



May 31, 2024

Dear Colleagues:

This semester has been taxing. Like many other colleges and universities nationwide, we are experiencing financial challenges due to lower enrollments caused by shifting demographics. Additionally, we are working to find a balance between supporting freedom of expression while ensuring the safety of the members of our Purchase community. Considering all that is at stake, I am hopeful that we will find ways to engage in civil discourse to reestablish a common ground of mutual respect, understanding, and trust. I look forward to having these discussions during Welcome Week.

Amidst these challenges, it's important to celebrate our successes. Our overall freshmen first to second semester retention rate is 94%, and the retention rate for BA/BS is 92.5% -- the highest since 2018. Retaining our students is crucial for their success and our financial stability. Additionally, our out-of-state and international student numbers are climbing, which signals our reputation beyond the state of New York while bringing in additional revenue. This is due, in no small part, to our outstanding faculty and alumni who continue to garner Grammy Awards, prestigious fellowships, competitive grants, and initiate innovative projects and activities this academic year.

Earlier this semester, the Conservatory of Music kicked off the inaugural Purchase Latin Jazz Festival in collaboration with David DeJesus and the Purchase College Latin Jazz Orchestra. The Purchase College Latin Jazz Festival was a showcase and competition that featured five regional high school Latin Jazz bands, who received feedback on their performances from professional jazz artists including maestro Eddie Palmieri, followed by a concert in celebration of Palmieri's life and work. In partnership with the Global Black Studies and Media Studies Programs, the Neuberger hosted the inaugural Fred Wilson Lecture in Global Black Studies. The series celebrates the rich contributions of Black artists and intellectuals to the global arts community. The Neuberger also received the Arts Organization Award from ArtsWestchester and ended a year-long celebration of its 50th Anniversary with a fundraiser in April. In March a delegation of four Art+Design faculty representing the departments of Painting & Drawing, Printmaking, Photography, and the MFA program led by Dean Anne Kern traveled to Vienna for a week. During their trip, they participated in a two-day Art School Alliance conference. As a result of the conference, Purchase has entered discussions to sign Memoranda of Agreement and/or Exchange Agreements with the following Art School Alliance partner institutions: China Academy of Art; Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Israel; Kwame Nkumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana; and the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts, France. This opportunity was funded by an Erasmus+ grant.

Although many Broadview residents began moving in before Christmas, the Grand Opening of Broadview was on May 2 and consisted of a luncheon and ribbon-cutting ceremony. The residents, however, didn't wait

for the official opening to become a part of the Purchase experience. For example, through the organizational efforts of Broadview resident Dr. Steven Shelov, 22 members of the Pre-med Club have been shadowing physicians at White Plains Hospital during the spring semester. There have been many other examples so far, and I suspect more are in the works. If you have ideas for intergenerational learning or if a Broadview resident should reach out to you, please contact Kelly Jackson and the Intergenerational Learning and Program Planning at [intergenerational@purchase.edu](mailto:intergenerational@purchase.edu) or call (914) 251-6500.

## **Plan Wide Open (PWO) and Related Activities**

One of the suggestions from the PWO Online Education Workgroup was to assess our capacity to deliver high-quality online education. In response, we have engaged SUNY Online to work with us to assess our ability to offer online education. The online assessment process will unfold over a series of three interactive sessions. The first session occurred in March and the final two will occur during the fall '24 semester. By the end of our work with SUNY Online Readiness Assessment team, we should be able to identify policies, procedures, financial resources and infrastructure development that will help us reach students and industries we have not historically served.

Following up on a recommendation made by both iterations of PWO work groups devoted to Global Ed/HSI/Global Studies, a Global Education advisory group will be instituted for AY 2024-25. Among the many topics that will be discussed by this group will be international student recruitment, especially immediate action toward increased enrollment of international (F-1 visa) students and developing a multi-year international student recruitment strategy.

Phase III of Plan Wide Open concluded this semester. The new illustration track in Graphic Design was vetted by EPC and approved by Academic Affairs this spring. The BA in Animation and a revised BA in Arts Management will be vetted during the fall of 2024. These programs should help in our efforts to attract new students to Purchase College. For more information about all the activities completed in PWO, please refer to the [sharepoint](#).

## **Faculty Pedagogy Fellows**

As a part of revisioning the TLTC, I am pleased to announce the creation of the Faculty Pedagogy Fellows Program. Beginning next academic year, fellows Jessica Carnevale and Jennifer Uleman will be reaching out to the faculty for their ideas for creating programming to support faculty development. We hope to have more than a series of standard workshops, but include cohort-based faculty programming, a community of practice, faculty book clubs, peer observations, and New Faculty Seminars to help onboard our newest faculty members. Faculty will have an opportunity to find out more information during Welcome Week.

Have a great summer and see you next fall.



Notes from the Provost | 914.251.6020

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