



March 7, 2025

Colleagues:

As we enter a new month, I write with updates and information that you may find of interest. I wish you all a Happy Women's History Month, and Ramadan Kareem to all those who celebrate.

Since I last wrote, I have been battling a serious case of influenza—if you have not yet done so, I urge that you get vaccinated as the past few weeks have been rather rough. That has not stopped the pace or scope of activities, however. Since I last communicated with you, I have been busy with meetings both on campus and off. Last week, I was supposed to have attended a luncheon organized by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), an organization which we—as a Hispanic Serving Institution—are a member, and hosted by our colleagues at the Borough of Manhattan Community College. My illness prevented that but I was able to circle back with many of the attendees subsequently, who shared HACU's concerns about the potential impact of rumored federal policies, especially as it pertains to financial aid and programming for immigrant and LGBTQIA+ students. Rest assured that our administration—both locally and at the Central Office—is working closely with the Attorney General of New York (who hosted a Webinar on this topic just a few days ago), as well as with legal experts and authorities to devise and implement a strategy to support our students during these challenging times. As more information and guidance becomes available, we will share, but the fundamental principles remain: we remain committed to upholding our responsibilities to all our students, while abiding by all local, state, and federal directives.

Last week also saw a Community Health and Wellness Fair, another sign that the College is the intellectual, cultural, and community hub for the Island. Several dozen attendees showed up for free health screenings, to receive information about lifestyle choices, and to learn how to improve their physical and mental well-being. This theme of self-advocacy and empowerment was also on display at this week's Continuing Education and Workforce Development Job Expo, held in 1P, where many un- or under-employed individuals learned about free programs such as HVAC technician training, Amazon cloud architect, and other opportunities. We often think of the College as serving our 10,000 matriculated students, but the number of those who benefit from our programs is actually far greater and our impact is equally transformational. Our impact in the community was also on full display at Sunday's first inclusive Staten Island St. Patrick's Day Parade, where a contingent of students,

employees, and even Danny the Dolphin marched proudly down Forest Avenue for the “wearing of the blue.”

My illness prevented me from attending the dedication of our newly renovated MultiFaith Center in 1C, which was generously underwritten by the UJA Federation and the Jewish Communal Fund, with support by the JCC and Hillel of Staten Island. During this season of heightened religiosity (Ramadan, Lent, Passover) it is good to know that there is an inclusive and welcoming space for all members of our community to gather and socialize. The theme of campus as a welcoming and inclusive space was one that we heard time and again this Monday at the annual Borough meeting of the CUNY Board of Trustees, where over a dozen speakers signed up to testify about the many wonderful things—and of course the constant challenges—that define the College of Staten Island. I was pleased and proud to have participated in the hearing, and to share our success (and frustrations) with my colleagues from the Central Office.

This week saw another follow-up meeting with the NYC Department of Transportation, the launch of CUNY’s Women’s Conference Week in honor of Women’s History Month, a rescheduled “Tea with Tim,” where I got to learn more about the very many projects being handled by our crack Information Technology team, and the monthly meeting of the CSI Foundation Board’s Executive Committee, where we strategized about our upcoming gala, “[Spring Into Giving](#).” We also had another great installment of our Legal Lecture Series, hosted by Associate Professor Michael Paris, where we welcomed to campus the Honorable Judge Gerard E. Lynch for a talk and Q&A with our community. My staff and I also met with Richmond County District Attorney Michael McMahon to discuss how to support victims of sexual assault on college campuses (and more importantly the steps we can take to prevent these crimes in the first place). I also met on Friday morning with representatives of the New York State Assembly and Senate who represent our district—many thanks to Assemblymembers Fall, Reilly, Pirozzolo, and Tannousis, and Senators Lanza and Scarcella-Spanton (a CSI alumna!)—where I petitioned for increased support for CUNY and, especially, our campus. It is wonderful to have such attentive and responsive friends in influential positions.

This weekend brings another trip to Albany, for the annual SOMOS convening, and next week a pair of high-profile and long-awaited accreditation visits: the American Council for Education in Nursing (ACEN) will be on campus to assess our Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, and the Association of Colleges and Schools of Business (AACSB) will conduct its inaugural evaluation of the Lucille and Jay Chazanoff School of Business. I am sure you will join me in wishing our colleagues the very best of luck and hopefully, soon, our congratulations for a job well done!

In addition, there’s plenty more to look forward to this weekend and next week from our Dolphins, as both our Men’s and Women’s Basketball teams have reached the ECC Tournament Semifinals in Buffalo, and CSI diver Yubal Parra, fresh off of his Northeast-10 Championship Diver of the Meet citation, has earned an invitation to the NCAA Division II

National Championship competition in Indianapolis next week! Way to go, Yubal, and good look to all of our Dolphins in action!

Until next time,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy G. Lynch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Timothy G. Lynch, Ph.D. (he/him/his)
President, College of Staten Island
The City University of New York
2800 Victory Blvd, SI, NY 10314
718.982.2400

