March 25, 2010

Dear Faculty Member:

We write to invite you to the ninth annual Summer Institute for Teaching and Learning this May. During the past eight years the faculty members who preceded you as participants laid an excellent foundation for us. As a result of their work, we have learned a great deal about learning communities, collaborative learning, classroom assessment, learning styles, and the use of resources such as the library, instructional technology, learning center, counseling, and advisement.

One of the most important lessons we have learned is that conversations among faculty members are vital and transformative. Professors from diverse departments, who might never see each other in the normal course of events, have worked collaboratively with a new sense of connection.

We have been engaged in many discussions at City Tech regarding the role of general education in our curriculum. In this year's institute you will learn the important role that learning communities have played in this discussion. Learning communities provide us with a forum to develop new instructional techniques and to bring together many of the college-wide initiatives, including writing across the disciplines, use of technology in the classroom, tutoring and support from the learning center, development of critical thinking skills in the curriculum, and curriculum reform. All of these topic areas will be discussed.

This year the Summer Institute will have two components.

I. Thematic Presentation of Fall 2010 Learning Communities, May 25-26 (1 ½ days --- Tuesday and Wednesday)—Mandatory planning workshop and presentation for faculty scheduled to teach in Learning Communities sections in Fall 2010.

II. Faculty as a Community of Learners, May 26-28 (2 ½ days—Full days on Wednesday and Thursday and Friday morning). All faculty are invited, and priority will be given to those who have not previously participated.

Faculty participating in the Summer Institute: Faculty as a Community of Learners will receive a stipend of $200; those participating in the Learning Communities Planning Workshop will receive $150.

We are honored to have Dr. Estela Rojas of the Mathematics Department, again lead the Summer Institute. She is an internationally recognized expert on Learning Communities.

RSVP via email to facultycommons@citytech.cuny.edu no later than April 23, 2010.

Sincerely,

Sonja Jackson            Bonne August
Dean of Curriculum & Instruction  Provost and VP for Academic Affairs