Good afternoon. I hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable spring break.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education Team recently concluded its evaluation visit of the College as part of the Commission’s reaccreditation process. On April 4, Dr. Carlos Vargas, Chair of the Visiting Team, presented an Oral Report to the campus community providing a candid overview of the Team’s findings. I am very pleased to reiterate that the Visiting Team determined that the College is in compliance with all of the Commission’s 14 standards of higher education excellence. Notably, the College received 14 commendations in 12 of the standards. The Visiting Team also provided a number of positive suggestions and recommendations to which the College will give careful consideration and implement, as appropriate, upon completion of the reaccreditation process.

Let me again extend a special note of appreciation to Dr. Susan Holak and Professor Richard Powers, who co-chaired our Middle States Steering Committee; all of the members of the Steering Committee; the faculty, staff, and students serving on the Middle States Working Groups; and everyone else who contributed to the development of our Self-Study. With the completion of our new Strategic Plan, Many Voices, One Vision this past fall, the Middle States reaccreditation process marks the second major institutional initiative completed by the College this academic year. As we rapidly approach Commencement, we can reflect with a great sense of satisfaction on all that we – the faculty, staff, and students – have been able to accomplish together in advancing our outstanding institution.

On April 5, the College celebrated Student-Athlete Day and honored the recipients of the second annual Athletic Director Honor Roll. Eighty-nine student-athletes were recognized for achieving a 3.0 grade point average or better during the fall 2011 semester. This represents a 14% increase from the number of students honored last year. Thirty-one honorees actually achieved a GPA of 3.5 or higher, with six student athletes attaining a perfect 4.0. Student-Athlete Day is held annually as part of a long-standing initiative by the NCAA and the National Consortium of Academics and Sports to create a better society by focusing on educational attainment and using the power and appeal of sport to positively affect social change. Our celebration of this important initiative is part of the College’s ongoing commitment to support the academic and athletic goals and achievements of our student-athletes. I want to thank Vice President for Student Affairs A. Ramona Brown; Athletic Director Vernon Mumrett; the Athletic Department staff; the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee; the College’s Faculty Athletic Representatives, Professors George Stern and Marianne Jeffreys; and everyone else who helped to support this important recognition.
These next few weeks bring a number of significant events at the College celebrating student academic excellence and success, faculty and staff professional development, and the connection between College and community – all of which are the cornerstones of our Strategic Plan. The 11th annual Undergraduate Conference on Research, Scholarship, and Performance, featuring student poster presentations of scientific research, scholarship, and artistic performance and exhibits, will take place on April 26 in the Center for the Arts. The upcoming Conference promises to be the largest event yet as the number of student participants has increased by 20 percent this year and will feature over 117 individual presentations representing all areas of study at CSI, including the humanities, social sciences, fine and performing arts, mathematics and sciences, and the professional disciplines. I congratulate all of the participating students and the outstanding faculty members who served as their research and performance mentors. Your active involvement in the Undergraduate Conference truly epitomizes your incredible dedication in advancing academic excellence and success.

The Faulty Center for Professional Development continues to offer professional development workshops and enhanced opportunities for interactions and collaborations among all faculty through a broad spectrum of leadership, pedagogical innovation, and scholarship support activities. Highlighting the Center’s activities this month is a special conference event entitled “A Queer CUNY Conversation,” which will be held on April 27. The conference, which is being hosted by Professors David Gerstner and Matthew Brim, will bring together numerous faculty from many campuses across CUNY to discuss important issues affecting the LGBTQ community.

On May 4, the Staten Island community will be coming together to join the fight against cancer at the College’s annual Relay for Life event. In addition to raising money to combat this disease, Relay for Life provides an opportunity for all of us to celebrate survivorship and to remember those we have lost.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the College’s first-ever “CSI’s Got Talent” competition will take place tonight at 7:00pm in the Williamson Theatre. With over 100 students having participated in auditions, tonight’s show will feature the 12 finalists, including singers, dancers, and musicians, who will be competing to be named CSI’s most talented. I encourage the campus community to support and participate in these as well as the many other events that can be found listed on the College’s Website.

Thank you, and let me wish all of you a successful conclusion to the spring semester.

Sincerely,

Tomás D. Morales, PhD
President