



GREAT GRADS 2016

The City College
of New York



When I first entered the gate from Amsterdam and walked to Shepard Hall I fell in love with the campus and I felt like this is where I belong.

Orubba Almansouri

BA, History and English (double major) | Division of Humanities and the Arts

High School

Brooklyn International, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Hometown

Brooklyn, N.Y.
Born in Yemen

Why did you choose City College?

I was first introduced to CCNY through my participation in the Model UN when I was in high school. When I first entered the gate from Amsterdam and walked to Shepard Hall I fell in love with the campus and I felt like this is where I belong. I then learned about the SEEK program and the various opportunities at CCNY, from a wide range of major and minor concentrations to great scholarship and fellowships. Visiting the campus and seeing the diversity of students reaffirmed my decision to attend City College.

Your CCNY experience in three words

Success, education, elevation

Top honors

Class of 2016 Salutatorian
Outstanding SEEK Graduate of the Year
Arthur Teidemann Award in History

Student clubs and activities

SEEK mentor and tutor
Colin Powell Fellowship Ambassador
Co-founder and President of Kalam Bridges to the Middle East Club

How will you use your City College experience to change the world?

Emboldened by academic success, I now aspire to earn a PhD in Middle East and Islamic studies. I seek the skills, academic credentials, and resources to write scholarship about Arabic literature and oral traditions. I look forward to a career as a university professor in order to devote my professional life to studying and teaching the literature and history of the Arabian Peninsula with a focus on Yemeni women's authorship and oral traditions, while continuing to advocate for girls' rights to education.



Coming from such an unprivileged region was neither an excuse nor a constraint, instead it was a motivation for me to create that opportunity.

Logman Arja

MS, Sustainability in the Urban Environment | Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture

High School

Al-Fashir Secondary School, Al-Fashir, Sudan

Hometown

Al-Fashir, Sudan

Why did you choose City College?

I am a Fulbright Scholar from Sudan and was placed at CCNY.

Your CCNY experience in three words

Learning, passion, and accomplishment

Top honors

Semi-finalist, Zahn Social Impact Seed Prize
Fulbright Scholarship

Student clubs and activities

Member, Building Integrated Screen team, Zahn Innovation Center entrepreneurial competition

How will you use your City College experience to change the world?

Given my interest in integrating sustainability and architecture, CCNY has provided the outstanding training in engineering sustainable systems as well as integrating design approaches. I am eager to translate this knowledge into action. I would like to practice architecture that integrates aesthetics and ecological design principles. The world needs a paradigm shift in design paths towards sustainable and environmentally friendly design approaches.



Strong communities, led by passionate people, will change the world.

Hollis Heath

MS Ed, Educational Theatre | School of Education

High School

Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School, N.Y.

Hometown

Harlem, N.Y.

Why did you choose City College?

I completed undergrad at City College and had a wonderful experience. When I decided to pursue graduate study I knew that CCNY had a unique and newish program training theatre educators. I loved the idea of being part of something intimate and burgeoning but I also found the program was incredibly comprehensive and dynamic. The Educational Theatre Department in the School of Education has been instrumental in my growth not just as an educator, but also as an artist, community member, and really as a young woman. I feel very privileged to be part of this program and to have witnessed how much it has grown.

Your CCNY experience in three words

Dynamic, rewarding, transformative

Top honors

White House speaker, United State of Young Women Forum
Self-Esteem Educator, Dove

Student clubs and activities

Theatre work in the greater Harlem community

How will you use your City College experience to change the world?

My education at City College has provided me with the skills, resources and confidence to pursue my passions. I am passionate about using the theatre arts to engage communities and using the arts as a vehicle to provide young people with life and leadership skills. Young people who are prepared to pursue their passions then go on to lead strong communities. Strong communities, led by passionate people, will change the world.



Having the opportunity to attain a quality education and fulfill my aspirations has pushed me to do the same for others in the future.

Fatjon Kaja

BA/MA in economics; pre-Law (also completed requirements for a major in philosophy)
Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership

High School

Fort Hamilton HS, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Seid Najdeni HS, Peshkopi, Albania

Hometown

Brooklyn, N.Y.
Born in Peshkopi, Albania

Why did you choose City College?

CCNY has a rich legacy of governing socio-economics dynamics thanks to its affordable and quality education. I wanted to be part of that honorable legacy.

Your CCNY experience in three words

Challenging, enlightening, empowering

Top honors

Skadden Arps Honors Program in Legal Studies
Partners for Change Fellow, CCNY Office of Student Success
Josh and Judy Weston Scholarship for Public Service

Student clubs and activities

Executive vice president, Undergraduate Student Government
Co-founder, executive director, ACLU CCNY
Policy director for economic development, Roosevelt Institute

How will you use your City College experience to change the world?

My City College experience has been an amazing adventure that has shown to me the importance of investing in human capital. As someone who moved to the United States almost six years ago by myself, having the opportunity to attain a quality education and fulfill my aspirations has pushed me to do the same for others in the future. My aspiration remains that of becoming a public intellectual, where I hope I can highlight issues that people face on their daily lives and provide a framework where those issues are being debated and addressed.



I chose City College for a number of reasons, including its rich academic curriculum.

Mohammad Ishrak Khan

BS, Biology | Division of Science

High School

Jamaica Gateway to the Sciences
Queens, N.Y.

Hometown

Jamaica, N.Y.
Born in Dhaka, Bangladesh

Why did you choose City College?

I chose City College for a number of reasons, including its rich academic curriculum, the overall quality of education that it provides, its great premedical and pre-health program, and its legendary diversity and openness to students from different backgrounds.

Your CCNY experience in three words

Competent, empathetic, xenophile

Top honors

CCNY Dean's list
Dr. Bernard Levine Scholarship;
ABRCMS travel award/Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

Student clubs and activities

Mentor, Division of Science and CCAPP
Member, Student Supportive Service Program, CCNY
Shadowed medical doctors, Staff Education, Queens Hospital Center

How will you use your City College experience to change the world?

By imparting the valuable lessons we learned at CCNY to people so that they can appreciate us and the institution that shaped us in ways to make great impacts on people's lives around the world.



I am working on a science playground project called "Archimedes" to develop playground design that can be integrated with K-12 STEM curriculum.

Katerina Marcelja

M.Arch, Architecture | Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture

High School

Palo Alto High School
Liceo Artistico, Florence, Italy

Hometown

Rome, Italy

Why did you choose City College?

CCNY is the only architecture school I applied to because it offered the program I wanted and also because it is in NYC and it is affordable.

Your CCNY experience in three words

Of the city, for the city, and by the city

Top honors

Work selected for the following faculty-edited publications:
City Works 9: Student Work 2014-2015
City Works 10: Student Work 2015-2016
Hunting Ground, Vol. 3, Spitzer graduate landscape architecture program

Student clubs and activities

Graduate Architecture Club

How will you use your City College experience to change the world?

I am working on a science playground project called "Archimedes" to develop playground design that can be integrated with K-12 STEM curriculum. The initiative was inspired by the research of Professor Marta Gutman and the work of Professor Elisabetta Terragni. I was able to develop some design ideas for this project in Professor June Williamson's Parking Plus Advanced Studio. This project is in cooperation with teachers from Brooklyn Technical High School and the Math for America Network.



Be thankful and grateful for the people in your life that support your dreams. Be that person to someone else.

Christina Moawad

BE, Biomedical Engineering | Grove School of Engineering, Macaulay Honors College

High School

St. Anthony's High School
South Huntington, N.Y.

Hometown

Melville, N.Y.

Why did you choose City College?

I was excited to pursue my passions in engineering and medicine at an affordable and diverse school. CCNY is known for advanced and innovative research with many notable alumni, and I wanted to be a part of that. My father received an MS in civil engineering from CCNY, so I knew the opportunities I would be exposed to at CCNY would be greater than at any other institution.

Your CCNY experience in three words

Intense, gratifying, successful

Top honors

Whitaker International Fellowship Grant
Honorable Mention, Barry M. Goldwater
NASA New York Space Grant Scholarship

Student clubs and activities

President, Biomedical Engineering Society
Committee member, Biomedical Engineering Executive Committee
Vice-president, The City Tutors

How will you use your City College experience to change the world?

CCNY has enabled me to extract the most out of my academic journey and apply it to the demanding field of research and medicine our world faces today. I am confidently equipped to solve challenges with innovation and efficiency because of the diverse experiences I was exposed to during my undergraduate journey.



Because of my education, I am well prepared to give back to my community.

Rosmil Monegro

BA, Spanish | Division of Humanities and the Arts

High School

Gregorio Luperón High School
Manhattan

Hometown

Manhattan
Born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Why did you choose City College?

I believe City College chose me! While in high school, I attended a STEM summer program run by College Now at City College. I became very familiar with the campus and enjoyed being in this environment. You could say that CCNY spoke to me.

Your CCNY experience in three words

Exciting, vigorous, and influential!

Top honors

CCNY Dean's List
Ellen Knowles Harcourt Scholarship

How will you use your City College experience to change the world?

Those four years of determination and self-discipline contributed to my personal and professional growth in ways that I could not have imagined when I entered as a freshman in fall 2012. Because of my education, I am well prepared to give back to my community. A master's degree—and City College—are in my future, too.



For all the knowledge engineers and scientists have, we are one-dimensional scholars if we are not aware of the world around us and the people in it.

Antonios Mourdoukoutas

BE, Biomedical Engineering | Grove School of Engineering, Macaulay Honors College

High School

Lindenhurst Senior High School
Lindenhurst, N.Y.

Hometown

Lindenhurst, N.Y.

Why did you choose City College?

When I was applying to colleges, I made my decision knowing that I wanted to be an engineer, I wanted to live in a big city, and I could not put a large financial burden on my family. Those factors, location, reputation in engineering, and affordability, made City College a great choice. Seeing the historic campus buildings when I first visited made my decision even easier.

Your CCNY experience in three words

Humbling, collective, inspirational

Top honors

Class of 2016 Valedictorian
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow
Barry M. Goldwater Scholar

Student clubs and activities

Drummer, Macaulay Musician's Collective
Chaser, Macaulay Quidditch team
Defender, City College men's soccer team

How will you use your City College experience to change the world?

I am grateful for all aspects of my City College education, but the sole irreplaceable component of my CCNY experience came from learning alongside people with life experiences strikingly different from my own. I have learned that diversity in human experience gives rise to diversity in thought, which creates distinct ideas and methods of problem solving—a requirement for innovation in the medical research. My goal is to use what I have learned from the City College student body and faculty to advance medical technologies as a professor in biomedical engineering and to mentor the next generation of diverse-minded engineers. I aspire to leave an impression on the next generation of engineers similar to the one my City College experience has left on me.



I have learned that like medicine, the path I have chosen is filled with uncertainties, but just as medicine is an imperfect science, always evolving and expanding, so too must I evolve and grow.

Baho Sidiqi

BS, Biomedical Science | Sophie Davis Biomedical Education/CUNY School of Medicine

High School

Benjamin N. Cardozo High School
Queens, N.Y.

Hometown

Hicksville, Long Island
Born in Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan

Why did you choose City College?

Sophie Davis offered a direct path towards medicine and the ability to make a meaningful impact into the future. An added bonus was that it was affordable.

Your CCNY experience in three words

Expansive, demanding, enlightening

Top honors

Rudin Fellowship
Sophie and Leonard Davis Scholarship
Margaret E. Mahoney Fellowship

Student clubs and activities

Student Representative on Sophie Davis Curriculum Committee
Layout editor and writer for Sophie Davis Biograph, student magazine
Tutor at Learning Resource Center

How will you use your City College experience to change the world?

I have found new passions in teaching and policy during my time at City College. Today, I want to go beyond just being a doctor by becoming an educator and a policy maker.



So many people ask me what my secret is...and the only thing I can think of is that at some point, I acknowledged that I am human. My success truly came when I fearlessly threw myself at failure.

Joanna Ventour

BA, Advertising/Public Relations | Division of Humanities and the Arts

High School

Benjamin Banneker Academy
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Hometown

Brooklyn
Born in Trincity, Trinidad & Tobago

Why did you choose City College?

I chose CCNY particularly for the Ad/PR program. When I was transferring from my previous school, I knew what I wanted to major in, and several family friends urged me that CCNY was the best place for my education to thrive.

Your CCNY experience in three words

Inclusive, unforgettable, community

Top honors

PRSA Gary Yoshimura Scholar
New York Women in Communications IPG Scholarship & Internship
City College Southern Nevada Chapter Scholarship

Student clubs and activities

President and VP, American Advertising Federation (AAF)
Member, Public Relations Student Society of America
Student leader/Intern, AAF Ad Camp

How will you use your City College experience to change the world?

City College has taught me to never judge a book by its cover. You never know what the people around you have been through or are going through, but we all come together in pursuit of higher education. I hope to continue surrounding myself with people who are in pursuit of something greater, no matter where they come from. I will continue to champion diversity in every facet of my life and inspire those who desire a higher education regardless of citizenship status or financial standing.



I went back to school at CWE expecting to just get a piece of paper. Instead, I became a better version of myself.

Diami Virgilio

BA, Communications | Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education

High School

Longwood High School
Middle Island, N.Y.

Hometown

Bronx, N.Y.

Why did you choose City College?

I chose City College at the Center for Worker Education (CWE), which offered an excellent opportunity for me as an adult returning student to obtain my degree in a setting very similar to a small liberal arts college.

Your CCNY experience in three words

Enriching, enlightening, humbling

Top honors

CWE Class of 2016 Salutatorian
CWE Dean's Award
Maria Bowen Chapin Scholarship

Student clubs and activities

CWE Conversations Club

How will you use your City College experience to change the world?

My experience at City College has prepared me to understand the world more deeply from a cross-section of disciplinary perspectives. I aim to take the understanding I've gained, both of the importance of structural determinants of our social reality and the value of interdisciplinarity, and apply it to further studies in communication theory and practice as we attempt to hew out our place in a new digital future.



I learned the importance of relating to people with different ideologies and opinions and working together for the greater good.

Irini Youssef

BS, Biomedical Education | Sophie Davis Biomedical Education/CUNY School of Medicine

High School

Martin Luther Lutheran High School
Queens, N.Y.

Hometown

Maspeth, Queens

Why did you choose City College?

I believed the diversity, high quality education, and rigorous medical program offered by City College would be the ideal combination that would allow me to succeed.

Your CCNY experience in three words

Enriching, humbling, memorable

Top honors

Ed Koch Scholarship in Public Service
Leonard Davis Fellowship

Student clubs and activities

Advocate, Health Leads
Food preparer/server, Food bank for NYC
Tutor, Sophie Davis Learning Resource Center

How will you use your City College experience to change the world?

The diversity of City College allowed me to come across people from every culture and ethnicity. I learned the importance of relating to people with different ideologies and opinions and working together for the greater good. These aspects will make me a culturally competent and open-minded doctor who will make her patients feel understood. I spent most of my years at CCNY dedicated to tutoring both college and high school students, and I want to continue educating, even as a doctor, because I believe education is a powerful weapon. Most importantly, attending a university in Harlem and volunteering in the local area gave me exposure to existing barriers and adversities. This has made me more committed to serving the public after medical school, focusing on improving patient care, education, and access to medicine.



**ASPIRE
CREATE
LEAD**



CCNY



**RESEARCH
INNOVATE
TRANSFORM**



CCNY



**CALLY
NOTED**



**OBALLY
CONNECTED**



CCNY



CCNY



CCNY



The City College
of New York

WWW.CCNY.CUNY.EDU