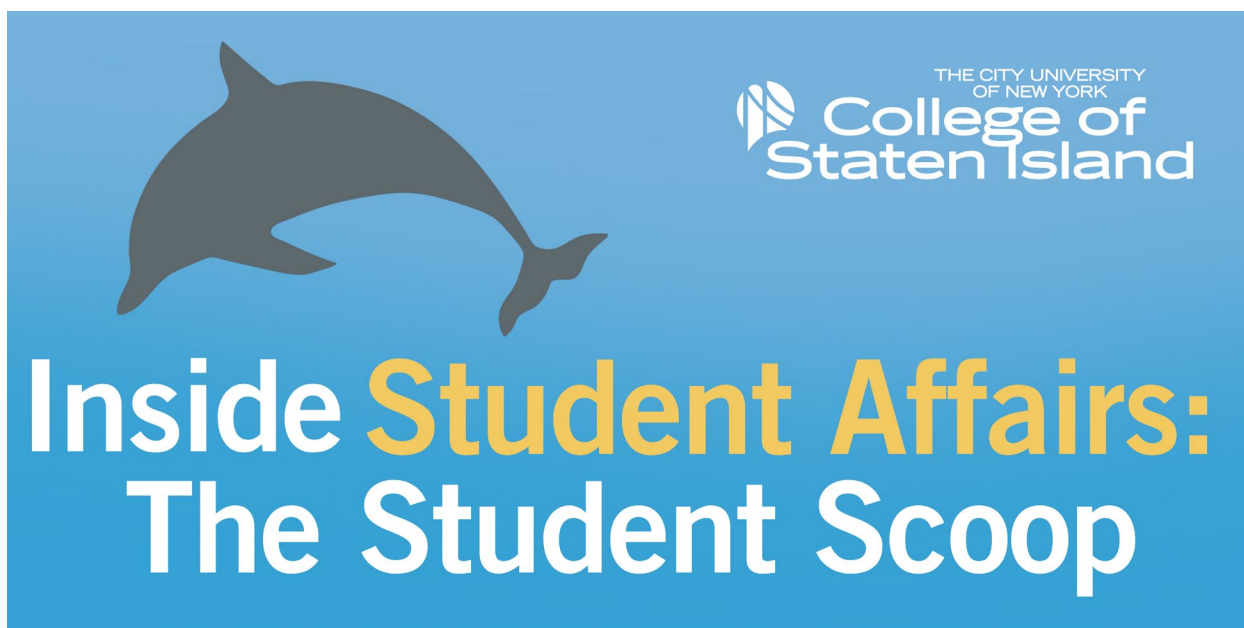




Dear College of Staten Island Students,

Dolphins! Welcome to Fall 2026 here at the beautiful College of Staten Island. Whether you are joining us for the first time or returning in pursuit of your degree, I am honored to welcome you on behalf of Student Affairs.

Our entire campus community has been preparing for your arrival with anticipation. **You** are the *heartbeat* of our campus community, and we are thrilled you are home.

Throughout the semester, you will hear from me with information, updates, and opportunities. If you have questions at any point, please reach out - together we will work to identify solutions.

Before you dive in, here's the short version of what I want you to know:

TL;DR: If you only read one part of this email, make it this: Welcome to Fall 2026, Dolphins! CSI's new Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Tommy Tressler-Gelok, is here to help make your student experience a success. **Get involved. Show Up. Find Your People.** Attend events, connect with student organizations, and take advantage of the many wellness, financial, academic, and career resources available to you. Most importantly: **say hello, get involved, and care for yourself, for others, and for our CSI community.**

Introducing Myself

My name is Dr. Tommy Tressler-Gelok and I am the new [Vice President for Student Affairs](#). It's my job to make sure we are providing you with a **premier** student experience. Your experience at CSI is grounded in success, opportunity, access, and fun. My focus is working with our campus

to advocate for enhanced student experiences—no idea is too big or too small! Throughout the year, we will offer events, services, and opportunities that I hope you engage with.

Upcoming Events

September 3: Spirit Day Giveaway

Catch me with Danny the Dolphin to grab some CSI swag and giveaways during Club Hours! If you see us on the golf cart, stop us and say hello!

Donuts & Yapping with VP Tommy

Grab a donut—let's chat!

September 10, 8:30–10am: Outside 1A/1P near Bus Stop

September 29, 2:30–4pm: Plaza Outside 1C

Please stop me on campus and say hello! I am here for you and would love to get to know you.

Getting Involved

Outside of the classroom, our student affairs and campus partners are always looking to provide you with opportunities to grow. Here are some quick ways you can get involved:

- **Involvement:** Getting involved on campus is one of the most beneficial ways to become immersed in the CSI community. Join us for fun, food, and opportunities to participate during our *Dolphin Days* throughout September, including *DolphinFest*, featuring our Involvement Fair and Student Services Fair.
- **Student Groups:** Getting involved in student groups is easy at CSI. All of our groups can be found on [CSI CONNECT](#), our web- and app-based engagement platform. There are 50+ student clubs, publications, and organizations that represent interests ranging from academic to faith-based, cultural to social-action to service, and more. If you don't see a group that meets your interests, visit the Involvement Center in the Campus Center 1C-212B to meet with an Involvement Ambassador. They will help you start your own club or find other ways for you to get involved.
- **App:** To get the CSI CONNECT mobile app, simply download Campus Groups from the [Apple](#) or [Google](#) Store, search CSI CONNECT. Log in with your CUNYFIRST credentials. On the app you can search for and join clubs, discover and register for student events, connect with fellow students through FIN Network, and more.
- **Student Government:** Looking to make an impact on campus? Student Government gives students a voice in decisions that affect our campus, advocates for student needs, and works to improve the student experience at CSI. Visit them in 1C-207 or on the [Student Government website](#) to learn more about making your voice heard at CSI.

Wellness Connections

- **Health & Wellness Services:** Whether you are living in Dolphin Cove or commuting from next door, Health & Wellness is here for you. High quality, cost effective, and confidential services are just a moment away. See them in 1C or visit their [website](#).
- **Counseling Center:** This is a full-service facility here to help from support to skill development to life skills—*they are here for you*. They are a passionate group of folks who are willing to be your partner on this journey. Visit their [website](#) or give them a quick [follow](#) on social media to learn more.

Success Support Structures

We have a great deal of support structures to help you get through the semester.

- **[Petrie Student Emergency Grant](#):** Students facing unexpected financial challenges may be eligible for support through the Carroll and Milton Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund. The fund provides emergency grants to help students manage short-term financial hardships so they can stay enrolled, stay focused on their studies, and continue working toward their degree. [Learn more](#) about Petrie Student Emergency Grant guidelines and requirements or submit an [application](#).
- **Career & Professional Development:** The [Center for Career and Professional Development](#) is here to help you make the most of your CSI experience and prepare for what comes next. Whether you're exploring careers, searching for an internship or job, or looking to strengthen your professional skills, they're here to support you every step of the way. Log in to [Handshake](#) today to explore opportunities or make an appointment with a Career Specialist. You can reach them on email at careers@csi.cuny.edu, visit in building 1A-105, and follow on [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).
- **Regular Updates:** The Registrar will send you updates throughout the term. [Keep the Academic Calendar handy in case you need to know any important dates](#).

Annual Reminders

- **Policies to Review:** As a reminder, CUNY has a few policies that help provide you with support. These include the [Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy](#), [Policy on Sexual Misconduct](#), and the [Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation Reporting Form](#). To learn more, please contact the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (718-982-2250) in 1A-205 to speak with Director Tara Mastrangelo or Assistant Director DeSyre Collier.
- **Religious Accommodations:** For those who have religious observations throughout the semester, we have a [Request for Accommodations policy](#). Please consider speaking

directly to your professor about your needs. You can also email Student Affairs for assistance.

- **Financial Aid Reminders:** 🎉 Haven't filed your FAFSA yet? Great news...it's not too late! 🎉 Don't leave money on the table! File your FAFSA today at studentaid.gov using school code 002698, or stop by our FAFSA Filing Lab in Building 2A-402. We're here to help make the process easy. Don't forget: Financial Aid certification day is September 3. Courses added after this day will not be considered for federal/state aid.
- **Social Media, Messaging, and More:** Just a reminder to be kind and respectful to one another, both on and off the internet. Please be mindful that communication threads—including social media accounts, group messaging platforms, and other online interactions—may be investigated when they are reported to the College for potential violations of our policies.

Challenges for the Semester

As we enter the semester, I am calling on all our Dolphins to help me show the culture of care that exists here at CSI. So, I ask you to join me in three challenges:

1. **Say Hello!** A simple smile or hello can go a long way. Be the difference maker.
2. **Get Involved.** This is your campus. Your college community. Your home. Get involved. Leave your mark. I can't wait to see what you do with this.
3. **Care.** I hope throughout the semester you demonstrate care. Care for yourself. Care for others. Care for our community. Through simple actions, we can all show the community that exists on our 204-acre campus.

The new semester brings a lot of energy, nerves, and anticipation. You got this and we are here to make sure you get there.

Finally, as we begin a new semester, don't forget to take care of yourself in all ways, always.

Best,

Tommy



Image Description: A picture of 35 members of the Student Affairs staff standing together in a photo. The group is standing on Alumni Walk with the Library behind them.