



**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 7, 2017  
2:30pm

William J. Fritz  
*President*



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December 7, 2017

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As we celebrate our achievements this year, the College of Staten Island is proud to announce its new Strategic Plan, *Opportunity to Ascend*. Since the earliest days of Staten Island Community College in 1956 and later Richmond College, our mission has remained unchanged - to provide access to the highest quality education and the *Opportunity to Ascend* for our students. As an institution, we have that same opportunity, creating a Destination Campus where students from around the world will want to come and study and faculty and staff will want to pursue their careers. This new Strategic Plan will chart the College's future as we continue to garner national recognition for the accomplishments of our faculty and students, as well as the value of a CSI education and the earning potential of a CSI degree.

Convocation is defined as the action of calling people together, and today we celebrate our many accomplishments over the past year. In honor of our new Strategic Plan, these milestones will be aligned with the six Strategic Priorities in the Plan: Student Success, Global Engagement, Borough Stewardship, Destination Campus, Scholarship-Driven Education, and Resource Management. As the College embarks on its journey toward future excellence and achievement, we remain committed to improving the lives of our students, striving to make Staten Island a better place to live and work, and building a better world. We will continue our steadfast dedication to the Opportunity to Ascend.

Convocation is an opportunity to recognize and acknowledge the countless contributions and efforts of members of our community. While our achievements are many, our space is limited. The following list is laudable, but by no means exhaustive. The College takes great pride in these accomplishments and expresses its appreciation to all.



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# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 STUDENT SUCCESS

... Lifting as We Rise

*The College of Staten Island is committed to fostering success for students at all levels, as well as ensuring the strongest possible experience for students, including timely progress toward their degrees. Strong student engagement, both inside and outside the classroom, as well as helping students to develop a “growth mindset,” are essential ingredients in achieving these objectives. The College is committed to embracing the success of all students and eliminating achievement gaps, wherever they exist, to improve educational equity and inclusion.*

*CSI Ranks 27th among Top Salaries for Grads*

### **Commencement 2017 Celebrates Largest-ever Graduating Class**

At its 2017 Commencement in May, CSI graduated a record number of students. The total number of graduates for the Class of 2017 was 2,683.

### **CSI Ranks No.16 in U.S. for Providing Social Mobility for Students**

CSI has ranked 16th out of more than 900 colleges nationally in CollegeNET’s annual Social Mobility Index (SMI). This is the second consecutive year that CSI has placed in the top 20 colleges. The index was created by CollegeNET, a company that provides Web-based services to some 1,300 higher education and nonprofit institutions around the world. For the past three years, CollegeNET has been ranking four-year higher education institutions throughout the U.S. according to how effectively they enroll students with low-income backgrounds and graduate them into promising careers.

### **CSI Business Students Rise to the eBay Challenge**

In only their second year of involvement in the American Marketing Association (AMA) Collegiate Case Competition, students from CSI returned from the finals in New Orleans with a third-place ranking. More than 100 teams from across North America submitted a Letter of Intent to participate in the annual competition, with the CSI group placing among the nine finalist teams that were invited to present their submissions to a panel of eBay judges.

### **CSI Chosen to Join FrontierSet**

In a competitive process, CSI was chosen as one out of about 440 members of the

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American Association of State Colleges and Universities to join a national network of successful role model institutions called FrontierSet. This network will, over the course of five years, develop and share practices that aim to improve retention and graduation rates, as well as close attainment gaps between different student populations. The aim is to widely publish these practices and related case studies and make them available to any institution of higher education, for the benefit of the students.

### **CSI Third in Nation, Military Friendly Spouse School**

CSI has been nationally ranked as a military friendly school for the past eight years. This year, CSI has been recognized as one of the top ten for being an elite Military Friendly Institution in the Public Universities with more than 10,000 students. Along with this accolade, CSI has now placed in the top three Military Spouse Friendly Schools.

### **High School Students Wowed by First Annual CSI Science Day**

Students from Staten Island Technical High School, New Dorp High School, and the CSI International High School attended CSI's first annual CSI Science Day. Established by the Division of Science and Technology, the event allowed students to tour CSI laboratories and facilities, and participate in science-related activities throughout the day. CSI professors led the teens through educational activities to introduce them to some of the research and experiments going on at the College.

### **CSI Hosts Nursing Student Success Coaching Program Event**

More than 130 students, faculty, alumni, and nurses attended the "Making a Million in Nursing Seminar" at CSI. Keynote speaker Laura Gasparis Vonfrolio RN, PhD presented various entrepreneurial opportunities in the nursing field such as invention development, starting a CPR business, developing seminars, DVD and app development, as well as publishing, marketing, and advertising strategies. A nurse for more than 40 years, Dr. Vonfrolio is the President of Education Enterprises, a national nursing seminar company offering seminars, vacations, and educational products for nurses.

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT**

*... The World Right Here*

*The College of Staten Island is committed to creating a campus that embodies global perspectives in all its endeavors and engaging students, faculty, and staff to become global citizens who are inextricably connected to the world. To instill in*

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*CSI students a sense of global social responsibility and action through local, national, and international engagement.*

### **Governor of Goiás State in Brazil Visits CSI**

Tayrone Di Martino Gomes -Secretário de Estado de Governo (Secretary of State for the Government of Goiás in Brazil) and other representatives from his office, visited CSI to meet with President Fritz, other administrators, and members of the Center for Global Engagement to discuss a partnership between his state and the College for the Goiás Without Borders Program. This innovative program will offer funding opportunities for language and culture immersion as well as other areas of training for citizens of the state of Goiás. The meeting was facilitated by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. CSI and Goiás are currently working on the details of a summer program for Brazilian high school students to spend a month studying English at CSI as they prepare for their final year of high school.

### **Peruvian Consul General Visits CSI**

Ambassador María Teresa Merino Villarán de Hart, the Consul General of Peru in New York City, paid a visit to CSI on November 1. The visit was a result of an invitation extended by the CSI Eta Lambda Chapter of the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars. Ambassador Merino Villarán de Hart's visit culminated with a keynote presentation titled "Advantages and Challenges of Diplomatic Life" at the Annual Induction Ceremony of the CSI Eta Lambda Chapter and her honorary induction into the organization.

### **Mexican Consul General Visits CSI**

The Consul General of Mexico in New York, Mr. Diego Gómez Pickering, visited CSI on November 16, and had a meeting with Mexican students who are at the English Language Institute (ELI) taking classes, attending conferences, and enjoying field trips for a month to improve their skills in the language. These students were able to visit CSI thanks to a scholarship funded by the Mexican government. Consul Gómez spent the morning talking to ELI students asking about their academic backgrounds, English improvement, and future goals.

### **IAIR Conference Brings New Breadth of Understanding**

The Tenth Biennial Conference of the International Academy for Intercultural Research (IAIR) took place at CSI under the conference theme, "Applying Research to Improve Intercultural Relations." IAIR is comprised of about 250 scholars from various disciplines including education, anthropology, management, communications, psychology, sociology, and policy science. The Academy's main purpose is to provide understanding—disseminating to the public information regarding intercultural

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relations. This, in turn, encourages exchanges between people with an interest in intercultural relations.

### **CSI Hosts dg.o 2017**

Researchers and practitioners joined forces as CSI welcomed members of the Digital Government Society (DGS) and the Intelligent Community Forum (ICF) for dg.o 2017, the 18th Annual International Conference on Digital Government Research, which focused on Innovations and Transformations in Government, with a particular emphasis on the role of technology in driving, shaping, and monitoring these changes. Co-hosted by DGS and ICF keynote speakers and panelists engaged 250 attendees from 26 countries in joint plenary panel sessions.

### **CSI Students Volunteer in Costa Rica during Winter Session**

A group of CSI students volunteered their time over Winter Session at the Hogar de baik orphanage in Costa Rica. The students helped to rebuild the orphanage and also cared for the children who lived there.

### **CSI Hosts Tournées Film Festival, Concludes with Student Film**

The Department of Media Culture and CSI presented the annual Tournées Film Festival. With funding from the French-American Cultural Exchange in the Education and the Arts (FACE) organization and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States, students and Staten Island residents were given the opportunity to view recent and important films from France. The festival also included a film created by CSI students.

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 BOROUGH STEWARDSHIP**

*... One Degree of Separation*

*The College of Staten Island is fully committed to advancing its role as a “Steward of Place” through direct, two-way interaction with the Staten Island community through the development, exchange, and application of knowledge, information, and expertise for mutual benefit in such areas as health and safety initiatives, educational partnerships, and economic and career/workforce development.*

### **CSI St. George Opens**

The CSI St. George Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, last June, officially announced CSI St. George, the College’s new location, which is now offering courses to matriculated



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students in the Fall 2017 term. The new location provides convenient higher education opportunities to approximately 18,000 college-age residents of the area.

### **CSI Tech Incubator Graduates First Cohort**

The CSITech Incubator, the Borough's first-ever tech start-up program, has graduated its first cohort, consisting of three businesses. The Tech Incubator allows start-up companies to leverage the great economic promise stemming from the renaissance of new development in the North Shore, while also providing workforce and other opportunities to an area with significant socioeconomic need. As a result of their participation in the CSITech Incubator, the start-up companies have closed significant commercial contracts and received recognition in major press outlets.

### **CSI Partners with Staten Island PPS to Provide Healthcare Training**

CSI has partnered with the Staten Island Performing Provider Services (PPS)-initiated programs to train healthcare providers. Over the past year, the collaboration has sponsored a Community Health Worker and Care Management program to support Medicare patients. The training equips existing healthcare professionals with the knowledge and skills required to transition into Community Health Worker roles while they earn CHW certification and three college credits from CUNY. The Staten Island PPS has also supported the College by providing significant scholarships and programmatic funding to support students within the School of Health Sciences. The Staten Island PPS will continue to offer learning and development opportunities to healthcare professionals on Staten Island through continued partnerships with Workforce Development and Innovation and the School of Health Science.

### **AT&T and CSI Collaborate to Provide STEM Experience for High School Students**

Last summer, Staten Island high school students had the opportunity to hone their business and technology skills by participating in the Summer High School Entrepreneur Start-Up Camp, thanks to generous funding from AT&T. This is the third consecutive year that CSI Workforce Development and Innovation has received funding from AT&T to create and offer STEM programs for high school students. These programs expose students to emerging technologies, allowing them to learn about and explore potential technology career paths. This collaboration was fostered by Jason Razefsky, Chief of Staff for Borough President James Oddo. The students simulated the process of creating a start-up venture after they identified a market need, leading to the creation of a product to provide an innovative tech solution.

### **President Fritz Named to Committee to Explore Unification of CSI and IBR**

President Fritz was appointed as co-chair of a Blue-Ribbon Committee convened by

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New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to explore the unification of CSI with the Institute for Basic Research (IBR). Assistant Professor Daniel McCloskey and Vice President for Economic Development, Continuing Studies, and Government Relations Kenichi Iwama were also appointed to the committee. A feasibility study by the committee will consider whether oversight of IBR should be transferred from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities to the College of Staten Island. CSI and IBR have a long history of collaboration in the field of neuroscience.

### **CSI Hosts Forum on Issues Regarding Race in the Borough**

CSI and the Staten Island Advance hosted a forum on race relations on the Island, which featured former Midland Beach resident Army Maj. Danny Sjursen, who wrote an article on the issue for the newspaper, and is currently writing a book on the topic, after years of research.

### **CSI's First Star Academy Starts Summer Program**

CSI welcomed First Star Academy students, family, and faculty members on June 9 to kick off the summer portion of the program. First Star is a non-profit that aims to improve the lives of children who have experienced abuse or neglect. Since 2011, First Star has focused on ensuring that the foster students in their programs are involved in higher education.

### **NY1 Holds Live Town Hall at CSI: Forum Addresses “Build It Back” Program**

CSI was the location of a NY1 sponsored Live Town Hall broadcast titled Build It Broke. The segment examined the city's Superstorm Sandy reconstruction program, Build It Back, which has been plagued by building delays, soaring costs, and communication issues since its inception in 2014. Approximately 100 community members gathered with elected officials to voice their concerns about the program.

### **Melissa Riggio Graduation Ceremony Celebrates Its First Four-Year Graduation**

Three members of the Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program at CSI graduated last June, marking the program's first four-year graduation. The fully inclusive college-based program is designed to prepare people with intellectual disabilities for adult life through higher-education coursework, career exploration and preparation, self-awareness and personal improvement, community preparation, and socialization. Newly designed as a four-year certificate program, it provides individualized academic, vocational, community, and social experiences for young adults in a highly supportive, yet challenging, environment.

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### **SI SBDC Awarded for Excellence and Innovation**

The Staten Island Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has been selected as the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2017 Small Business Development Center for Excellence and Innovation Award Winner for both the New York District as well as SBA's Region II, which includes all districts in New York State, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The award honors the SBDC for excellence in providing value to small businesses and advancing program delivery and management through innovation.

### **CSI Celebrates GIS Day**

On Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Day, an international celebration focusing on the use of GIS technology in real-world applications that are making a difference in society today, students from New Dorp and Staten Island Technical High Schools visited CSI as part of the 30,000 Degrees initiative to participate in a comprehensive agenda led by CSI faculty, staff, and students, as well as GIS professionals.

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 DESTINATION CAMPUS**

*... A Preferred Choice Institution*

*The College of Staten Island will be a destination campus: a preferred choice institution. Students, faculty, and staff will tell our story to various stakeholders, fostering a campus culture that supports and reflects the best of CSI, and cultivating relationships both on and off campus. We will enhance the physical beauty and natural surroundings through the preservation and improvement of the campus infrastructure, facilities, and safety features.*

### **CSI Undertakes Infrastructure Improvements**

The CSI Willowbrook campus and the new facility at St. George are benefiting from \$57M in NYS capital funding, as well as funding from CUNY, making much-needed renovations possible. Key projects include reconstruction of the Loop Road with the addition of new curbs and storm sewer drainage to help with longevity, gutter and leader installation to control rainwater runoff of the roofs, hardscape replacements for four academic buildings to replace entry plazas, the renovation of Building 2M to add ten classrooms and some adjunct faculty office space, and the renovation of the CSI St. George location, completely renovating 16,000 square feet into ten classrooms and administrative spaces.

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**CSI Named 2016-17 STEM Jobs Approved College**

CSI has been designated a 2016-2017 STEM JobsSM Approved College by Victory Media. The 2016-17 STEM JobsSM Approved Colleges survey rates universities, colleges, community colleges, and trade schools on their ability and responsiveness to connecting programs and students with high-demand, high-growth STEM occupations.

**Dolphins Score a Victory over Brooklyn for First CUNYAC Title since 2005**

CSI's Women's Basketball team won their first CUNYAC Championship since 2005, beating Brooklyn College 53-42. This also marked the team's seventh CUNYAC Championship overall.

**CSI Ranked No. 11 in Top Collegiate Continuing Education Programs in New York**

In a listing of the top collegiate Vocational and Trade Education Programs in New York, the College of Staten Island (CSI) was ranked number 11 for four-year schools by the Community for Accredited Online Schools for 2016-2017. Comparing data on student success and support services, program variety and nearly a dozen other qualitative and quantitative measures, the site highlighted a total of 64 colleges and universities for excellence in trade and vocational education in the state.

**CSI Ranked 23rd on Most Affordable Colleges List**

CSI has been ranked No. 23 on Great Value College's Most Affordable Colleges list. The ranking considers net cost, accessibility, and student retention.

**CSI Ranked in Top Half on the Student Loan Report's Most Affordable Colleges List**

CSI placed in the top half of schools in this report, which identified the most affordable colleges for incoming freshmen with financial need. Schools were ranked based on data from Peterson's Financial Aid Data, which includes the percentage of students with financial need and average amount given to students in financial need.

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## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5 SCHOLARSHIP-DRIVEN EDUCATION

... A Community of Scholars

*Excellence in scholarship, research, and creative activities strengthens academic programs and provides the foundations for many “high-impact” scholarship-based student learning experiences. Opportunities for student engagement through undergraduate and graduate student research, artistic and creative expression, academic internships, and experiential learning, both in the curriculum and as part of campus life, will strengthen the value of the degree that students attain at graduation.*

### **Faculty Excellence Remains High**

CSI celebrated another year of faculty recognition through an impressive list of grants and awards. English Professor Tychimba Jess represents this excellence, receiving the 2017 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry for his book *Olio*.

### **CSI Students Continue to Excel**

CSI graduates are continuing to blaze impressive trails as graduates have been accepted to schools such as Oxford, Columbia, Rutgers, and NJ Medical School. Two CSI students were accepted to the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, and one received the 2017 Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship. Some of the companies that have hired CSI graduates include Google, the MTA, National Grid, NYU Langone, Merrill Lynch, American Express, Deloitte, and FINRA. Exemplary of these achievements is CSI alumnus Keegan Fernandes '15, '16, '17, who has won a prestigious Jonas Salk Scholarship. A veteran of the U.S. Army, Fernandes has received a Purple Heart Medal and ribbons denoting Army Commendation, Army Service, NATO Service, and Global War on Terrorism.

### **Largest-ever Undergraduate Research Conference Spotlights Student/Faculty Collaboration**

The fruits of the excellent academic connections between CSI students and their faculty mentors were on display, last May, at the annual Undergraduate Conference on Research, Scholarship, and Performance, which took place in the Center for the Arts. This year's Conference was the largest ever with 335 research poster presenters (200 actual posters), 12 oral presentations, and nine panel participants, as well as performances from 80 Music and Dance students, and works by 30 students of the Visual Arts.

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### **Students Display Their Talents at Second Annual Graduate Research Conference**

Graduate students at CSI had the opportunity to share their research with a larger audience at the Second Annual Graduate Conference on Research and Scholarship in the Center for the Arts. The Conference also spotlighted the one-on-one mentoring relationships between CSI faculty and students, which is a critical component of an education at the College. This year's program consisted of four oral presentations (moderated by Professor Wei Zhang) and 54 poster presentations by more than 67 CSI students.

### **Willowbrook Memorial Lecture Honors David Goode**

The event, which featured a keynote address by former Willowbrook State School employee and founder of A Very Special Place Diane Buglioli, honored David Goode, PhD, retiring CSI Professor of 28 years and expert in the field of individuals with disabilities. Dr. Goode is the author of A World without Words and co-author of A History and Sociology of Willowbrook State School, which he wrote with Darryl Hill, Jean Reiss, and William Bronson, PhD in 2013.

### **CSI Ranks Second on Fulbright Scholars Top-Producing List for Master's Institutions**

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs has announced the U.S. colleges and universities that produced the most 2016-2017 Fulbright U.S. Scholars. CSI is a top-producing Fulbright Scholar institution, receiving the second most Fulbright awards in a ranking of master's institutions. With 15 Fulbright awards since 2000, CSI received three awards just this past academic year.

### **CSI Launches Master of Engineering in Electrical Engineering**

This fall, CSI introduced a Master of Engineering in Electrical Engineering (MEEE) program. The College joins only one other CUNY school, The City College of New York (CCNY), which offers the degree. The 30-credit program has two optional specializations: Photonic Systems and Networks or Information Processing and Transmission.

### **CSI Offers Nationally Accredited MSW and BSSW Programs**

The Master of Social Work (MSW) program at CSI has recently been fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Accreditation (CSWE), the national accreditor for undergraduate and graduate social work programs. The MSW has a single concentration in Disability Studies, which, according to the CSWE, is unique in the nation. The College now has two nationally accredited social work programs, a clinical MSW and a generalist BSSW.

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## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

*... Aspirations and Resources Aligned*

*The College of Staten Island has received recognition for its signature high-quality, low-cost education. As a steward of public resources, the College will be deliberate regarding how and where it invests its funds, on conserving resources, and being more creative in developing and maintaining revenue streams and aligning resource allocations to strategic priorities.*

### **CSI Launches New Redesigned Website**

CSI unveiled its new Website, last spring. The launch of the new Website brings a modern design and a number of new features aimed at improving a visitor's experience on the site: improved navigation makes it possible to get anywhere in three clicks or less; responsive design for mobile devices addresses the way the majority of visitors access the site; the site is hosted on a resilient platform, allowing for better disaster recovery/business continuity preparedness for the site; and the implementation of a Content Management System that will allow more people to become contributors to the site. Significantly, full-time faculty can now manage their own newly designed, feature-rich faculty profile pages.

### **Number and Dollar Amount of Grants Exceeds Last Year's Total**

The number of grants received at the College of Staten Island has increased over the past year. The total from November 1, 2015 to October 31, 2016 was 54. A total of 62 grants was received from November 1, 2016 to October 31, 2017. The monetary total of the grants also increased from \$6,156,722.65 in 2015-2016 to \$7,439,908.00 in 2016-2017.

### **Sustaining Success: CSI Students Compete in CUNY-Wide Contest**

CSI students competed in a sustainability competition that sought to encourage individuals and teams of students to advance the sustainability work of The City University of New York, in partnership with faculty mentors. The team was granted funding on behalf of Vice Chancellor Christopher Rosa and University Director Tria Case for their proposal on waste and recycling at CSI with the integration of social media.



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