Dear CUNY Community,

We’re in the middle of a turbulent week in this year of seemingly endless anxiety, and I know emotions are running high. I thought I’d check in to offer a few words of perspective on this week’s election and the protracted uncertainty of its resolution.

Many of us have been deeply invested in the process of electing our president — an election that has been extraordinarily stressful and arguably more consequential than any in our lifetimes. The aftermath could well be equally difficult, a test of our civic health and possibly even democracy itself.

But if this period has shown us one thing, it is that our institutions are enduring even when they are vulnerable. So I urge patience and calm as we await the eventual outcome of the election. Don’t lose sight of the fact that we are fortunate to have a living, breathing democracy, that it can be messy, and that we all have responsibility for keeping it, as Benjamin Franklin reminds us to this day.

This election — and this year — have demonstrated that our democracy provides us with many opportunities to work for change. I’m very proud of all in our CUNY community who made sure to exercise their right to vote, who helped enfranchise others and found other ways to engage in our democratic process. And I encourage all to stay informed and involved, no matter which candidate you supported. Election Day does not end the many challenges we face — and education gives us a clear path to bringing our nation back together and to solving the complex problems that lie in front of us.

To our faculty and staff, I urge you to continue doing what you do best, using this momentous election as a teachable moment. To our students, use your experiences as members of the CUNY community and New Yorkers to continue to fight for a better society around you. But don’t ignore your own needs and struggles. Students can bookmark our student guide to access a list of mental health resources, services and tips. Faculty and staff can find options on our Benefits and Wellness page or contact their Human Resources Office.

Sincerely,

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