

August 15, 2012

## **William J. Fritz's May 21, 2012 Remarks to The City University of New York's Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees**

I am deeply honored by the confidence placed in me by Chancellor Goldstein and the Board of Trustees in appointing me as Interim President of the College of Staten Island [CSI].

I have served for over 30 years in higher education, both as a faculty member and as an administrator in large public urban access institutions – Georgia State University in the University System of Georgia, and, for the past four years, in The City University of New York [CUNY] working under the leadership of President Tomás Morales and with my colleagues at CSI and throughout CUNY.

As a faculty member and as an administrator, I have always put students first and believe that students deserve an education that is rewarding, relevant, rigorous, and affordable, and I am proud to be working within CUNY to build programs that lead to student success.

It is also a great honor and privilege to serve as the voice for the College of Staten Island. CSI has an exciting new Strategic Plan, *Many Voices, One Vision*, that speaks to student success, faculty development and scholarship, and service to the Staten Island community.

This Plan will serve as a road map for our future. CSI has world-class faculty whose research, scholarship, and performances are second to none. They are also dedicated to helping students, as illustrated by our signature Undergraduate Conference on Research, Scholarship, and Performance. Our students increasingly come from the top high schools on Staten Island, are participating in study abroad, are graduating in record numbers, and are going on to prestigious graduate and professional schools.

We have developed, or are in the process of developing, many new academic programs designed to serve the needs of Staten Island. I believe that our new residence halls will serve as a unique resource to the City – one that will provide a residential life experience on a safe traditional campus with full access to the resources and excitement of New York.

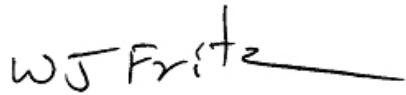
The last several years have seen an increase in the number of programs receiving or seeking accreditation from national accrediting bodies, as well as the establishment of new national honor societies [National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Phi Beta Delta (international education), Phi Alpha Theta (history), and Sigma Beta Delta (business)].

We also received a great report from the Middle States visiting team, which found that the College met all of the Commission's 14 standards and further provided commendations on 12 of the 14 standards.

In addition to world-class faculty and great students, CSI has outstanding facilities ranging from – to name a few – our Center for the Arts, one that the New York Philharmonic says is the best venue in the city, to our CUNY Interdisciplinary High-Performance Computing Center,

to our state-of-the-art imaging center, and of course, we are all eagerly watching the ongoing construction of the residence halls.

I believe that the College of Staten Island has a very bright future and is increasingly becoming a top asset to Staten Island, CUNY, and the entire City. I look forward to working with the faculty, staff, students, alumni, the Foundation Board, and friends of CSI to carry forward our plans, and I thank you for your confidence in CSI.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "WJ Fritz" followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

William J. Fritz, PhD  
Interim President