

# COMMITTEE FOR THE CUNY FUTURE

c/o 1726 M Street, NW, Suite 802  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 467-6787

August 24, 2006

**VIA U.S. MAIL AND FACSIMILE**  
**(518) 474-1513**

The Honorable George E. Pataki  
Governor of New York  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Gov. Pataki:

We are a group of faculty, alumni, parents, and citizens deeply concerned with the future of the City University of New York (CUNY). We came into existence in 1998, when CUNY was debating a motion to limit remediation in an effort to raise academic standards and excellence. We supported that reform publicly and, since that time, have applauded the strides CUNY has made in remediation reform, curricular standards, and other areas.

That is why we are coming to you now. It has recently come to our attention that you have yet to reappoint CUNY trustee Jeffrey Wiesenfeld, who has played a key role in CUNY's renaissance, even though his term expired earlier this summer. We urge you to reappoint Mr. Wiesenfeld as soon as possible.

When our Committee was launched, we wrote: "As supporters of CUNY, we are concerned that the excessive number of remedial courses downgrades the senior colleges and diverts resources from college-level course work." We continued, "The senior colleges should not be doing the work of high schools. It is time to let CUNY be a university again."

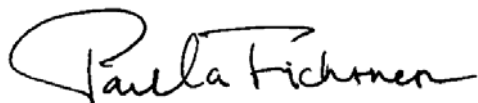
With Mr. Wiesenfeld's support, the Board did just that. Remediation reform was enacted. More than that, CUNY has increased its private fundraising, stepped up its academic standards, and established a flourishing Honors College. Again, Mr. Wiesenfeld was key to all these reforms, which have not just "let CUNY be" just any university, but have made it a much-desired (by students) and oft-praised (by experts) one. We are thrilled with such progress—and we dearly wish it to continue.

As many media outlets and groups of experts have pointed out, Mr. Wiesenfeld has been a model trustee during an era of intense challenges for higher education. Because of his contributions, CUNY has not only kept its footing during this challenging time—it has flourished. For that reason, we emphatically join the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, Professor KC Johnson, the New York Association of Scholars, and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York in favoring his immediate reappointment.


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We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



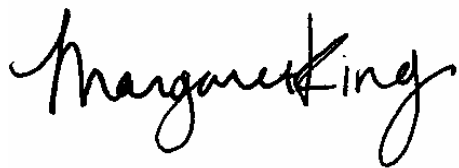
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Professor of History  
Brooklyn College and The Graduate Center



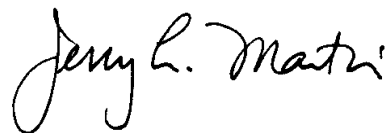
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Sterling Professor of History and Classics  
Yale University



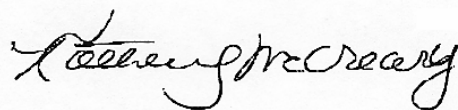
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New York City



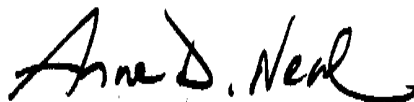
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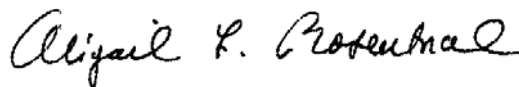
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Former trustee, SUNY Purchase  
Former member, Governor's Task Force on  
Tuition Reform



Anne D. Neal  
President  
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Arthur Stephen Penn  
Private investor  
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Abigail L. Rosenthal  
Professor Emerita of Philosophy  
Brooklyn College



Stanley Rothman (CCNY '49)  
Professor Emeritus of Government and  
Director, Center for the Study of Social and  
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*Sheldon M. Stern*

Sheldon M. Stern (Queens College '61)  
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August 24, 2006

**VIA U.S. MAIL AND FACSIMILE**  
**(212) 788-2460**

The Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor of New York City  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

We are a group of faculty, alumni, parents, and citizens deeply concerned with the future of the City University of New York (CUNY). We came into existence in 1998, when CUNY was debating a motion to limit remediation in an effort to raise academic standards and excellence. We supported that reform publicly and, since that time, have applauded the strides CUNY has made in remediation reform, curricular standards, and other areas.

That is why we are coming to you now. It has recently come to our attention that you have yet to reappoint CUNY trustee Randy Mastro, who has played a key role in CUNY's renaissance, even though his term expired earlier this summer. We urge you to reappoint Mr. Mastro as soon as possible.

When our Committee was launched, we wrote: "As supporters of CUNY, we are concerned that the excessive number of remedial courses downgrades the senior colleges and diverts resources from college-level course work." We continued, "The senior colleges should not be doing the work of high schools. It is time to let CUNY be a university again."

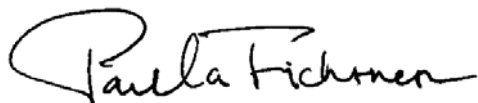
With Mr. Mastro's support, the Board did just that. Remediation reform was enacted. More than that, CUNY has increased its private fundraising, stepped up its academic standards, and established a flourishing Honors College. Again, Mr. Mastro was key to all these reforms, which have not just "let CUNY be" just any university, but have made it a much-desired and oft-praised one. We are thrilled with such progress—and we dearly wish it to continue.

For those of us who care deeply about CUNY, Mr. Mastro has been a model trustee during an era of intense challenges for higher education. Because of his contributions, CUNY has not only kept its footing during this challenging time—it has flourished. For that reason, we emphatically join the American Council of Trustees and Alumni and Professor KC Johnson in favoring his immediate reappointment.

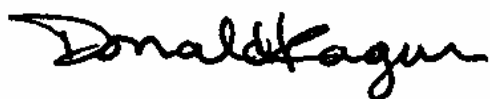
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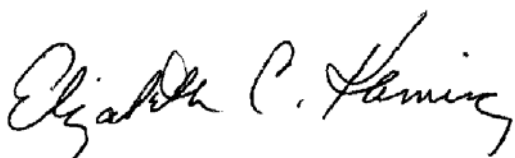
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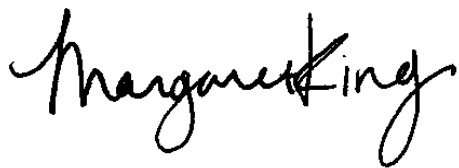
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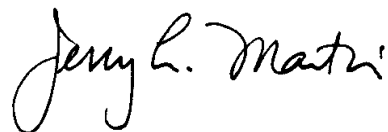
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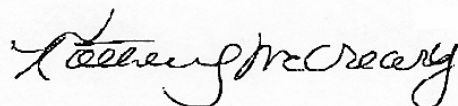
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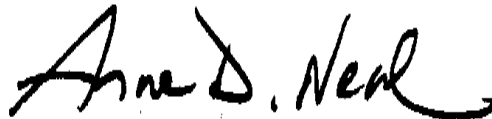
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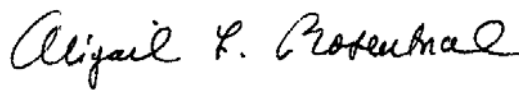
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