Good afternoon. I begin my remarks today with some welcome news. At its October meeting, the Unit Accreditation Board of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) considered the continuing accreditation of CSI’s Department of Education. I am very pleased to inform you that NCATE has reaccredited the Department at the initial teacher preparation and
advanced preparation levels. Those who are aware of NCATE know that it is the “gold standard” of teacher preparation accreditation. NCATE’s decision evidences that CSI’s Department of Education meets rigorous standards set forth by the professional education community. And to add even more luster to this achievement, the Education Department passed all NCATE standards without qualification which is a rarity with initial accreditation visits. I congratulate the faculty and staff of the Education Department for this great accomplishment, and I look forward to NCATE’s next scheduled visit in 2017.
More welcome news comes from our Nursing Department. The Board of Commissioners of the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) recently granted the baccalaureate nursing program continuing accreditation. The NLNAC and its predecessor, the National League for Nursing, have stood for the highest standards of excellence for all types of nursing education for over 50 years. This reaccreditation evidences the Nursing Department’s continuing standard of excellence. I congratulate the faculty and staff of the Department of Nursing for
this achievement. We also look forward to the
NLNAC’s next scheduled visit in 2018.

FACULTY/DEPARTMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Excellence in research also continues to flourish
with our accomplished faculty and academic
departments. CSI’s Engineering, Science and
Physics Department was recently awarded a
$210,000 grant from the National Science
Foundation to acquire state-of-the-art signal
generation and detection instruments that will enable
cutting-edge research and multidisciplinary
engineering training on advanced communication technologies.

CSI’s Biology Department was awarded grants totaling $330,000 from the National Institutes of Health and the Alzheimer’s Association for the study of the causes of Alzheimer’s disease. A CSI faculty member will lead a team of researchers to develop novel model systems and therapeutics to cure or delay the onset of this devastating disease.

And CSI’s Physical Therapy Department received the Related Services Scholarship Grant of approximately $60,000 from the New York City Department of Education. The grant will be used to
address the acute shortage of physical therapists in the New York City Schools by granting scholarships to Physical Therapy Doctoral students in return for their commitment to work for the Department of Education.

I congratulate our faculty and departments on their excellence in research and externally funded support. It is a testament to your dedication, professionalism, and resiliency that you continue to move CSI forward even in the wake of the continuing deterioration of the State’s fiscal environment.
BUDGET

Earlier this semester I advised you of the severe budget restrictions faced by CUNY senior colleges, including the College of Staten Island, due to the State of New York’s enacted budget for the current fiscal year.

To ensure the effective stewardship of our resources during these difficult economic times, it is important that decisions made concerning the College’s budget are as transparent and inclusive as possible. To this end, I have established a Resource and Budget Advisory Committee. This committee is comprised of various members of the College-wide
Budget Committee, the P&B Budget Subcommittee, the College Council Budget Committee, and other campus constituents.

Co-Chaired by Vice-President Michael Kress and Professor Fred Naider, this committee will be charged with making recommendations regarding how best to manage the College’s resources given the expected reduction in our tax-levy budget. In addition, I will ask the Committee to examine productivity savings, efficiency improvements, and opportunities to generate additional revenue. The committee will meet regularly and provide ample
opportunity for campus participation in its deliberations.

I am confident that together we will not only persevere, but that we will also continue to advance our core mission of teaching, learning and scholarship.

STUDENT VETERANS

November marks the celebration of Veterans Day, and I want to express my overwhelming gratitude to those faculty, staff, and students who have dedicated their service to our country.
Named among the top 15% of military friendly colleges, universities and trade schools in the United States last year, CSI has been recognized for its outstanding commitment to serving the needs of students with military experience, and its wide array of services specifically designed for current, new and future Veteran students.

Recently, I became aware that, pursuant to the Veterans Higher Education Bill, student Veterans residing in Staten Island received 25% less housing allowance as compared to students residing in the other four New York City boroughs, even though Staten Islanders are still being burdened with New
York taxes, tolls, and cost of living expenses equal to or exceeding that of the other boroughs. In support of these students, the College has appealed to the United States Department of Defense and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to end this inequity.

CSI will not waver from its commitment to advocate on behalf of its most valued stakeholder – our students.

CONVOCATION

On October 28th, CSI honored other valued stakeholders, its faculty and staff, at its annual
Convocation which saw record numbers in attendance. While we continued the tradition of honoring those faculty and staff who reached service milestones, this year’s Convocation also celebrated all faculty and staff members, full-time and part-time, who have shown tireless dedication to advancing the Mission of this institution.

In coordination with this event, I sent to the entire Campus community a brochure our recent accomplishments setting forth all that we have achieved together. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to view the brochure which can be accessed through the College’s website.
FACULTY AND STAFF GIVING CIRCLE

And as we thank our faculty and staff for their exceptional service to the College, we also thank them for giving back in other significant ways. We recently celebrated the inauguration of the CSI Faculty and Staff Giving Circle. More than 35 members of the College community, who have contributed $100 or more over the past two years to the College, were honored. The contributions of these remarkable individuals, whether giving through the Annual Fund, establishing student scholarships, or designating gifts to the College
through the United Way, directly impact our students. I thank them again for their generosity.

UPCOMING EVENTS

I am happy to announce that we will be holding our annual campus-wide holiday reception in the Center for the Arts atrium on Monday, December 6th at 4 p.m. All are invited to attend. Additionally, I want to remind you that the College’s second annual scholarship gala, the “CSI Celestial Ball: Reaching for the Stars” will be held on December 4th at the Richmond County Country Club. If you would like to purchase tickets to this event to support student
scholarships please contact the CSI Advancement office or visit the CSI Foundation website.

**CLOSING**

In closing, let me wish everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.