



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

April 1, 2025

Dear Academic Affairs Colleagues,

Much as I would have loved to have written an April Fool's update, there is too much uncertainty in our environment right now to be joking about alternative realities. I know many of you want to understand how John Jay is navigating changes to federal funding, pressure on academic freedom, and the security of our non-citizen faculty members. For an open discussion about all things Academic Affairs, please join our **Open Forum**.

Who: All Academic Affairs staff and faculty are welcome to come talk with Provost Allison Pease, Vice Provost Anthony Carpi, interim Dean of Faculty Angela Crossman, and Afshar Housman, partner at Gibney, Flaherty & Flaherty who represents our faculty on visas and green cards.

When: Thursday April 3, 1:40-2:55

Where: in L2.85

In today's update I'm happy to share (a) John Jay continues to be a legal profession feeder, (b) new data showing that for the past six years the Completion for Upper Seniors Program (CUSP) graduates 500 students a year who were not predicted to do so, and (c) we welcome Cat Alves to Academic Affairs!

Best,

Allison

p.s. Does John Jay have a secret sauce? Someone special who improves every program he is in? Yes indeed, see bold print below.

John Jay Continues to Be National Leader in Adding Talent to Legal Profession

The Law School Admissions Council's 2024 report ranked John Jay 5th in the nation for Black applicants to law school and 15th for Hispanic applicants. Our students continue to gain acceptances at more than 100 law schools across the country.

Now in its 20th year, our Pre- Law Institute has deepened John Jay College's footprint as one of the premiere undergraduate institutions fueling access and opportunity in the legal profession. In addition to Law Day, PLI offers over 90 high-impact programs, including Pre-Law Boot Camps, judicial internships and clinics, a free summer LSAT prep program, law school visits, and much more.

Kudos to Elizabeth Broccoli, Jerylle Kemp, Charles Davidson, Victoria Bond and **Elton Beckett** for all they do to enrich students' education and prepare them for the next steps.

Click here to visit PLI webpages:

<https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/student-life/career-building-job-search/pre-law-institute>

5th in Black applicants to law school

15th in Hispanic applicants to law school

NEW YORK TODAY

How A.I. Increased the Graduation Rate at John Jay College by 32 Points

CUSP Propels Thousands of Students to Graduate

Started in 2018, the Completion for Upper-Division Students Program uses machine learning to determine students who need the most support in their senior year to make it across the finish line. Without any intervention, only 54% of this group of students is predicted to graduate. With the CUSP program interventions, now on average 88% graduate. That translates to 500 students more per year graduating.

Without the CUSP program, John Jay would have had 3100 fewer graduates in the last seven years. That is a staggering number of lives positively changed by data and advising interventions.

Kudos to Sumaya Villanueva, Data Prieto, Julissa De La Cruz, Patience Yeboah, Yaritma Cabral, Muhammad Haider, Eureka Wilson and yes, **again, Elton Beckett** for changing the life paths of thousands of students

Welcome to Academic Programs Cat Alves

We welcome Catherine Alves as Director of Operations for Academic Programs! Cat spent 12 years with the Department of Athletics & Recreation serving in various roles, most recently as Director. Cat impressively managed and advocated for the resources needed to support our students. Equally as important, Cat has always been a strong supporter of the academic journeys of our student athletes.

Cat brings this focus on the student experience to Academic Programs where she will support the work of our academic departments and academic support offices. We wish her well in her new role at John Jay!

