**Distance Learning for Students with Disabilities**

During this transition to distance learning, CUNY’s faculty remain the University’s most vital resource in ensuring reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. As our faculty prepare to deliver course content via distance learning modalities, I ask that they consider the following overarching principles and key resources:

* Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), CUNY college are still required to provide equal access to our University’s academic programs – even in a distance learning environment
* Campus Offices of Disability Services (ODS) continue to serve as key sources of technical assistance and support to faculty in determining the best ways to reasonably accommodate students with disabilities in distance learning instructional modalities; please use this link to contact the ODS on your campus: <http://cats.cuny.edu/reasonableaccommodations/COSDIDirectory.html>
* The barriers that exist at the intersection of a student’s disability and course design may be different from those posed by the original course format. Some accommodations students used before may no longer apply in distance learning formats, and some accommodations not considered previously may need to be considered now; we appreciate our faculty’s flexibility and collaboration with ODS staff and students with disabilities themselves to meet their accommodation needs in distance learning modalities

***Reasonable Accommodations: A Faculty Guide for Teaching Students with Disabilities****was* developed specifically for CUNY faculty to provide them with information and best practices to be most effective in meeting the needs of students with disabilities and achieving the goal of equal access. This guide includes helpful information in accommodating students with disabilities in distance learning, including the following two sections:

 *Technology in the Classroom and for Online Courses*

<http://cats.cuny.edu/reasonableaccommodations/TechnologyintheClassroom.html>

*Alternative Text for Students with Disabilities*

<http://cats.cuny.edu/reasonableaccommodations/AlternativeText.html>

Please know that our campus Offices of Disability Services will work closely with our CUNY Office of Student Inclusion Initiatives to ensure that our faculty have the support they need to successfully and meaningfully accommodate students with disabilities. We are grateful to our faculty and to our disability services professionals for their abiding commitment to the access, success, and wellness of students with disabilities.