

# CSI Self-Study Updates

If you would like to learn more about Middle States Accreditation at CSI, please visit the following site: [www.csi.cuny.edu/middle-states](http://www.csi.cuny.edu/middle-states). You can also read the [CSI Self-Study Updates](#).

## What has been done since the last CSI Self-Study Update?

- The Working Groups have written the first draft of their chapters and have submitted them to the Middle States Steering Committee for review. The Working Groups are revising the draft submitted based on feedback received by the committee.
- The Steering Committee continues to collect evidence and address areas that need improvement to be in compliance with the Middle States Standards.

## What's next?

**March 2021** - The drafts are compiled into one Self-Study document.

**April 2021** – The Self-Study draft is submitted to the College Community and CUNY Central for comment.

**May 2021** – Two *town halls* will be held to assist with gathering feedback on the Self-Study document from the College Community – **Tuesday, May 4, from 2:30-4pm, and Wednesday, May 12, from 10-11:30am.**

**June-July 2021** - Revisions are made to the Self-Study incorporating feedback received.

**August 2021** – The final Self-Study draft is submitted to the Middle States Evaluation Team Chair.

**Fall 2021** – Prepare and host the Middle States Evaluation Team Chair Visit.

## How can I get involved?

There are multiple ways you can participate in the Self-Study process.

- Become familiar with the Middle States Standards, the Self-Study Institutional Priorities of CSI, and the Self-Study Intended Outcomes for CSI.
- Assist with the collection of evidence to document how the College is in compliance with the Middle States Standards.
- Participate as a member of a Working Group.
- Provide feedback on drafts submitted to the College community.
- Attend Self-Study events.

If you would like to provide comments or more actively participate in the Self-Study, please contact the Steering Committee at [CSISelfStudy@csi.cuny.edu](mailto:CSISelfStudy@csi.cuny.edu).

## CSI Insights

One requirement of the Self-Study is to identify Institutional Priorities that will be discussed within the context of Middle States Standards. In this issue of **CSI Insights**, we focus on evidence gathered for our Self-Study Institutional Priority, *Borough Stewardship*. Within the Self-Study, Borough Stewardship is defined as advancement of the College as an “anchor institution” on Staten Island by promoting the two-way exchange of knowledge and expertise between the College community and the Staten Island community. Below we highlight two programs that support this work.

### **Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program**

In 2008, CSI partnered with AHRC New York City (a family-governed organization of support and advocacy for people with disabilities) to launch the Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program (MRHEP). The program offers a fully inclusive college experience for non-matriculated students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Mirroring the baccalaureate degree track, the program enables participants to immerse themselves in college classes, co-curricular programs, civic engagement, and carefully designed learning experiences to support self-sufficiency. CSI’s participation in this program aligns with its strategic priorities of inclusiveness and borough stewardship, especially in the service of social justice and historical memory: the campus occupies the site of the Willowbrook State School, a notoriously overcrowded and poorly run institution for children with intellectual disabilities that closed in the 1980s after its many abuses had been exposed. In the thirteen years since its inception, the program at CSI has served 66 students.

CSI’s partnership with MHRP has resulted in two pioneering milestones. In the summer of 2019, the program partnered with the Center for Global Engagement to send a student to study abroad in Florence Italy, under the supervision of a mentor. This was the first time this has been done in CUNY’s history. Last fall, the program enabled a student to enroll in CUNY Start, with the same expectations that apply to all other students in the program. With successful participation, this student has paved the way for other students in the program to be invited to participate in the future.

### **CSI Tech Incubator**

The CSI Tech Incubator was launched in the spring of 2016 with the goal of raising Staten Island’s profile as an “innovation district” and transforming the Borough’s North Shore into a hub for creativity, applied research, and economic growth. This wide-ranging program serves both CSI students and the Staten Island community, with the goal of building connections between the two. In its outward-facing role, the Tech Incubator offers innovators and entrepreneurs a rich program of professional development workshops, mentorships, connections to early-stage investors, and the resources of the larger CUNY system.

On campus, the program partners with the NYC Tech Talent Pipeline (TTP) to connect qualified, upper-level computer science candidates with NYC businesses. Under the TTP Residency, CSI juniors take part in a training program leading to a paid internship at NYC businesses in tech fields such as web design and software development. To date, 28 employers have served as host sites, and 70 CSI students have participated in the program. The Incubator has also provided employment to three CSI Computer Science majors to work in the Borough as program facilitators for Girls Who Code, a program for high school girls who want to learn coding and explore careers in the tech sector.