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Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff:

Welcome to the start of the 2017/2018 Academic Year. I hope that you share my excitement for this beginning and what we will accomplish together.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the new President of John Jay College of Criminal Justice, particularly at this moment in time. Recent shocking and disturbing events in Charlottesville and elsewhere this summer have reminded us once again that John Jay's unique mission of educating fierce advocates justice has never been more important for our communities and our country. Thanks to President Travis's leadership, the passion that faculty and staff bring to your roles at John Jay, and the leadership of our students (all of you are living examples of our mission in action), we are poised to fulfill and expand this mission in new ways. In the years ahead, we will continue to widen the reach of John Jay's national leadership on justice issues and ensure that all of our students complete their studies prepared to succeed in a rapidly changing world. By providing our students with a strong liberal arts foundation, we are equipping them with the critical thinking and problem solving tools that will insure their success.

The College is already recognized as a national leader in the pursuit of justice and addressing the inequities in our country, as well as on so many other critical issues such as improving the state of forensic science, fire safety, and cyber security. I hope to build on that. As you know, my work at the Department of Justice was centered on supporting a wide spectrum of people and organizations dedicated to making our justice systems fairer, more equitable, and informed by data and evidence. I bring that same

philosophy to my new role as President of John Jay College — perhaps at even a more crucial time.

In recent years, reforming the justice system and pursuing smart public safety policies have been top domestic priorities across the political spectrum. The momentum for reform, however, is still precarious, especially in communities where the commitment to reform is relatively recent, does not have deep roots, and can be displaced by other priorities. Thus, there is a significant need to reinvigorate the public and refocus the discussion on the smart criminal justice policies and the tangible innovations that communities are pursuing, all grounded by rigorous research and evaluation. John Jay is up to that challenge, as our College is uniquely positioned to speak on the critical issues of justice with authority and great credibility, supported by the strong research and scholarship of the faculty at John Jay. John Jay is positioned to be the leader we need now to make sure that our public officials and communities remain focused on advancing justice for all, especially those most in need.

Most importantly, John Jay has been developing the next generation of our country's leaders who are well versed in the principles of justice, equity and fairness. Hopefully, this deep understanding of justice issues will inform how our graduates live their lives, whether ultimately pursuing careers in our justice systems or other equally important career paths. John Jay is educating and ensuring the success of students to be critical voices in their communities, to be part of our national conversation as we strive to create a country that lives up to the ideals on which it was founded.

The extraordinary quality of the work that I witnessed coming from John Jay over the past eight years is why I am so excited to be part of the John Jay community. Thank you for welcoming me to the John Jay family. I look forward to celebrating the great things we will accomplish together this year and for years to come.

Karol V. Mason
President

