INTRODUCTION

Good afternoon. Although only a brief time has elapsed since our last meeting, the College has been extremely active, with some significant developments taking place.

EVENTS

Recently, CSI participated in several important events in furtherance of this continuing commitment
to serving the College and wider Staten Island community.

I had the distinct honor of serving as Ambassador for the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation’s 2010 Health & Wellness Expo. All of the participating healthcare professionals and vendors shared a common goal of promoting healthy lifestyles for the residents of Staten Island. Among the healthcare professionals offering their expertise at the Expo were CSI Faculty of the Departments of Nursing and Physical Therapy who significantly contributed to the success of the Conference. The Staff of the Health and Wellness
Center partnered with their colleagues from Wagner and St. Johns to lead a workshop college student health issues.

I thank all three departments for their participation in this important event.

Reaffirming CSI’s status as a leader in health and wellness in the community, the College’s Third Annual Greener Fall Festival raised over $20,000 for the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative. Approximately 10,000 people attended the festival which took place on the Great Lawn. I was particularly struck by how many of the attendees and
vendors at the event identified themselves as CSI alumni. This, I believe, reflects our success in cultivating relationships with this important stakeholder group of our College community.

Two major events were held to celebrate Italian heritage month and the new Italian Studies Major at CSI. A Festa Italiana celebration was held at the Campus Center which was widely attended by faculty, staff and students. Additionally, a wonderful reception was held at the Tuscan Garden at Snug Harbor which was attended by a special representative from the Consulate General of Italy of New York who was on hand to bring greetings and
congratulate the faculty and students of the Modern Languages Department for launching the Italian Studies Major.

In other efforts to promote student learning, CSI served as host to SENSOR’s Mid-Atlantic Fall Regional Conference. The signature program of the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement, SENSER is dedicated to establishing and supporting an ever-growing community of faculty, students, and academic leaders to improve undergraduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (or STEM) education by connecting learning to critical civic questions. Through workshops presented at
the conference, participants developed an understanding of important characteristics of the scholarship of teaching and learning, and collected information, tools, and resources for engaging in this work for their own professional development.

“I AM STATEN ISLAND”

On a more somber note, colleges and universities across the nation, including CSI, are still feeling the devastating effects of the tragic suicide of Tyler Clementi, a student at Rutgers University, the victim of harassment and bullying by other students based upon his sexual orientation.
Because of this incident and other bias incidents and hate crimes recently committed in the Bronx and Staten Island, New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, New York University President John Sexton, and Chancellor Matthew Goldstein recently called a meeting of the presidents and chancellors from the City’s colleges and universities to discuss how we can work together to enhance the safe and nurturing environments of our campuses for all students. I would like to mention that at that meeting, which I attended, Speaker Quinn specifically acknowledged and commended the College of Staten Island for its leadership in fighting
bias and hate through its contributions to the “I am Staten Island” initiative.

In fact, CSI recently held its first event as part of the “I am Staten Island” initiative. On October 7th, the CSI gay-straight alliance, in conjunction with numerous other student organizations, held a campus candlelight vigil and march against hate.

Approximately 70 students, faculty and staff attended this event, which was featured on New York 1.

I would also like to announce that very shortly I will be sending out a broadcast email to the entire College community reaffirming CSI’s commitment
to civility, understanding, acceptance and mutual respect for all members of our campus community.

MIDDLE STATES

Concerning our current major initiatives, the Middle States self-study design process is progressing steadily. Each of the seven working groups has now finalized a comprehensive set of questions which will guide them in their respective research in order to develop an outline for their reports on assigned Middle States Standards. I am also pleased to report that a significant number of Middle States working group members will be attending the Middle States
Commission on Higher Education Annual Conference in December which will provide our members with practical ideas and exemplary practices and will assist us in our Middle States review.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

And concerning the College’s Strategic Planning Process, significant developments have occurred with this major initiative as well. I will be discussing these developments in detail during my report of the Institutional Planning Committee.
CONVOCATION

I would like to remind everyone that this year’s convocation will take place on October 28th in the Williamson Theater starting at 2 pm. We will be continuing with the tradition of honoring full-time members of the College community who have reached milestones of service in increments of five years. I welcome your attendance in support of these honorees.

And finally, the College of Staten Island will host its second annual scholarship gala, the “CSI Celestial Ball: Reaching for the Stars,” on December 4, 2010 at the Richmond County Country Club. This year’s
honoree’s, who will be receiving the College of Staten Island’s President’s Medal, include Salvatore Cassano, Fire Commissioner of the City of New York, Dolores Morris, former Vice President of the HBO Family Channel, and last, but certainly not least, our very own Distinguished Professor Dr. Fred Naider. Last year’s Celestial Ball was an overwhelming success, raising more than $500,000 and creating ten new permanent endowments. More than $75,000 in scholarship support has been awarded this academic year to students in need. If you would like to purchase tickets to the event in support of these scholarships and the honorees,
please contact the CSI Advancement office or visit the CSI Foundation website.

Thank you.