June 9, 2020

Looking Forward to Joining You Soon

Dear Colleagues,

I was inspired yesterday as I watched the Virtual Commencement Experience. As our community responds to the triple challenge of COVID-19, the resulting economic damage, and national protests to end systemic racism, it is not an overstatement to say that the spring of 2020 has been unlike any other in the history of higher education. Even in these fragile times, the entire Baruch community unified and overcame unimaginable challenges to help the graduating class of 2020 realize their dream and complete their college journey.

As your incoming president, I am ecstatic to join the College community in July—as I have already developed a deep admiration and respect for the remarkable work you have done to distinguish Baruch. Holding true to its founding mission, the College is already a significant part of the effort to recalibrate society and mindsets. The institution not only provides access to an historically underrepresented population in higher education, it also offers the most rigorous and highest quality academic programs. Talented students are challenged and inspired by faculty who are outstanding scholars in their fields, and buoyed by creative staff who run innovative and comprehensive student services. Your accomplishments echo a central theme in my thinking for Baruch’s future: in epitomizing academic excellence and social mobility, Baruch is poised to lead in the shifting landscape of public higher education.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced colleges and universities across the nation to reassess the way we deliver education, research, and creative work—potentially leading to a fundamental paradigm shift. I recently charged the Task Force for the Future to reimagine Baruch in the post-COVID environment. Not only will we contemplate our place in that future, we will put Baruch on a path to lead, to envision a transformation
that allows us to deliver our mission with more fluidity and enhanced quality. The task force process will be transparent and will solicit campus input broadly. I invite you, and the entire Baruch community, to contribute your best ideas at the [task force website](#).

While there are still many unknowns about the upcoming academic year, we already know it will be unlike any other. We will need to continuously refine and reinvent the way we deliver education and support our students while maintaining the health and safety of the campus community. It is equally important for faculty to advance their research and creative work, as an intellectually engaged professoriate is the hallmark of a top-notch academic institution.

As summer gets underway, I hope you, your families, and friends are managing as well as possible. I look forward to seeing you very soon—virtually or in person—and getting to know more about you and your contributions to Baruch College.

Sincerely,

S. David Wu
President-Designate, Baruch College