and how are they achieving this success? The Lecturers' Consortium is an interdisciplinary group with shared interest in increasing students' success and deep learning and advancing student-centered, culturally responsive pedagogies in General Education and key major courses. In the past two years, Lecturers have worked to strengthen students' writing abilities, coordinated efforts to increase equity and inclusivity in the curriculum, and formed student/faculty

communities that extend beyond the classroom. The consortium meets regularly to discuss key course outcomes, what they are seeing and learning about student behavior, and effective pedagogies. All Lecturers are welcome to participate. Contact Wynne Ferdinand, Assistant Dean of Academic Programs to get involved. [wferdinand@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:wferdinand@jjay.cuny.edu)

- **Students earn \$1000 stipend**
- **take a two-course sequence in the humanities Gen Ed**
- **engage in thoughtful discussion and deep reflection**

### **Introducing the Ringel Humanities Scholars Program**

With a generous donation from Dean and Ronnie Ringel, John Jay now has a humanities scholarship intended to encourage students to consider how the humanities sharpens skills in reflection, analysis and thoughtful discussion that enriches civic life.

Students who earn the scholarship join a cohort of 25 scholars per year who take Humanities and Justice and then The Big Questions: An Introduction to Philosophy, enjoy special cultural outings and events, and the support of their Faculty Advisor, Professor David Munns of the History Department.

Only first-semester freshmen are eligible to apply for this opportunity. If you want to learn more contact Dr. Munns, Director of the Ringel Humanities Scholars Program ([RHSPDirector@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:RHSPDirector@jjay.cuny.edu)).

## **CareerCon!**

### **Faculty and Staff: Help our students launch their careers!**

CareerCon is a three-day event (Sept 30th - Oct 3rd) connecting students with top employers across sectors (government, non-profit, private) and industries (consulting, education, finance, etc.). Employers will offer insights on desired skills and provide one-on-one feedback on resumes, networking, and mock interviews.

Encourage your students to attend:

- Learn valuable career tips from industry leaders.
- Get real-time feedback on career readiness.
- Explore opportunities through on-campus interviews.

Spread the word!

- Students can pre-register and see attending employers on Handshake (or scan the QR code on the attached flyer).
- Professional headshots available for everyone!
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Contact: Purnima Taylor, Career Learning Lab Director at [ptaylor@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:ptaylor@jjay.cuny.edu) for more information.