

# AA Update: January 20, 2026

Dear Academic Affairs Colleagues,

Change is hard isn't it? If you are like me, you are struggling to get comfortable with our new email set-up. It's a good reminder of what our students experience with each new course and each new professor. Like any good student, I am learning and improving my practices with this new software evolution: witness my using this new function of Outlook, newsletters! We'll see how this goes.

In this update I want to share a bit about the day-long "Let's AI Together" forum, the many grants John Jay faculty and staff were just awarded by CUNY, and a visit from our NORDP consultants.

The photo above? MLK jr accepting his Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and saying: "I accept this award on behalf of a civil rights movement which is moving with determination and a majestic scorn for risk and danger to establish a reign of freedom and a rule of justice." John Jay was created in this same year to contribute to a more fair criminal justice system ("a rule of justice") and to educate all of New York City's people in keeping with the civil rights movement. That's our legacy.

Don't forget to RSVP to [Faculty Development Day](#) on Thursday.

Allison

## John Jay Wins Quarter of CUNY AI Innovation Grants

CUNY announced on Friday that of its \$500,000 AI Innovation Fund, John Jay had won \$133,116 for six unique projects. Congratulations to Hannah Chu, Hunter Johnson, Wynne Ferdinand, Holly Davenport, Kate Szur, and Kim Chandler, whose projects range from "An Innovative Game-Based Approach to Promote Responsible AI Use in Higher-Ed Science Classrooms" to AI Literacy in First-Year Courses to Staff and Faculty development opportunities.





## **Research Consultants Interview Faculty and Administrators to Support John Jay Research**

Support for higher education research is changing and we are ready to confront this challenge. John Jay is participating in an Intensive Cohort engagement through the National Organization of Research Development Professionals (NORDP) Consultants Program to receive tailored, expert guidance on advancing our research strategy and research development infrastructure. Last week the consultants assigned to John Jay for two years (Carol Thornber and Barbara Endemáñio Walker) visited John Jay and met with leadership, faculty, and center directors as well as OAR staff to focus on our research direction, priorities, and feasibility. Thanks to all who participated.

The NORDP Consultants Program, administered through Emory University and supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), provides research development services to institutions at no cost to the institution. Its purpose is to grow research capacity, competitiveness, and sustainability at Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) and Emerging Research Institutions (ERIs) by connecting them with experienced research development professionals.

## **Let's AI Together Engages 70 Staff, Faculty & Students In Day-Long Discussion**

Organized by the seven-member committee working with the AAC&U on AI, the curriculum and pedagogy this year, 70 staff, faculty, and students came together last week to talk through ethical concerns, what teaching and learning look like, and our own personal challenges with AI. The biggest agenda item? Sharing these thoughts together so that as a community we can address the challenges.

Thanks to Kayla Bassknight, Gina Rae Foster, Penny Geyer, Raymond Rosas, Katherine Stavrianopoulos, & Nancy Yang for continuing to support the John Jay community to tackle AI deliberately, ethically, and together.

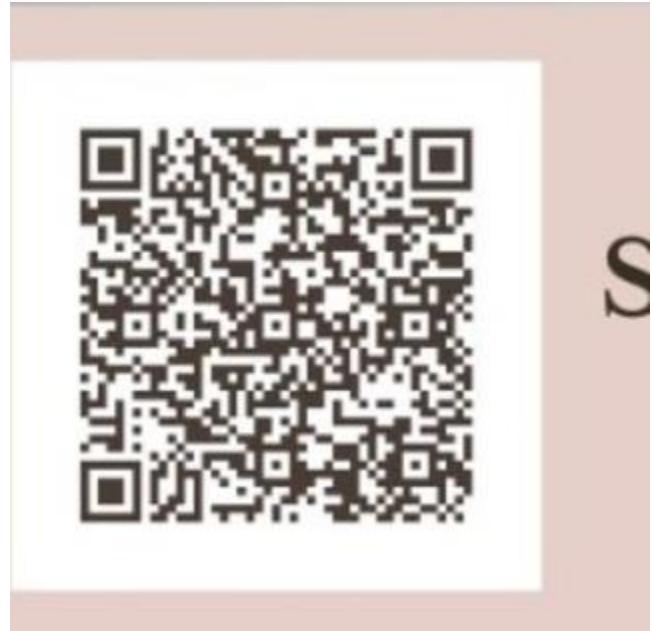


## **Upcoming Events**

### **Faculty Development Day, Thursday Jan 22**

This Thursday all Faculty and Staff are invited to join the panels, workshops, and lunch of Faculty Development Day. We have a strong lineup of important and exciting discussions. [Click here to see them.](#)

Scan the Code at right to RSVP.



## **Faculty and Staff Meeting, February 23**

Save the date - community hour

