

**College Council  
President's Report  
December 14, 2017**

Good Afternoon.

I am pleased to announce that we received a letter from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education which included the following statement:

*“To accept the Periodic Review Report and to reaffirm accreditation. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2021-2022.”*

I want to thank the many faculty and staff, especially Mel Pipe and Richard Powers, for leading this successful PRR effort.

We were recently notified by Victory Media that CSI is the Number 1 Military Friendly Campus in the entire nation for large public universities. This follows 11 years of being ranked as a Military Friendly School, meaning that we provide support for veteran students to succeed. As a campus, and consistent with our Mission, we remained focused on supporting our veterans.

In the last 18 months, we have had six members of the Board of Trustees plus the secretary to the Board visit our campus. I am grateful to them for their time and their desire to learn about our campus, and to hear of our highlights and our funding challenges. All were impressed with this unique and beautiful *Destination Campus*.

I am pleased that our new *Strategic Plan: Opportunity to Ascend* was approved last month. At our recent Gala, I discussed the *Strategic Plan*, and the mission, vision, and values, and the six Strategic Priorities. Preliminary reports indicate that the Gala this year was a success. After expenses we will net about \$100,000, which is a major source of funding that is distributed to the campus each year. CUNY has some of the lowest tuition and fees in the nation and with support from the state (TAP and Excelsior) and Federal Government (PELL), nearly 60% of our students pay no tuition. At CSI, we can provide access; what we need is support for quality. Our students rely on support from our donors which provides access to signature programs like study abroad, undergraduate research, residence hall living, and assistance with emergencies and transportation.

I hope many of you attended Convocation last week. For the first time, we honored faculty and staff who celebrated 50 years of service. Alan Benimoff and Peter Keil attended the event and were recognized for this great milestone. Stanley Zimmerman, the third honoree, was unable to attend the ceremony. Congratulations again to Alan, Peter and Stanley.

Chancellor Milliken has announced that he is stepping down over the summer. The role of our Chancellor is unique in higher education as our Board is composed of appointees of both the Governor and the Mayor. The individual who takes on this role should be someone who can articulate CUNY's funding needs with both Albany and City Hall.

Our thoughts are also with Robert Kee who was subject to an assault last week. I personally visited him in the hospital to let him know that the campus is thinking of him and wishing him a speedy recovery.

I want to wish everyone "Happy Holidays".

Thank you.

William J. Fritz  
President

