



## PACE UNIVERSITY

ONE PACE PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10038

September 4, 2019

Dear students, faculty, and staff:

Welcome, and welcome back!

Yesterday we held three Convocation ceremonies across two campuses, welcoming more than 2,300 new undergraduates. They're a fantastic group, from 47 states and the District of Columbia and from 51 different countries, ranging from Albania to Zimbabwe. We also have 73 new military, veteran, and military family members joining us this academic year.

At the Law School, where classes began before Labor Day, we welcomed more than 230 new students—a 20 percent increase in new students over last year. As of the last academic year, our Law School is now ranked #1 in the country for its environmental programs, and we're proud to see that its overall enrollment is up 10 percent.

To all the students who have become part of the Pace family this year, whether as a first-year student or a transfer, whether as a residential student or a commuter, whether right from high school or as an adult learner, whether in New York City or Westchester, whatever your background, let me tell you how happy we are to have you with us at Pace, and how determined we are to help you succeed.

Last week we also welcomed 25 new full-time faculty, plus a number of new adjunct faculty and staff members. To all new faculty and staff, let me say how pleased we are you've chosen to join Pace, and how excited we are that you're now a part of our community. The Provost will be writing later in the week with information on resources available to you.

And to our returning faculty and staff, let me say thank you. Your ongoing dedication to this institution keeps Pace strong and our students succeeding.

This summer, and as we start the new year, there's a lot going on that will help build an even stronger Pace. Let me tell you about some of our exciting developments.

### **Middle States accreditation and our new strategic plan**

At the start of the summer, we got some very good news. On the very positive recommendation of the Evaluating Team that visited earlier in the year, the Middle States Commission affirmed our accreditation through 2026–2027, with no follow-up requirements. This was the best possible outcome of the process—and a tribute to the hard work that everyone at Pace put into achieving that result.

With that behind us, we're turning our focus to developing a new strategic plan for the University. In an increasingly competitive and rapidly changing higher education landscape, the creation of this plan is an opportunity to assess our strengths and challenges and map our way forward as a strong, thriving institution. This will be a very collaborative process, and we'll be providing information soon on how all parts of the Community will be able to participate in it.

### **Our first chief diversity officer**

Last month, Tiffany Hamilton joined us as Pace's first-ever chief diversity officer and associate vice president for diversity and inclusion. She'll serve as a member of my senior leadership team and guide the vision and direction of diversity, inclusion, and affirmative action programs across all campuses.

She'll ensure we prioritize and live up to our longstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion, supporting all of our many communities, and she'll supervise the Multicultural Affairs Offices, the LGBTQA+ and Social Justice Centers, the Offices of Sexual Assault Prevention and Education, and the Affirmative Action Office and Title IX Coordinator. The first in her family to attend college, Tiffany comes to us from Westchester Community College, where she served as associate dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion and as that institution's first chief diversity officer. I'm very happy to have her in this important new role.

### **Improved services for students, faculty, and staff**

We know both students and faculty have asked for more efficient and user-friendly processes in the Office of Student Assistance (OSA), and that's why we've been working hard to improve performance there. This summer, Doug Berman, the AVP for OSA, announced a new leadership team for the office to carry out revamped systems and processes. By late last year, wait times for student appointments were drastically reduced, and Doug promises that this is just the beginning. OSA is becoming more efficient, effective, and helpful.

We're continuing our assessment of advising, reviewing the recommendation of last year's Advising Task Force. We'll have more information on that soon, and will seek community input, but our goal is to improve advising to best serve students. We've also brought on board a new university registrar, Patricia Canale, to improve and streamline the course catalog, scheduling, and registration processes.

This is all part of our effort to improve the quality of service we offer to students, faculty, and staff. Please continue to share your feedback with us, both positive and negative, so we can make further improvements.

### **Campus improvements**

Last year, we opened the transformed One Pace Plaza, and that space was everything we'd all hoped. This summer's work was less dramatic, but no less important. In New York City, we replaced the damaged wooden floor in the gym, repainted the walls, and updated the graphics. We're also about to open the renovated locker rooms and weight room, including a new gender-neutral locker room. The new weight equipment will arrive this fall.

In Pleasantville, we implemented a new landscaping plan following input from students, faculty, and staff. Native plants and trees were installed throughout the campus. A wildflower meadow was added to the quad. New cherry trees will be planted this fall. And thanks to a gift from ConEd, we're about to install a "solar tree" next to the Kessel Student Center, with solar panels that create a shaded resting area during the day and light up the area with LEDs at night, and provides a solar-powered USB charging station at all times.

We always want to enhance the student experience. One little way we've done that: Chartwells is partnering with GrubHub to bring mobile ordering to our dining facilities. You'll hear more on that from Chartwells soon.

### **Security changes**

The safety and security of our Pace Community is our top priority. We maintain robust security and emergency management procedures to ensure the well-being of our students, faculty, and staff.

Over the summer, we engaged a new security and fire-safety provider. Allied Universal, the new agency, is the largest provider of higher education security services in the country. They have procedures and training protocols specifically designed for higher ed, and they currently secure a number of high-profile venues in New York City and Westchester, including several of our peer institutions. We're confident they have the experience and expertise to provide us a very high level of service.

At the same time, Allied offered all of our existing security officers the opportunity to transition to the new company. Many of them took advantage of that offer. So while we're improving service to our community, you'll also continue to see many of the same faces at our doors and security desks.

This is also a good time to remind you to download the PaceSafe app for your Apple or Android device, which provides you with up-to-date security information and a variety of other safety

resources.

### Summertime pride

That's a lot of information, I know. But there are a lot of good things happening here.

Over the summer, four biology professors in Dyson won a \$370,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to buy new, high-tech imaging equipment to enhance scientific research and teaching. The Mellon Foundation awarded us a \$585,000 grant to develop a Writing for Diversity and Equity in Theater and Media program. Seidenberg ran a very successful Camp CryptoBot, for high schoolers interested in cybersecurity, and it was profiled in *The New Yorker*. Lubin introduced a new MS in Accounting Data Analytics and Technologies for accountants and a revised, more flexible MBA. The College of Health Profession's new master's programs for occupational therapy and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner launched with full enrollments. And the School of Education just launched six new master's programs, all targeting areas where there is increased demand for teachers.

At the Law School, we revived flex JD scheduling, which creates new opportunities for people to complete their degrees, and saw fast enrollment for that option. We also launched a concentration in Women, Gender, and the Law, and a certificate in Health Law and Policy, both responsive to the needs of today's market and today's students. The newly renamed Division of Professional Education and Special Programs is working with all our schools to develop new online or blended programs targeting both traditional students and adult learners. Up to 17 programs are under development to launch or re-launch over the next several semesters. That's an important new frontier for Pace, too.

It's a great time to be at Pace University. I'm excited for the new year. I hope you are, too.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marvin Krislov".

Marvin Krislov  
President