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Dear Colleagues—

I am pleased to announce the recommendation of the appointment of **Dr. Jennifer Calder** as the associate dean of the School of Health Sciences, Human Services, and Nursing (HS2N), beginning January 13, 2022, and pending CUNY's approval.

Several factors informed this recommendation including consultation with and feedback from the search committee, careful review of valuable input received from various campus stakeholders who participated in the search process, and the current challenges and opportunities for HS2N and the college's strategic priorities.

Dr. Calder is an epidemiologist, public health educator, practitioner of veterinary medicine, and an academic educator with 20 plus years of experience in the public health field with a career focused on serving at-risk communities within the New York City Department of Health Bureau of Communicable Diseases, Parasitic Surveillance Unit and at the Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Disease Control, Epidemiology Section in Topeka, Kansas. Her most recent role was as the Director of the Health Department in the City of Stamford, Connecticut where she provided oversight for outbreak investigations and is credited with the City of Stamford's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She implemented a strategic plan that used public health nurses to establish COVID-19 testing site and COVID-19 vaccination site, where she also partnered with the local hospital to create a vaccination hub. She immediately created contact tracing teams, and acquired a team of Community Health Workers to serve as COVID-19 resource guides for the residents of Stamford. Because of her epidemiological training and astute ability to interpret data, Stamford was reported as the city with the highest vaccination rate of all cities in Connecticut. Mayor David Martin spoke very highly of Dr. Calder's ability to take the lead during the COVID-19 crisis resulting in the city of Stamford being well ahead of all cities in Connecticut to contain COVID-19. "It was her meticulous attention to detail, her understanding of how to use data to confirm what they intuitively knew, and acted aggressively with this knowledge. Stamford has the highest rate of vaccination and lowest rate of infection and much of this was attributed to Dr. Calder."

In her previous academic role as Associate Professor in the School of Health Sciences and Practice in the Department of Epidemiology and Community Health at New York Medical College where she was instrumental in implementing the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program as the Program Director, she taught introductory and advance level epidemiology courses both online and on campus. She was credited with assuring that each MPH student was advised, mentored, engaged in research, and stayed on course to complete their MPH degree. Many of the MPH graduate are leaders in the public health profession. While her most recent assignment has been in the health care industry, she remains active and continues to hold a part-time academic appointment at Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. With each of these academic appointments, she served on and/or led several academic committees, and served on/or chaired student dissertation and thesis committees. In her time at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Tuskegee University at Tuskegee, Alabama, she was charged with developing the MPH program with the Department of Pathobiology where she provided leadership in guiding the program through the University governance process to include approval at the University Senate and final approval from the Council on Education for Public Health accreditation. Dr. Barbara Greenberg, former chair of the Division of Epidemiology at New York Medical College said Dr. Calder was incredibly smart, held students to very high standards, and focused intently on student success. Dr. Calder was the program director for the MPH program and built the program from ground up, and advised and monitored students' progress toward graduation using a mapping system she developed, which assured students stayed on track towards graduation. She also followed up with students once they graduated and determined that students had the necessary skills needed from the degree program to be successful as practitioners.

Dr. Calder has had an active research scholarship portfolio with publications in well-known journals where she has been either the first or second author of the peer-reviewed article. Her research spans both human and animal research. In addition, she was the face and voice of COVID-19 vaccination efforts in Stamford where she participated in many media interviews that kept Stamford citizens informed of the necessary precautions associated with vaccination. She is a member of a number of professional organizations, which include the American Public Health Association, American Veterinary Medical Association, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists and National Association of County and City Health Officials to name a few.

Dr. Calder received her PhD degree in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Florida, Master of Public Health from Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from St. Istvan University Faculty of Veterinary Sciences in Budapest, Hungary. She has a license to practice veterinary medicine in Jamaica, W.I., and Hungary. She is also certified in Homeland Security V credential.

I am convinced that Dr. Calder's diverse educational background and span of academic and industry experiences will serve the School of Health Sciences, Human Services, and Nursing and the College 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. Jaye Jones, who served as interim associate dean of the School of Health Sciences, Human Services, and Nursing for nearly three years. Please join me in thanking her for her leadership in the school and for her willingness to serve as interim associate dean.

I am grateful to our campus community for the participation in this important leadership search. I am also 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, a virus that has created huge disruptions to our professional and personal lives. The search committee members were:

- Carl Mazza, Professor and Chair of the Department of Social Work (Co-Chair)
- Jonathan Rose, Chief of Staff to the Dean, School of Health Sciences, Human Services, and Nursing (Co-Chair)
- Alicia Georges, Professor and Chair, Department of Nursing
- Gul Sonmez, Professor and Chair, Department of Health Sciences
- Peggy Conner, Associate Professor & Chair, Department of Speech Language and Hearing Sciences
- Maria Isabel Roldos, Associate Professor, Health Services Administration program & Director of the CUNY Institute of Health Equity
- Ms. Princess Joy Racadio, Student

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

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Calder 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.

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Peter O. Nwosu, Ph.D.

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