CSI ANNOUNCES STEERING COMMITTEE FOR “GO TO HIGH GROUND” STUDY
Members will fulfill an important advisory role related to the Go to High Ground planning and feasibility study funded by the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR)

Staten Island, NY (November 17, 2015)– The College of Staten Island (CSI) today announced a new Steering Committee related to the “Go to High Ground” Study will be created. Members of the Steering Committee are expected to represent a broad range of stakeholders from various organizations and community interests. To meet this goal and maximize community participation, CSI invites all interested individuals to apply by Friday, November 27, 2015.

The Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) awarded $300,000 in CDBG-DR funding to the Research Foundation of the City University of New York (CUNY), on behalf of the College of Staten Island (CSI), to complete the “Go to High Ground” (GTHG) feasibility and planning study.

“With automobile transportation playing an integral role in the lives and livelihood of many Staten Islanders, the Governor’s funding of an automobile evacuation and recovery planning study will serve the residents and commerce of Staten Island very well in the event of further evacuation needs,” said CSI President Dr. William J. Fritz. “The ‘Go to High Ground’ study will determine how to best leverage the Island’s unique features and resources to safely and efficiently move personal and commercial vehicles to very nearby high ground, safe from the flood-prone areas. I applaud the Governor and his team for taking a leadership role in the safety and wellbeing of all Staten Island residents.”

The project, which was developed by CSI and the Staten Island NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Planning Committee, began July 1st, 2015 and is expected to be completed in 18 months. The study, aims to create a wayfinding signage program, examine potential locations for automobile evacuation, examine legal and regulatory barriers, and conceptualize education campaigns tailored toward the borough.

In support of these efforts, the Steering Committee will play an integral advisory role throughout the planning process. The GTHG Steering Committee will involve collaboration with city, state, and federal agencies as well as non-governmental and business organizations. Members will assist in efforts to develop a community outreach strategy to build cooperative partnerships, and identify an “Action Plan” for plan implementation.

The Steering Committee will include up to 15 representatives from a broad range of key stakeholder groups. CSI expects that there will be considerable interest in this program, and therefore, not all applicants will be selected.
Interested individuals may apply online to serve on the Steering Committee at: http://www.csi.cuny.edu/edcp/highground/pdf/Committee_application.pdf
Paper applications can be obtained at the College of Staten Island Office of Economic Development and Civic Prosperity and are available upon request by calling 718-982-2715.

The application period is open as of today, November 17th, 2015, and will remain open until November 27th, 2015 or until 15 positions filled. To learn more about the GTHG study please visit CSI’s website http://www.csi.cuny.edu/edcp/highground/ and Facebook page: www.facebook.com/statenislandstormsupport

BACKGROUND

The College of Staten Island (CSI) is a senior college of The City University of New York (CUNY) offering Doctoral programs, Advanced Certificate programs, and Master’s programs, as well as Bachelor’s and Associate’s degrees. The College leads in national and state rankings published by magazines such as Forbes, Money, and Washington Monthly, which benchmark quality of education, student satisfaction, student success, and career success, as well as sixth in the nation on CollegeNet’s “Social Mobility Index,” and in the top 15% on Payscale’s alumni salary potential report.

CSI is home to a School of Business, School of Education, and School of Health Sciences, as well as The Verrazano School Honors Program, and the Teacher Education Honors Academy. CSI is also a select campus of the Macaulay Honors College University Scholars program.

The CUNY Interdisciplinary High-Performance Computing Center, one of the most powerful supercomputers in the New York City region, handles big-data analysis for faculty researchers and their student research teams, as well as researchers nationwide. The 204-acre landscaped campus of CSI, the largest in NYC, is fully accessible and contains an advanced, networked infrastructure to support technology-based teaching, learning, and research. The new apartment-style luxury residence halls, Dolphin Cove, is home to students from across the world and has increased the College’s national and international desirability.