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TO: Lehman College Students
FROM: Peter O. Nwosu, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success
SUBJECT: Observing Juneteenth 2020
DATE: May 20, 2020

Dear students—

On June 17, 2020, Governor Cuomo signed an executive order declaring Juneteenth (Friday, June 19) a public holiday in the state. Following this order, the CUNY Board of Trustees today [approved a resolution](#) declaring that the CUNY community will also observe Juneteenth as a holiday. In observance of this holiday, summer classes will not be held tomorrow at Lehman College.

Juneteenth marks the 155th anniversary of the ending of slavery in the United States following the Emancipation Proclamation signed two years earlier by President Abraham Lincoln. It took two years after the signing for American blacks living in the south (Texas) to receive word of the proclamation.

Amidst the racial climate in our country today, I urge the Lehman community of teachers, scholars, activists, and students to take some time to reflect on the meaning and significance of this day in our nation's march toward a more perfect union.

Be well and remain safe.