

## College Council President's Report

Good afternoon:

We have a busy agenda today, so my report will be brief. I begin by repeating a quote that I actually read in my remarks during Commencement this past May.

The late United States Senator from Massachusetts, Paul Tsongas, once said the following about embracing our past: *"We are a continuum. Just as we reach back to our ancestors for our fundamental values, so we, as guardians of that legacy, must reach ahead to our children and their children. And we do so with a sense of sacredness in that reaching."*

This quote is particularly meaningful as we approach our annual College Convocation, which will take place on Thursday, November 13 at 2:30pm in the Williamson Theatre. The theme of this year's Convocation will be our very proud but, at times, forgotten CSI legacy.

At Convocation, we will "reach back" to the establishment of the Staten Island Community College at 50 Bay Street in St. George, to the establishment of Richmond College at 130 Stuyvesant Place, the merger of institutions creating the College of Staten Island, and our move from Sunnyside Campus to our present location.

We will also celebrate where CSI is today because of this proud legacy left by our faculty, staff, and student "ancestors," and we will then "reach ahead" to tomorrow when we intend to unveil the spectacular new renderings of our new Interdisciplinary High-Performance Computing Center.

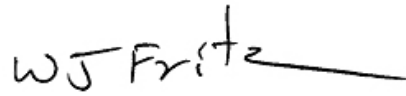
Additionally, we will continue our tradition of honoring faculty and staff who have reached service increments of five years, so I strongly encourage everyone to attend this year's Convocation.

On a final note, we are honored that the College has been chosen to host the debate between Congressional candidates Michael Grimm and Domenic Recchia on October 28 at 7:00pm in the Williamson Theatre. Sponsored by the *Staten Island Advance* and New York 1, this will be the only televised debate between the candidates that will be held before a live audience.

As this is one of the most closely watched House races in the country, the College will be garnering significant local, regional, and national interest. Unfortunately, due to this national attention, there will be very few tickets available for the event. We are planning to have a simulcast running in the Black Box Theatre, and the debate will also be live-streamed on the *Advance* Website, [silive.com](http://silive.com), and on NY1's Website.

The opportunity to host this event truly demonstrates the College's increasing reputation and presence as a major academic center in Staten Island and New York City where ideas can be freely exchanged. This is central to our Mission as an institution of higher education.

Thank you, and again, I hope to see everyone at Convocation.

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

William J. Fritz, PhD  
President

