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Dear colleagues—

I am pleased to announce the recommendation of the appointment of **Dr. Rene S. Parmar** as the dean of the School of Education (SOE), beginning August 18, 2021, and pending CUNY's approval.

Several factors informed this recommendation including consultation with and feedback from the search committee, a careful review of input received from campus stakeholders who participated in the search process, and the need to provide the leadership that builds upon the strengths, plans and assets already in place within the school; enhances its profile in the Bronx and beyond, and expands partnerships with external stakeholders that result in new resources and additional investments to the school and the college.

Dr. Parmar, who is currently the Richard P. Nathan Fellow at the Rockefeller Institute for Government in New York, began her career in higher education as Assistant Professor of Special Education at the University at Buffalo (SNY), rising through the ranks to receive early tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at the university, and later tenured full Professor of Special Education at St. John's University, New York, where she served for eight years as Chair of the Department of Administrative and Instructional Leadership and Coordinator of the Ed.D. programs in the School of Education. As chair, she provided leadership, coordination, and oversight on faculty recruitment, enrollment, curriculum development, pedagogy, instructional workload, assessment and accreditation, and program articulation including the support and review of faculty promotion and tenure processes. She also provided oversight for the implementation of the department's graduate programs at three campuses of the university and at numerous off-campus sites; collaborated with regional universities, community colleges, local education agencies, and school districts in New York City, Long Island, and Westchester County to establish and grow cohorts of doctoral students in Educational Leadership, while maintaining a completion rate of more than 80%. In addition, she created new doctoral program specializations in Educational Technology Leadership and Higher Education Leadership and collaborated with regional Catholic dioceses and other non-public schools to prepare school leaders through the university's Masters' and certification programs, funded by a Title II grant.

A respected educator and scholar, Dr. Parmar has worked with faculty across disciplines on strategies to improve outcomes for students with learning disabilities and received about \$3 million in grant funding from multiple agencies such as the U. S. Department of Education and the NYS Department of Education to advance programs and professional development focused on this issue. She has presented refereed and invited papers on culturally diverse populations at multiple conferences and meetings such as the American Educational Research Association and the International Council for Exceptional Children, authored numerous peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, and served as manuscript reviewer for many journals as well as co-editor of the *Journal of Curriculum and Instruction* and the *Journal of Leadership and Instruction* (Special Issue). She is a member of the American Educational Research Association, University Council for Educational Administration, Council for Exceptional Children and its divisions for Teacher Education, Administration, Assessment, Learning Disabilities and Diverse Exceptional Learners, for which she is the founding President of the New York Subdivision.

As an educator and academic leader, Dr. Parmar has a deep bench of knowledge and engagement with campus governance and external partners and has been involved in many initiatives and various organizations to advance student success outcomes and the University's mission. These include serving as member of the School of Education Faculty Council, University Graduate Council, University Senate, University Personnel Committee, University Academic Planning Committee, Steering Committee for Middle States Re-Accreditation Review, and Chair, Committee for Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC), and Department Personnel and Budget Committee, among others. She also served on the Academic and Administrative Assembly, which consists of selected senior administrators, deans, and chairpersons responsible for coordinating Strategic Planning for the University.

Among her accomplishments are the development and implementation of the first Ph.D. program in Special Education at SUNY, successful accreditation with TEAC/CAEP for the educational leadership program at St. John's University, successful development and implementation of multiple doctoral programs including new specializations within Educational Leadership, and the academic and fiscal integration of many students and faculty from Educational Leadership program from the (now closed) Dowling College, as well as the creation and implementation of professional development programs for school leaders in regional districts. She is a recipient of many honors and awards such as the Outstanding Research Award from the Texas Council for Learning Disabilities, Distinguished Professor at The University at Buffalo, Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award and Outstanding Faculty Award respectively at St. John's University, New York.

Dr. Parmar received her Ph.D. in Special Education with a minor in School Psychology and Educational Research at the University of North Texas, Denton, TX; a Master of Education in Special Education from the George Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN; and a Bachelor of Arts, with a concentration in Economics, from the University of Jabalpur, India.

I am convinced that Dr. Parmar's diverse educational background and span of academic experiences will serve Lehman well as we work together to advance our important mission of educational attainment in the Bronx and meet our 90x30 challenge.

I want to especially thank Dr. Serigne Gningue, interim Associate Dean who served effectively as the Executive in Charge of the School during the last one year. Please join me in thanking him for his leadership of the School. I am confident that he will continue to play an active role in the School of Education and in support of our college mission and strategic priorities.

I am grateful to our campus community for the participation in this important leadership search. I am equally grateful to all members of the search committee for their diligence and hard work throughout this process, made even more challenging by the COVID-19 pandemic. The search committee members were:

- Dr. Nancy Dubetz, Professor and Chair, Department of Early Childhood and Childhood Education, (Co-Chair)
- Victor Brown, Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Educational Effectiveness (Co-Chair)
- Dr. Janet DeSimone, Chair, Counseling, Leadership, Literacy, & Special Education (CLLSE)
- Dr. Stuart Chen-Hayes, Professor and Program Coordinator, Counselor Education/School Counseling/Bilingual Counseling
- Dr. Immaculee Harushimana, Associate Professor, Middle and High School Education (MHSE)
- Ms. Yaswantie (Ameeta) Persaud, Staff, Academic Assessment Manager
- Ms. Joshunda Sanders, Speechwriter and Communications Specialist, Office of the President
- Mr. Jonathan Berenguer, Alumnus of MSOL, TRIO Project Director
- Mr. Jamel Holmes, EDL Student

I am also grateful to Dawn Ewing Morgan, Vice President for Diversity and Human Resources and the staff in her office and the office of the Provost especially Ms. Maria Camaj, for the technical support provided throughout this search.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Parmar in her new role. I am certain that she will have the support of our entire campus community of teachers, scholars, learners, advocates, and activists.

Remain well and stay safe.

-P

Peter O. Nwosu, Ph.D.

Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Student Success  
Director, The CUNY Leadership Institute