



Dear Students—

I am pleased to share the [Lehman College Annual Assessment Report for AY 2020-2021](#). As the summary report indicates, much progress continued to be made as we strove to strengthen the culture of assessment and continuous improvement at the College during the academic year. While the COVID-19 pandemic, which arrived at the beginning of AY2020 – 2021 caused significant disruptions to our personal and professional lives, we soldiered on as a community, and delivered instruction and support services virtually to our students in the very best ways possible. This included the important work of conducting assessment of student learning and performance outcomes by multiple units. It is this assessment work carried out under difficult circumstances that is highlighted in this summary annual report. I encourage you to take some sometime to read the report and consider additional steps from your units that may add value to the learning represented in the degrees we award.

I want to commend all campus units, the College Senate Ad Hoc Academic Assessment Council, and the Office of Assessment and Educational Effectiveness, for keeping the focus of assessment on our mission of increasing student learning and improving educational attainment during this past year.

I am constantly reminded of the question posed by the [New Leadership Alliance for Student Learning and Accountability](#): “ARE OUR STUDENTS LEARNING?” “This fundamental question,” they write, “should drive the work of colleges and universities that are preparing students for success – in careers, as citizens - in our increasingly complex world.” I commend to you the organization’s very valuable work published a decade ago titled: [Committing to Quality: Guidelines for Assessment and Accountability in Higher Education](#). As we continue to work on our full return to a post-pandemic institution in fall 2022, this question should be front and center in our thinking and in our instructional and support services delivery plans.

Finally, I want to extend my deep appreciation to the College Senate Governance Committee, chaired by Professor Joe Fera, for the robust and thoughtful discussions it has had during the past several months on establishing a standing Committee on Assessment of the College Senate, consistent with our commitment to Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) in 2019, when the College went through its most recent accreditation. It is the goal that this proposed committee will help to further deepen the culture of assessment and continual improvement at the College. Professor Fera shared the composition and functions of the committee at the last meeting of the College Senate. The proposed committee, which will replace the current Ad Hoc Academic Council on Assessment, was unanimously approved by the Governance Committee at its Monday, April 25 meeting, and will now be presented formally for discussion and approval at the next meeting of the College Senate.

For more information about our institutional effectiveness efforts, including information on assessment workshops, please visit the Lehman College’s [Institutional Effectiveness website](#), which went live during summer 2021.

Remain well and continue to stay safe.

-P

Peter O. Nwosu, Ph.D.

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