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Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 4:25 PM
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Subject: AA Update March 28

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ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

March 28, 2023

Dear Academic Affairs Colleagues,

It's spring and yesterday the light was dancing on our windows, making me feel hopeful for what's to come. Never have I felt more optimistic about John Jay's future than I do now.

In this update I'll share (1) our amazing Middle States report, (2) how we are laying the foundations for our next level of academic excellence, and (3) feature some of the great work happening this month to promote our students' career success.

But before that I want to flag faculty success and note that in addition to the faculty support and community building work that Dean Angela Crossman is leading so beautifully, we have hired 27 of our 43 new faculty for next year: their depth and breadth is simply stunning. The renaissance is coming John Jay!

No wait, the renaissance is here: grab some colleagues and have lunch on the Jay Walk this week while the magnolias are at peak!

Middle States Review Commendations

John Jay received an unprecedentedly positive review from our external evaluation team for meeting the Middle States Standards of Accreditation. Not only did they have no requirements nor recommendations, they included the following "Recognition of Accomplishments, Progress, or Exemplary/Innovative Practices":

1. The team commends the institution for the effective integration of mission, values, curricula, principles, and planning developed using inclusive processes with the broad participation of all stakeholders.
2. The team commends the institution for the development of its Seven Principles for a Culturally Responsive, Inclusive, and Anti-Racist Curriculum which the team finds to be forward looking and an exemplar, closely connected to mission, goals, and values.



3. The team commends the institution for its ranking as fourth in the 2022-2023 US News Least Debt (Regional Universities North) list of institutions whose students graduated carrying the lightest debt loads, consistent with John Jay College's commitment to accessibility.
4. The Model Syllabi document is impressive and very useful, especially for new faculty, and offers potential consistency to the student course experience.
5. John Jay College has reserved 1:40PM to 2:55PM as a Community Hour each weekday. No classes are scheduled at this time and allows students to attend club events, meet with advisors and faculty, and attend governance committees.
6. CUSP (Completion for Upper-division Student Program) has significantly increased the percentage of students with 90 credits who were projected to graduate to 86% from 54% prior to the program.
7. The institution is commended for its partnership with the Institute of Justice and Opportunity to provide Pell grants to incarcerated students at the Otisville Correctional Facility.
8. John Jay College received recognition in 2021 as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) Leader by the United States Department of Education Fulbright Program. The recognition was for providing Latinx students with opportunities that enrich their educational experience.
9. The team commends the college for its strong alignment of resource allocation to strategic plans and goals, with particular emphasis on supporting and protecting core academic and student support programs.
10. The idea and output of the Charter study group and the comprehensive work with the COACHE survey are proactive and commendable.
11. The team commends the institution for the inclusive process by which the college worked to identify the required budget containment measures while maintaining their commitment to mission, values and institutional priorities.

Congratulations to ALL OF US – our commitment to excellence and equity shines bright!

Quantitative Reasoning and Quantitative Literacy

In our Strategic Plan 2020-25 we committed to “align and scaffold high impact practices...to enhance students quantitative reasoning skills” and to “Increase the number of courses supporting...data literacy.” Under Dean Andrew Sidman’s leadership, we are on a path to re-envisioning Quantitative Reasoning in our curriculum so every student graduates from John Jay with the skills they need to thrive in the 21st century.

Dean Sidman recently sent a questionnaire to all of the undergraduate and graduate programs asking them about the quantitative literacy and reasoning skills our students need. Undergraduate coordinators emphasized the need for basic numeracy, ability to read tables and graphs, and using datasets. Graduate Directors expressed the need to learn basic statistics, Excel, understanding empirical studies and testing hypotheses. Over summer and fall Academic Programs will work with faculty to develop ideas for a college-wide QR/QL rubric we can use to benchmark, assess, and measure student achievements in these areas.

The goal is that in AY 2024-25 faculty will adjust curriculum to teach to these shared goals and by the end of our 2025-30 strategic plan John Jay students will have a distinct and identifiable set of quantitative literacy and reasoning skills that will power their paths post-graduation.



Career Kickstart Days are Coming April 18-19

“Career Kickstart: Connect to Win with For-Profit Companies” is a two-day, in-person training, focusing on Black and Brown men students. Our goals are to help students learn more about how to get a high-paying job, receive guided and personal assistance with resumes, as well as to connect and network with senior industry leaders. Confirmed companies include Mastercard, Bristol Myers-Squibb and JP Morgan Chase.

Scheduled April 19th and 20th from 9:30am-5:00pm Workshops and panel conversations include:

- “Started from the bottom”: conversations with those who attended public institutions and made their way in corporate America.
- “School Me”: a discussion about the power of advanced training.
- Discussion by industry: Finance, Marketing, Project Management/Public Relations and Consumer Research
- “Doing Justice work in Corporate America”: how do give back while working in a for-profit setting.
- “Othered”: a panel on Being Black, Brown, and Woman in White workspaces.
- “Hotwired to Connect”: workshop on the value of and tips to networking like a pro.



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