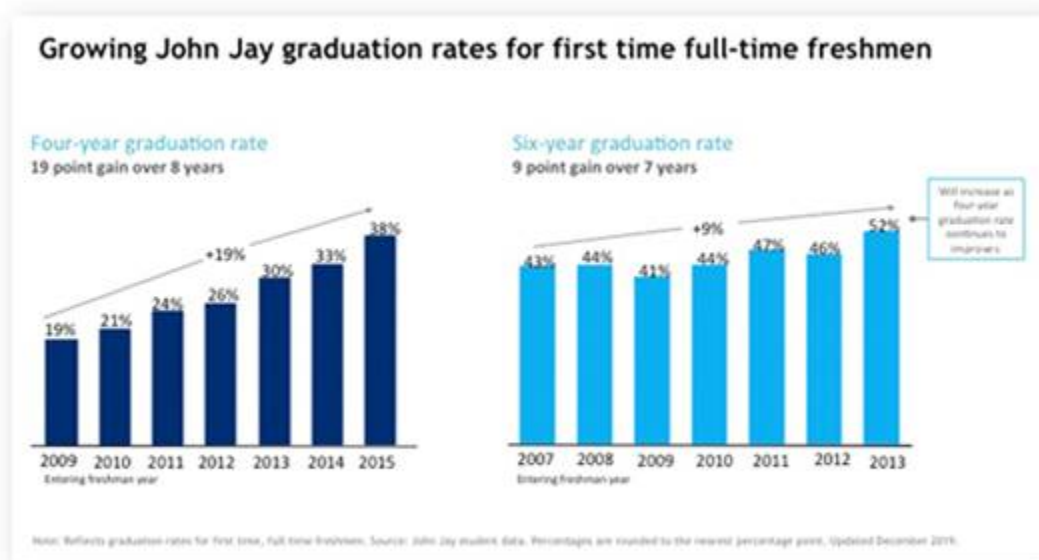


December 16, 2019

To: The John Jay College Community
RE: End-of-the-Semester Reflections

Before the winter break begins, I want to convey my warmest wishes for a happy holiday season. I'd also like to take a moment to thank you—our outstanding faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends—for your continued hard work and commitment to excellence. We've had a particularly vibrant semester encompassing so many achievements, including groundbreaking research, powerful speakers, and thought-provoking events.

At this season of gratitude and reflection, I want to take a moment to thank all of you for your contributions to our amazing accomplishments in student success over the past year. The just-released 2019 data shows that we've continued our impressive progress in boosting our graduation rates. Our four-year graduation rate has climbed 19 points over the last eight years and reached 37.64 percent for first time, full-time freshmen in 2019. Our six-year graduation rate has now topped 50 percent, reaching 51.51 percent in 2019 after rising nine points over the last seven years. And for the first time, our one-year retention rate has surpassed 80 percent, reaching 80.18 percent for our fall 2018 new freshman cohort. The increases across the board are simply phenomenal, and together we're making progress toward the goals laid out in our Student Success Vision document. You'll find updated graphs from our vision document reflecting these latest figures attached and linked [here](#).



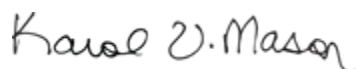
Our vision for student success is now distilled into a shorter new [Student Success Brochure](#). It clearly illustrates the many promising programs and initiatives already underway, and outlines new innovations:

- The **Accelerate, Complete, and Engage (ACE)** program has expanded to serve 300 new students. It's also produced a remarkable 16 percentage point increase in graduation rates among participating students, reaching a four-year graduation rate of 58 percent.
- The launch of **Linking Experience, Academics, and Practice (LEAP)** marks the first time that all incoming freshmen have access to a multi-year cohort program. LEAP provides students with customized major and career exploration, intensive academic advisement, and access to experiential learning opportunities.
- The **Completion for Upper-Division Student Program (CUSP)** is designed specifically to help seniors at John Jay reach graduation. In its pilot year, the initiative has already seen 73 percent of its participating students graduate after *one* year—in comparison to a *two*-year expected graduate rate of 54 percent for similar seniors without any intervention.
- Remarkably, 63 percent of **CUNY Justice Academy (CJA)** students have graduated with a bachelor's degree within three years, which is more than double the national rate for associate degree students transferring to a four-year institution.

As both a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) and Minority-Serving Institution (MSI), we're deeply committed to transforming John Jay from merely a Hispanic- and Minority-*enrolling* institution into a truly Hispanic- and Minority-*serving* institution. To that end, this fall more than 50 faculty members rewrote their syllabi to be more culturally sustainable and to include more authors from diverse backgrounds. And, since we know how important it is for students of color to see themselves reflected in their professors, our Provost and department chairs are reaching out to HSI and MSI institutions that produce Ph.Ds., specifically to share information about teaching and hiring opportunities here at John Jay.

We have so much to be proud of, and next semester I'm excited to build upon these successes with the help of everyone in our community. Over the coming weeks, please enjoy some much-deserved rest with your friends and loved ones, and ring in the New Year with hope, happiness, and joy.

Warmly,



Karol V. Mason
President