WELCOME TO METRO U NEW YORK CITY
CUNY Interim Chancellor Vita C. Rabinozitz
Throughout the city this week, more than a quar-
ter of a million students are beginning classes
on the 25 campuses of The City University of New York, an annual
ritual that reaffirms CUNY’s long-
standing and inseparable
connection with the city.
This is an exciting time in the
University’s history, one
marked by prestigious awards
for our students and faculty
and national acclaim for our se-
nior and community colleges.
In the past two years, CUNY colleges have fig-
ured prominently in the ran-
kings of the Chronicle of Higher Edu-
cation and Money magazine,
among other publications.
The rankings take a variety of
factors into account, includ-
ing tuition charges, alumni
earnings and social mobility, a
measure of a school’s success
in lifting low-income students
into the middle class.
The rankings affirm
research by leading economists
showing that CUNY’s singular
quality, affordability and
diversity set it apart as perhaps
the most potent engine of
economic advancement in the
United States.
Not surprisingly, that
quality, affordability and
diversity have fueled a surge
in enrollment over the past 10
years of 40,000 students—an
increase roughly equivalent in
size to the student body of
the University of Michigan.
Regards,
As we grow, we do more
and more to ensure that our
students are graduating on
time and pursuing successful
careers. CUNY is on the cutting
edge of implementing aca-
demic strategies and programs
that help students to navigate
intractable challenges and
achieve their goals.
Throughout my 40-year
career at CUNY, I’ve always
embraced what makes our commu-
nity dynamic and special. CUNY is
arguably the most diverse
university in the nation, if not
the world, in all the ways that
matter: race, ethnicity, culture
of origin and languages spoken
at home, gender identity, sexual
orientation, and religious affilia-
tion and observance.
That diversity is not hap-

tent by. We are built for the
students we have, and out of
this grows our sense of purpose.

Presidents react to McCain’s death

Sen. John McCain, a
former prisoner of war in
Vietnam who ran for presi-
dent in 2008 as a maverick
Republican and became a
prominent critic of Presi-
dent Donald Trump, died
Saturday. He was 81.
An Arizona senator
for more than three
decades, McCain had
been suffering from brain
cancer since July 2017
and had not been at the
U.S. Capitol this year.
All five living former
presidents — Barack
Obama, George W. Bush,
Bill Clinton, George H.W.
Bush and Jimmy Carter —
paid tribute to McCain’s
courage and character.

BARACK OBAMA: “Few
of us have been tested the
way John once was, or
required to show the kind
of courage that he did. But
all of us can aspire to the
courage to put the greater
good above our own. At
John’s best, he showed us
what that means. And for
that, we all are in his debt.
Michelle and I send our
most heartfelt condo-
lences to Cindy and their
family.”

BILL CLINTON: “He
frequently put partisan-
ship aside to do what he
thought was best for the
country, and was never
afraid to break the mold
if it was the right thing
do. I will always be
especially grateful for his
leadership in our success-
ful efforts to normalize
relations with Vietnam.”

GEORGE W. BUSH: “Some
lives are so vivid, it is
difficult to imagine
them ended. Some voices
are so vibrant, it is hard
to think of them stilled.

John McCain was a man
of deep conviction and
a patriot of the highest
order. He was a public
servant in the finest tradi-
tions of our country. And
to me, he was a friend
whom I’ll deeply miss.”

JIMMY CARTER: “John
McCain was a man of honor,
a true patriot in the
best sense of the word.
Americans will forever
grateful for his heroic
military service and for
his steadfast integrity as
a member of the United
States Senate.”

GEORGE H. W. BUSH: “John
McCain was a pa-
triot of the highest order,
a public servant of rarest
courage. Few sacrificed
more for, or contributed
more to, the welfare of his fellow citizens —
and indeed freedom-loving
peoples around the world.

Another American maver-
ick and warrior, General
George Patton, once ob-
served: “We should thank
God that men such as
these have lived.”

TRUMP’S SHORT SEND-OFF FOR JOHN MCCAIN

What do you say
dies you never
really liked? Very
few Americans are wrestling
with that quandary today.
John McCain was one
of the very most beloved
people anywhere in pub-
lic life. Republicans, Dem-
ocrats, people who loathe
everyone in politics — al-
most everyone had a soft
spot for the crusty senator
from Arizona, who died
over the weekend after
a valiant bout with brain
cancer.

McCain was an inspir-
ing throwback to a day
when people could dis-
agree and still not hate
each other, when personal
character actually meant
something in Washington.
You know, before Don-
ald Trump, Trump did
everything he could to
ignore the man, even fail-
ing to acknowledge him
while signing a defense
bill named for McCain.

White House flags
were lowered to half-staff
on Sunday. But Trump’s
condolence tweet could
hardly have been any
stinger. It was exactly 21
words long. Despite the
respectful tone, not one
of those words contained
an ounce of praise for
John McCain. “My deepest
sympathies and respect go
to the family of Sena-
tor John McCain,” Trump
wrote. “Our hearts and
prayers are with you!”

Could the president
have said any less? Like
most of Trump’s faults,
this one goes on forever.
Not even death can heal
these wounds.