INTRODUCTION

Good afternoon. To begin, I would like to take a moment to offer my sincere condolences to those affected by the devastating earthquake and its aftermath in Japan. In response to the tragedy, I have engaged the College’s Disaster Relief Committee to work closely with The City University of New York to encourage contributions that will directly assist the people of Japan who are in need.
We will continue to work to support local relief efforts, as well as the humanitarian activities organized by CUNY.

**BUDGET**

As you are aware, I have been providing the College community with continuous updates and information concerning the State budget situation and its potential impact upon CUNY and CSI. It is my firm belief that institutional transparency is even more critical during times of fiscal challenge.

I have recently learned that it is likely the State’s budget will be finalized by April 1. The College’s
Resource and Budget Advisory Committee (RBAC) has had several meetings examining financial data and discussing ways to reduce the College’s tax levy budget. Their charge is to provide me with recommendations that I would consider in a budget reduction plan. Given current projections, the present budget reduction targets will likely be between 2.5% and 5%. As I have stated repeatedly, I am committed to preserving the core mission of teaching, learning, scholarship, and student support. Nevertheless, meeting the expected level of budget reductions, on top of the previous reductions we have had to endure over the last three years alone,
will be very challenging. As a community, it is important that we meet this challenge by working together in sharing the burden of the required budget reductions. I am confident that the entire College of Staten Island community will rally together to ensure our prosperous future.

If you have not already done so, I encourage you to email our New York State legislators to protect support for public higher education funding. You can visit the homepage of our website which provides information concerning how you can most effectively engage in this process.
I will keep you advised of any new developments concerning the budget.

**MIDDLE STATES & STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Despite these fiscal challenges, we continue to move forward without delay concerning our major institutional initiatives. Concerning the Middle States reaccreditation process, reports from the seven Middle States working groups are now being finalized, and we will soon begin the process of integrating these separate reports into one, cohesive Self-Study draft.
As for the Strategic Planning Process, I will be providing a full update of our progress concerning this major initiative in my report of the Institutional Planning Committee.

CUNY & CSI DIVERSITY INITIATIVES

Diversity and inclusive excellence, as integral components of teaching, learning, research, and student support, is a priority for the College. I am pleased to advise you that I have been asked to serve on the Chancellor’s Diversity Study Steering Committee which has been charged with “examining the effectiveness of the University’s diversity
activities for faculty and staff over the past 10 years, assessing the experience of underrepresented groups, and identifying best practices within our system and peer institutions.” The ultimate goal of the Committee is to “develop a framework for improving the representation and experience of underrepresented groups and to strengthen the climate for diversity and inclusion across the University.”

While CUNY is addressing concerns related to diversity and inclusion on a University-wide scale, we continue to do the same locally here at CSI. On February 28th, the President’s Cabinet and Provost’s
Council met with the College’s Inclusive Excellence Committee as part of their regularly scheduled joint meetings. In addition to discussing numerous issues related to inclusive excellence at CSI, we were fortunate to have Jennifer Rubain, the University Dean for Recruitment and Diversity in attendance. Among other things, Ms. Rubain provided an update on CUNY diversity initiatives and further engaged in discussions with the Inclusive Excellence Committee and others in attendance concerning the coordination of diversity and inclusion efforts.
CSI ATHLETICS

I am pleased to announce that the CSI Office of Intercollegiate Athletics, together with the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, is awarding its first ever Athletic Director Honor Roll citations. A special Student-Athlete Day ceremony will be held on April 6th to recognize a staggering 78 student-athletes who have achieved a 3.0 grade point average or better during the fall 2010 semester. It should be noted that 34 of these honorees achieved a 3.5 or higher, with six attaining a perfect 4.0 GPA.

As our athletic program aspires to reach new heights at CSI, I would like to recognize the
significant accomplishment of one of our athletic teams. This season, the men’s basketball team won their division with a regular season record of 17-10, and made it to the CUNYAC championship final game. The team capped their impressive season by earning a spot in the ECAC Tournament. I congratulate our athletes, their coach, and athletic director for the team’s tremendous accomplishments.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

The next few weeks bring a flurry of significant activity to CSI. This Saturday and Sunday, March 19 and 20, CSI will host a two-day Academic
Conference and Education Symposium entitled “Staten Island in American History and 21st Century Education.” The two-day conference is the culmination of a “call for papers” and a “call for teacher guides” which invited proposals from scholars, curators, teachers, and public historians relating to Staten Island history, community and education. The conference will feature keynote speakers Ms. Carmen Farina, former Deputy Chancellor of the New York City Public Schools, and Dr. Kenneth T. Jackson, the Jacques Barzun Professor of History and Social Sciences at Columbia University. The conference will also
bring together the five NYC borough historians and the New York State historian to discuss the topic: “1898: New York City’s Consolidation and its Ramifications.” This event, co-sponsored by CSI, The Staten Island Foundation, Wagner College and St. John’s University, is part of the si350 borough-wide project celebrating the 350th anniversary of the founding of Staten Island.

Reflective of the College’s commitment to diversity and inclusion, this year’s Leadership Conference, “One World, Many Differences: Civility. Peace. Respect,” will be presented by the Division of Student Affairs/Office of Student Life at
the Center for the Arts on April 1\textsuperscript{st}. This event, which is open to CSI students, faculty and staff and the greater Staten Island Community, will provide an opportunity for participants to acquire and develop the knowledge and skills needed to lead diverse organizations, to increase their cultural competence in working with diverse individuals and groups, and to learn how to use their knowledge and skills to be catalysts for change here at CSI and in their respective communities. Keynote speakers include Hugh Vasquez, Senior Associate of the National Equity Project, and Catherine Wong, Director of CW Associates.
And on April 14th, the **tenth annual CSI Undergraduate Conference on Research, Scholarship, and Performance** will be held at the Center for the Arts Atrium. The conference, which is sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs with financial support from both the CSI Foundation and the CSI Student Government, will highlight scholarly and creative projects by students majoring in all disciplines, showcasing excellence through student-faculty collaboration and interaction in all aspects of teaching and learning. This year we will have abstracts/presentations from 99 students, the largest number ever, representing 14 departments.
On this same day, Chancellor Matthew Goldstein will be visiting CSI as part of his initiative to visit all of the CUNY campuses this year. The Chancellor will be meeting with faculty and other campus constituents to provide an update on current issues and talk about his vision for the University. Chancellor Goldstein has indicated that he is very much looking forward to his visit to CSI.

I hope that you will take advantage of all that CSI has to offer in the coming weeks.
CONCLUSION

In closing, I would like to remind everyone that a memorial for Professor Stephen Stearns will be held on Sunday, March 20th in the Library beginning at 11 am.

Thank you.