



**College of Staten Island**  
The City University of New York

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**CONVOCATION**  
A Celebration of Accomplishments

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Center for the Arts (1P)  
Williamson Theatre  
December 8, 2016  
2:30pm

William J. Fritz  
*President*



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# College of Staten Island

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# CONVOCATION

A Celebration of Accomplishments

December 8, 2016

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As the College of Staten Island celebrates its 60th Anniversary, this year's Convocation will focus on our institution's Legacy of Mission. Many things have changed since our institution began its proud legacy in 1956: more than 67,000 students received degrees, the composition of the faculty changed, as did the many programs that we have offered over the last 60 years. One thing, however, has remained the same: the Opportunity to Ascend—many opportunities for our students to learn and succeed, an upward trajectory for our community, and an overall improvement in society, as measured by the Social Mobility Index.

The definition of “Convocation” is the action of calling people together, and we are gathered here today to celebrate all of our accomplishments over the past year. In honor of our Legacy of Mission, these milestones will be grouped according to their focused impact: Academic Excellence (emphasizing the individual), Lifting Community (addressing the needs of our surroundings), and Advancing Society (improving quality of life). As noted in the words and writings of those who have come before us, these dimensions of our Mission have grounded the College over the last six decades. Moving into the future, there will be other changes: new and expanded facilities, enhanced academic opportunities, and changing faces. One thing will remain the same—our commitment to the improvement of our students' lives, as well as a better community, and an enlightened, fulfilled society.

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## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

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### **CSI Ranks 27th among Top Salaries for Grads**

When the U.S. Department of Education released its latest findings on top salaries for college graduates after studying 58 colleges in New York City, CSI came in at number 27 with an average salary for graduates at \$40,600. SUNY Downstate Medical Center topped that list, but CSI was on par with Columbia University.

### **CSI's Engineering Program in *U.S. News & World Report* Ranking**

Our Engineering program has made it to the latest *U.S. News and World Report* listing for 2017 Best Colleges in the category of Regional Northeast Universities. *U.S. News and World Report* based these rankings on peer assessment surveys of undergraduate programs that are accredited by ABET.

### **DPT Program Celebrates 100% Success Rate**

This year, all 20 Clinical Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT) graduates passed the Physical Therapy license exam on their first attempt. This success marked the first time in the history of the program, which is just under three decades old, that graduates have celebrated a 100% success rate.

### **CSI Grads Accepted into Prestigious Programs**

CSI alumni have gone on to advanced programs at prestigious institutions such as Harvard, Columbia, Cornell, University College of London, University of Edinburgh, McGill, Fordham, Rutgers, NYU, Imperial College London, SUNY Buffalo, Brooklyn Law School, and The Graduate Center, CUNY.

### **Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Electrical Engineering, Receive Accreditation**

Continuing in the tradition of programmatic excellence, quality teaching, and high standards, two programs at CSI have received accreditation beginning this fall. Our Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling graduate program received an accreditation from the Master's in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (MPCAC) through 2021 and the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BS EE), which has been offered since Spring 2014 by the Department of Engineering Science and Physics, is now accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc. (ABET).

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### **Campus Climate Survey Findings to Be Revealed at Town Hall Meetings**

Last semester's Campus Climate Survey helped the CSI community to assess how all of its members experience the current campus climate through learning, living, and working at the College. Last month, two Town Hall meetings were held to present the findings and explore the next steps in this process. The Town Halls will be followed by Feedback Forums to provide all members of the College community with a chance to propose solutions that may address challenges uncovered in the survey results.

### **Inaugural Graduate Research Conference at CSI Draws Crowds**

For the first time in CSI's history, graduate students were invited to share their research and scholarship at a conference that took place at our Center for the Arts, last May. The program outlined 14 oral presentations and 45 poster presentations by more than 70 CSI students. This new event joins the Undergraduate Conference on Research, Scholarship, and Performance (URC) as another significant venue for students to share their work with the College community and beyond. The URC celebrated its 15th year in 2016 with more than 400 students participating.

### **President Obama Awards CSI Professor Dan McCloskey with Nation's Highest Honor for Early Career Researchers**

Emblematic of the exceptional quality of faculty excellence at the College, President Barack Obama named CSI Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. Daniel McCloskey a recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, granting him the U.S. government's highest award for scientists and engineers in the early stages of their independent research careers.

### **CSI Named a "Top Master's University" by Washington Monthly**

*Washington Monthly* named the College of Staten Island a Top Master's University in their national rankings. According to their Website, "schools [are] based on their contribution to the public good in three broad categories: Social Mobility (recruiting and graduating low-income students), Research (producing cutting-edge scholarship and PhDs), and Service (encouraging students to give something back to their country)."

### **CSI Creates New Doctorate of Nursing Program**

The CSI School of Health Sciences received approval for the imminent launch of the Doctorate of Nursing Practice to prepare practitioners of nursing to provide innovative care at the highest level by translating credible research findings into clinical practice in diverse healthcare settings such as hospitals, homes, and throughout the community.

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### **CSI Campaign for College and Community Exceeds Goal**

CSI has met and exceeded its goal of raising \$20 million for the CSI Campaign for College and Community. These funds will significantly strengthen resources to support the advancement of the College's academic excellence.

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## **LIFTING COMMUNITY**

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### **CSI Fifth on Island for Economic Development**

The 18th Annual SIEDC Business Conference featured awards to the Top 31 Most Influential People and Institutions in Economic Development on Staten Island. CSI received fifth-place honors.

### **CSI Partners with NYC ACS in Support of Initiative for Foster Care Youth**

The NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) and The City University of New York (CUNY) have announced a joint initiative that will support 50 foster care youths attending CUNY colleges this fall with academic and financial support. The new community partnership, which is part of the Fostering College Success initiative, began last summer with New York Foundling providing tutoring and other supportive services to 40 foster care youths.

### **CSI Named to Top Military Friendly Schools List**

CSI was named a "Military Friendly School" by *GI Jobs* magazine for the eighth year in a row. The Military Friendly Schools designation is awarded to the top colleges, universities, community colleges, and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace military students, and to dedicate resources to ensure their success, both in the classroom and after graduation.

### **New Food Pantry Added to List of Student Support Services**

The College of Staten Island opened an on-campus food pantry to provide students in need with non-perishable food items. Food will be distributed to students based on the size of their families; proof of family size is not required and students will not be questioned about their personal situation.

### **Melissa Riggio Student's Art on Display in Federal Building**

Joseph DeCandido's, a student with autism, who is part of the Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program at CSI, displayed 15 original works in the exhibit entitled *See My*

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*Voice*, which was on display in the lobby of the U.S. District Court House in Downtown Brooklyn. The Melissa Riggio program engages students with intellectual disabilities in supporting individualized academic, vocational, community, and social experiences, providing the same opportunities for social and personal growth as other young adults who attend college.

### **CSI Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Receives Full Re-Accreditation**

An official letter from New York SBDC State Director James L. King, received after the committee's official site visit to CSI in August, noted that the core SBDC program, as well as a new special technology program, were "fully accredited without conditions." King also noted that the SBDC received four commendations, pointing out that "it's very unusual to receive more than two."

### **CSI Technology Incubator Center Opens in St. George**

The CSI Technology Incubator opened in St. George with the goal of benefiting experiential learning at the College and stimulating the Borough's economy. Designated as the only START-UP NY "tax-free zone" in the Borough, the CSI center will enlist eligible tech companies and other start-up businesses. Women- and minority-run business enterprises are included in the recruitment process.

### **CSI Receives Award for Completion of Dolphin Cove**

The Staten Island Chamber of Commerce presented CSI with the Albert P. Melniker Award for the completion of Dolphin Cove, the College's luxury student housing complex, adding new, dynamic dimensions toward fostering a true campus community.

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## **ADVANCING SOCIETY**

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### **CSI #18 Best-Bang-for-the-Buck College in the Northeast**

*Washington Monthly* has recently announced its 2016 "America's Best-Bang-for-the-Buck Colleges," and CSI is ranked 18th out of 386 schools in the Northeast category, from a national sample of 1,406 institutions. In 2015, CSI was ranked 326th on the list. This marks a dramatic change from last year, underscoring the vast opportunity for academic and career advancement afforded to CSI students.

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**CSI's Continuing Education Ranked #4 for Most Affordable Four-Year Online Colleges in New York**

Online Colleges.com has published its “Most Affordable Online Colleges in New York” report, and CSI ranked #4 among “Most Affordable Four-Year Online Colleges in New York.” The findings make note of several programs offered through CSI’s Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development. Through this initiative, CSI is facilitating and supporting workforce development for Staten Island and beyond.

**Foster Children Benefit from First Star/CSI Partnership**

The First Star CSI Academy is an ambitious new program funded by the College of Staten Island (CSD) Foundation that will directly support youths in foster care. CSI has been chosen by First Star, Inc. as the first institution in CUNY and New York State to house the breakthrough program. Beginning last October, approximately 30 high school students from Brooklyn and Staten Island began visiting the CSI campus one Saturday each month to participate in academic and life skills development programs. The first year of the four-year-long program will culminate in July 2017, when the group experiences college life for an entire month while living in Dolphin Cove, deepening their involvement in the academic and life skills programs.

**Willowbrook Mile Inaugurated**

Last September marked the groundbreaking for The Willowbrook Mile, an educational and reflective walking path that winds through some of the landmarks of the former Willowbrook State School, the closing of which eventually led to seminal reforms in the treatment of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities worldwide. Attendees at the event included journalist Geraldo Rivera and State Assembly Member Michael Cusick.





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[www.csi.cuny.edu](http://www.csi.cuny.edu)

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