The Chancellor

November 9, 2012

To: College Presidents and Deans

From: Matthew Goldstein

Re: CUNY Community Hurricane Sandy Relief Council: “CUNY Works” Initiative

I write to follow up on my memorandum of November 2, in which I announced the creation of a CUNY Community Hurricane Sandy Relief Council. Thank you for designating a representative from your campus to serve on this important council, which will meet for the first time on Monday, November 12.

As you know, November is CUNY Month. In my charge to the council on Monday, I will announce that the remainder of CUNY Month will be focused on a “CUNY Works” initiative to assist those affected by the storm. Each campus should identify areas of greatest need, both within the college community and in the surrounding community, and mobilize the college to address those needs. CUNY Works activities might include food collection and delivery; a designated day of cleaning; fund-raising efforts, such as a phonathon, to secure emergency funds; and the creation of a registry for household items.

Each of the CUNY campuses was affected differently by the storm, and many have already begun extensive outreach efforts to their campus community and to the wider community. Individual colleges are best able to determine the most urgent post-storm needs and the most effective ways of meeting those needs. Please engage your students, faculty, staff, and alumni in further developing and executing targeted CUNY Works activities and initiatives throughout the remainder of CUNY Month. Your council representative can report on existing and proposed assistance activities at Monday's meeting.

A comprehensive listing of support services available to those in need can be found on the “Hurricane Sandy Resources & Services” page of the CUNY website: http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/sa/GeneralInfoResources.html. All CUNY hurricane relief activities can be easily accessed through cuny.edu.

As I said at Monday’s Council of Presidents meeting, I know that this has been a difficult time for you and your entire campus, as it has been for our city, state, and region. Thank you for the exemplary leadership you continue to demonstrate. Together, we can ensure that “CUNY works” for all of those in need.

cc: Chancellor’s Cabinet
Chairperson Kafui K. Kouakou
Chairperson Terrence F. Martell