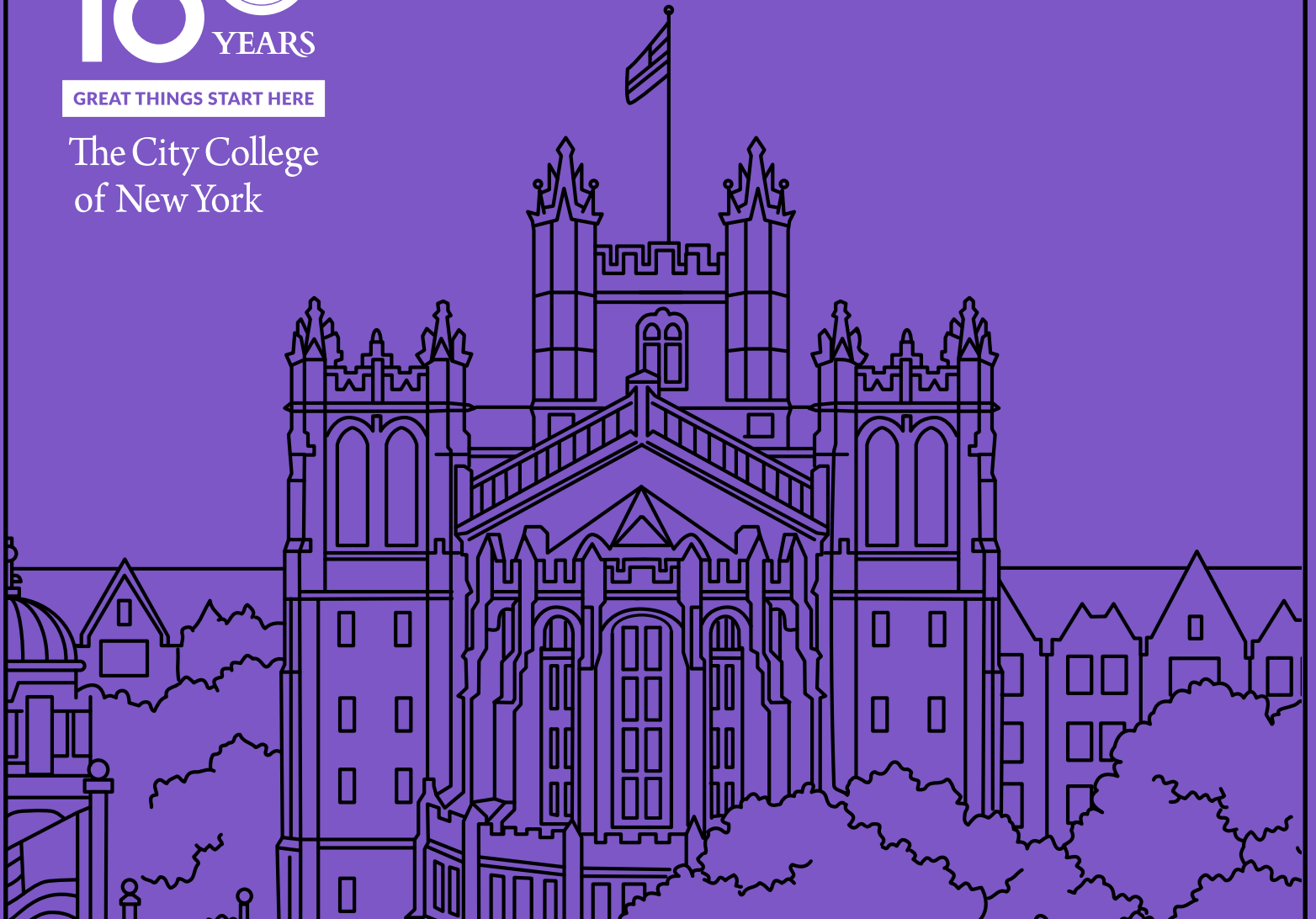


18 YEARS



GREAT THINGS START HERE

The City College
of New York



FY25-26 PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT ON RESEARCH AND CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP





Shepard Hall, Summer 2026

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Harris Hall, Fall 2025

Letter from the President



Dear Friends and Supporters of City College,

I'm truly excited to present this year's edition of CCNY's Annual President's Report. While it is not—and cannot be—a comprehensive record of all we're doing on campus, it presents some important highlights about our research, our programmatic development, our student success and our institutional positioning. Moreover, I think that our report provides a window into some themes that pull together strands of our activity and tell important elements of our story. I'd like to use this letter to highlight a few.

First, as I write this letter, in September of 2026, The City College of New York has a larger and more robust enrollment than at any time in our history (and I could have said the same thing twelve months ago!). How did we get here—especially at a time when national enrollment trends pose an existential threat to so many other colleges and programs across the nation?

There are a number of potential answers. Our institutional advancement and communications team has made the value proposition of CCNY, in terms of both social mobility and economic development, a matter of national public awareness, and that's certainly attracted more robust applications. The specter of economic hardship certainly makes the value of a CCNY education more explicit, especially when one compares our \$7,000 annual tuition with near-six digit costs of attendance elsewhere, but other strategic factors are also in play.

Of these, I believe a primary consideration has been a careful and staged deployment of our philanthropic resources. Many of you now reading this have made robust contributions to our scholarship, internship and fellowship supports, contributions reflected in the fact that we now distribute roughly 20 million dollars annually in direct philanthropic support to students.

More importantly, however, has been our strategy to deploy philanthropy to shore up the college's ability to attract, retain and support students as part of a plan with both student success and financial objectives. Careful examination of student success programs across the country made a few things crystal clear. We learned that we were losing students because in some places our student to advisor ratio was 600 to 1, against industry standards that set a ceiling at 300 to 1. So, we invested close to a million dollars a year to add 20 new advisors to the college. Student success and retention, as well as tuition revenue, soon began to rise, allowing us to move advisors from philanthropic support to the college's main budget lines. We made similar investments in transfer advising, in recruitment and in other forms of academic support. The result has been a predictable cycle wherein initial philanthropic investments produce enrollment gains, enrollment gains produce revenue, and the expanding operation is sustained within a growing budget envelope.

For the first time in my administration, buoyed by these financial gains, we have begun both to build a reserve fund and to hire faculty and staff above the rate we need to replace those who retire or otherwise leave our employment. And, not having to use all available funds to remediate a budget gap has allowed us to think about a new vision for the college.

What does that vision look like? We recently completed a new Master Plan for the campus—the first one undertaken in 50 years. It maps out an ambitious redesign of core facilities, like the library and research labs, and will serve to guide infrastructural investments for decades to come. The college, as a CUNYBeyond recipient, has undertaken an ambitious course of program development and staff investment to strengthen how we

guide students into successful careers from the moment they start college—and expanding our support for paid work experience, like internships and research assistantships, will be a large part of the program. The college has undertaken several bold new projects that will expand and enhance our facilities, including a fundamental renovation of our Aaron Davis Hall theater, launch of our Fire House Art Studio and Gallery at 141st St., and the construction of a Dominican Cultural Center in Washington Heights. Each project will require us to develop a fund to support operations and programming—but each also represents an important aspect of a larger project to strengthen CCNY's identity and role as a key cultural institution.

When I first announced the campaign to raise our Foundation holdings to \$1 billion, my most immediate goal was to secure our financial stability. Despite two consecutive years in the black, that goal remains a key campaign objective. But having made those gains, and—lest I bury the lede—having now passed the halfway point in that campaign, with nearly \$520,000,000 now under Foundation management—we are now poised to carve out discrete, forward-looking aspects of our plan for the college as part of this campaign, and so drive things ever forward. These projects, as well as a new effort to raise philanthropic support for research, represent important elements of that campaign going forward.

So many of you now reading this report have been constant and avid supporters of the college. I'm grateful for your generous donations, for your advocacy, for the times you wear our gear in public and for the stories you bring us about your experiences at CCNY—or perhaps those of your parents or grandparents. I hope as you read this report, you'll find news that excites your enthusiasm, and that you'll find ways to work with us for a stronger CCNY future.

With my deep gratitude,

A stylized, handwritten signature of Vince Boudreau in black ink.

Vince Boudreau
President

Letter from the Provost



Dear Friends and Supporters of City College,

As I sit here on a beautiful fall afternoon, it is hard to believe another year has passed. It has been a good one for City College. This month we welcomed just over 2,700 new freshmen to campus—the Great Hall was completely filled, including both balconies, for Freshman Convocation. We have over 1,000 new transfer students joining us from the Community Colleges, an increase of more than 9 percent over last fall. Overall, our enrollment is well over 17,000, which is a City College record.

A good deal of that increased enrollment is due to improved student retention, and that improved retention is largely due to the investment by The Foundation in new advisors that I highlighted in last year's letter. In addition to the regular support that advisors give to students, we have now deployed several advisors to focus on students who are in their last couple of semesters to help them get past the finish line.

We have found that the lowest retention rates are for freshmen and

seniors and so we have turned our laser focus there. For freshmen, the focus is on getting them to declare a major, since students without a major stop out at much higher rates than students who have declared a major and been embraced by an academic department. For seniors, the focus is on making sure they plot a straight line from where they are to their graduation. The most common cause of a senior not making it to complete their degree is running out of financial aid because they've not efficiently completed the required courses for their major.

In addition to all the new and continuing students, we welcomed 30 excellent new faculty to campus last month. This was the outcome of our plan to rebuild our faculty numbers, now that the College is financially stable again. New faculty were welcomed in every academic division on campus, and the 30 new faculty replaced those who had retired or otherwise separated in the previous year, plus an additional eight.

We have two searches still in progress to reach our goal of 10 above replacement level each year for five years. We are now starting the second year of faculty rebuilding with a launch of 39 searches to replace 29 departed faculty. Bringing in fresh, new, mostly junior, faces after a long period of little-to-no hiring has raised everyone's spirits.

We have two new deans on campus, Marc Ostfield joined us last winter as the new dean of the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, and Stephen O'Brien transitioned from being interim dean of Science to dean of Science, both after national searches. Ostfield comes from a career in government and served as the Ambassador to Paraguay in the Biden

administration. O'Brien is a materials scientist who joined CCNY as an associate professor in the Chemistry Department in 2009 and became the department chair in 2023. I am thrilled to have them both on board.

I continue to marvel at the impact that City College has had on so many people in so many places. We are all well-versed in the names of our famous alums. But what continues to amaze me is how many people I run into who, when they find out where I work, will tell me about a close relative who graduated from City College. This doesn't just happen in the New York area. I ran into a CCNY grad on a trip to Cuba last winter.

Between my education and my career I have been at five different colleges and universities. I liked them all. I love City College. There is no place like it.

Thank you all, so much, for your support of this wonderful and important institution.

Sincerely,

Tony Liss
Provost

Letter from the Senior Vice President and Executive Director



Dear City College Friends and Partners,

Each year, I begin this letter wondering what you'll find most interesting about our last year together. The hardest part of drafting it is that the word count I'm given never seems to do justice to the work being done at City College all year. It's not that I can't stick to the word count—not at all—it's that I find myself trying to limit all the great things we can talk about here because there's an entire annual report devoted to City's impact! So much of what matters here happens quietly, outside the big press releases and public events, in the daily work of showing up for our students.

This year, though, a few things happened that are worth pulling into the light.

In May, on the same day as our Day of Giving and Homecoming Weekend, "The Campaign for City College: Doing Remarkable Things Together" reached the halfway mark of our \$1 billion goal—a full year ahead of schedule. Gifts ranged from \$5 to \$18.5 million, and every one of them, large or small, told us the same thing: that people believe in what happens here enough to invest in it. I am proud of what that says about this community, but prouder still of what comes next. Reaching a number was never the point. The point is what that number becomes.

One answer to that question sits in the Hoffman Lounge of our North Academic Complex, where Benny's Food Pantry has spent this year doing exactly what it was built to do. This past academic year, 2,468 people came through our main pantry location alone—with a striking single-month high of 828 visitors in February. Add in our other locations, both on our uptown campus and downtown at our CWE campus, and thousands more members of our community, students, staff, and their families, found reliable food access when they needed it most. Benny's began almost a decade ago as an improvised solution to a problem no one had given us the budget or the mandate to solve. Today, it is proof of what philanthropic investment looks like once it reaches the people it was meant to support.

Another answer arrived this year in the form of CUNY Beyond, the university-wide initiative to weave career readiness directly into every student's academic path—through career-connected coursework, paid internships, and direct relationships with employers like Morgan Stanley, Google, and Pfizer. City College was named this year as one of the newest campuses to join, backed by a \$6.8 million expansion of the program. Where Benny's answers an immediate need, CUNY Beyond is an investment in a longer horizon: making sure that a City College degree translates, reliably and directly, into a career our students can build a life on.

That same instinct, to connect our campus outward, took physical shape this year as well. In February, we launched the Upper Manhattan Small Business Development Center in Shepard Hall, becoming the fifth CUNY campus to host one, alongside Baruch, York, the College of Staten Island, and LaGuardia. It offers no-cost advisement, training, and research to entrepreneurs and small business owners throughout our neighborhood, extending the same mission that drives everything else in this letter, opportunity, outward from our classrooms into the community that surrounds them.

And this October, we will celebrate the very first answer to a different kind of question: what happens when we invest

not in a student's path forward, but in a faculty member's next idea. Professors Hernán Makse and Lucas Parra, whose work together has already helped reimagine how artificial intelligence can detect breast cancer earlier than ever before, are our inaugural President's Innovation Fund recipients, for a project called "Democratizing AI through Symmetry Compression." It is exactly what that fund was built to do: catch a promising idea in its earliest, most fragile stage and give it room to become something real.

A fundraising campaign that outpaces its own schedule. A pantry that feeds thousands. A new pathway from classroom to career. A center that turns neighbors into entrepreneurs. A first bet on a big idea. None of these things happen because of one person, one office, or one gift. They happen because so many of you, our friends, our donors, our advocates, decided that City College was worth investing in, not just with your dollars, but with your belief that this place changes what's possible for the people who walk through its doors.

We are grateful to every donor who makes it a priority to support our students, whether through internships, scholarships, mentoring, or research support. We are equally grateful to everyone who partners with our faculty and staff to make sure a world-class education stays within reach of our talented students.

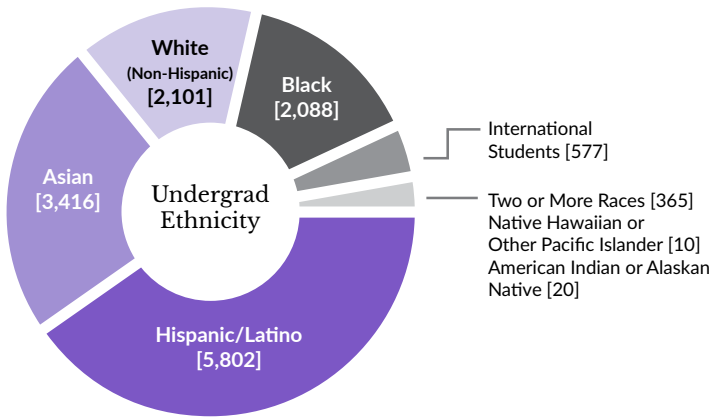
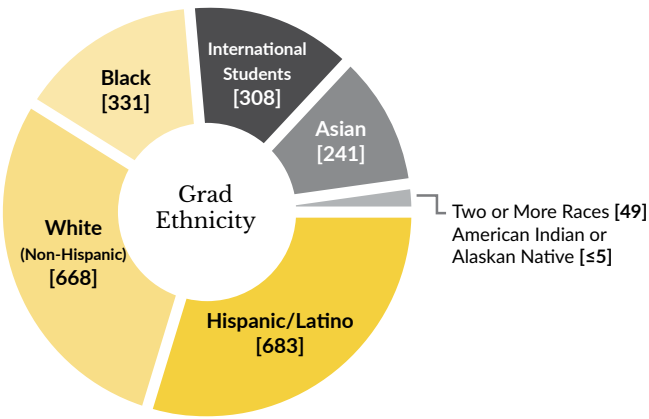
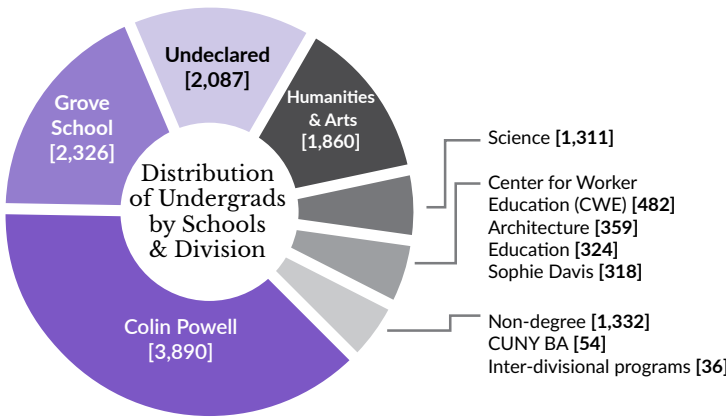
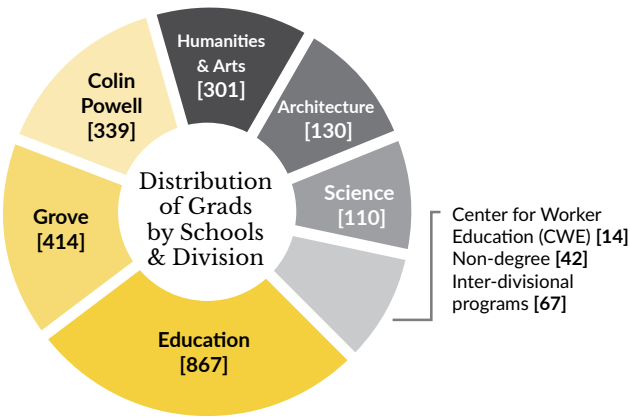
As you read through the pages of this report, and see the ways City College reaffirms its commitment to the whole people it was founded to serve, know that we do this work with each of you, and for that, we remain grateful.

Sincerely,

Dee Dee Mozeleski
Senior Vice President, Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications, and External Relations
Senior Advisor to the President & Executive Director, The Foundation for City College

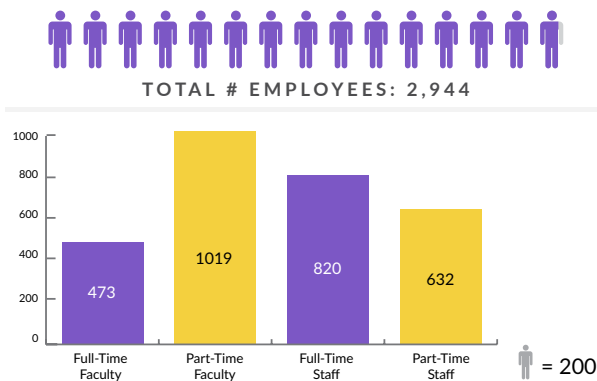
STUDENT BODY

TOTAL # **16,663** (AS OF FALL 2025) | UNDERGRAD **13,047** | GRAD **2,242** } MASTER'S: 1,905
Ph.D.: 231
ADV. CERTIFICATE: 106 | NON-DEGREES: 1,374
UNDERGRADUATE: 1,332
GRADUATE: 42



Source: CUNY Census data. Headcount represents all students enrolled in the Fall 2025 semester (both degree and non-degree seeking)

EMPLOYEE BREAKDOWN



ALUMNI FACTS

\$3.7 BILLION IN TOTAL ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT
(+\$1.8 BILLION SINCE 2017-18)

\$3.3 BILLION
ALUMNI IMPACT

23,906
JOBS SUPPORTED

FOR EVERY \$1 INVESTED, CCNY GENERATES \$9.80 IN BENEFITS TO SOCIETY.

STUDENT RETURN: \$7.90 | TAXPAYER RETURN: \$1.60

Source: Lightcase Data on CCNY Economic Impact Study FY 2023-24: ccny.cuny.edu/news/lightcast-report

CCNY makes *U.S. News & World Report* national and global rankings

#132

out of the top 436 National Universities

#9

Top Performers of Social Mobility

#896

Global Rankings (out of 2,604 global colleges)

CCNY's Class of 2026 at this year's commencement. *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked CCNY one of the best universities in the world.

In its 2026 edition of Best Colleges, *U.S. News & World Report* ranks The City College of New York #132 out of the top 436 National Universities. CCNY is also ranked #9 in Top Performers on Social Mobility.

U.S. News & World Report also ranks City College a Best Global University in its 12th annual rankings of the top institutions worldwide. The award indicates excellence in research and a stellar academic reputation.

The City College's other top placings in the *U.S. News* rankings include:

- **#68** in Top Public Schools
- **#91** in Best Colleges for Veterans (web-exclusive)
- **#109** in 2026 Best Value Schools
- **#112** in Undergraduate Engineering Programs (at schools whose highest degree is a doctorate)
- **#169** in Best Undergraduate Psychology
- **#174** in Undergraduate Economic Program
- **#193** in Undergraduate Computer Science Programs

The following countries have the most schools in the *U.S. News*' 2026 Best Universities overall rankings

China
409

United States
275

India
123

United Kingdom
93

Japan
86

"For students seeking universities with strong academic excellence and global recognition, the Best Global Universities rankings offer an essential comparative resource," said LaMont Jones, Ed.D., managing editor for Education at *U.S. News*. "Our methodology focuses on a school's research mission and scholarly impact, helping students identify institutions that are truly at the forefront of global knowledge creation."

CCNY's #896 global ranking reflects its Global score of 39.5. *U.S. News* places its Regional Research reputation at #155, and its Global Research reputation at #504. The College also scores well in the International Collaboration - Relative to Country category at #276.

PHYSICS AT CCNY

The City College's highest subject ranking is in physics, where it is #363 (tied), reflecting an overall score of 45.8.

Following are CCNY's other high placings in this category:

- Physics Normalized Citation Impact, **#48**
- Physics Percentage of Highly Cited Papers that are Among the Top 1% most cited, **#72**
- Physics Regional Research Reputation, **#83**
- Physics Global Research Reputation, **#367**
- Physics Percentage of Total Publications that are Among the 10% Most Cited, **#85**
- Physics International Collaboration - Relative to Country, **#269**
- Physics Number of Highly Cited Papers that are Among the top 1% Most Cited, **#339**

Powered by data and metrics from the Web of Science Core Collection and InCites Benchmarking & Analytics provided by Clarivate, a leading global provider of transformative intelligence, the Best Global Universities methodology weighs factors that measure a university's global and regional research reputation and academic research performance.



CCNY recognized in inaugural Cure Innovation Index for Leadership in Translating Science into Real-World Health Impact

The City College of New York ranks #162 among the top 243 universities in the United States for its ability to translate scientific discovery into real-world healthcare impact. The City College places #135 for market translation, #150 for entrepreneurial readiness and #217 for research capabilities.

The Cure Innovation Index is the first national, data-driven platform designed to assess how effectively U.S. biomedical research institutions convert discovery into therapies, companies, and measurable health outcomes. The inaugural 2026 Index evaluates 303 leading institutions—spanning all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico—selected from more than 6,000 nationwide.

“This ranking highlights our commitment to scientific research that makes people’s lives better. We work on problems that make a difference in the world,” said Tony Liss, CCNY provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs.

“Recognition of The City College of New York in the Cure Innovation Index reflects its leadership in translating scientific discovery into real-world impact,” said Seema Kumar, CEO of Cure. “While traditional measures emphasize funding, publications, or patents, the Index sets a new standard by evaluating the full set of capabilities required to move innovation from concept to cure.” The U.S. biomedical research ecosystem—anchored by academic institutions—has long been a global engine of innovation, driving the development of life-saving therapies and generating significant economic impact. Yet institutional performance has historically been measured by inputs and outputs, rather than by the ability to consistently translate discovery into impact.

Driving Translational Performance

The Index evaluates institutions across 25 indicators within three core domains: research capabilities, entrepreneurial readiness, and market translation. Together, these dimensions capture the structural, cultural, and operational factors that enable institutions to move breakthroughs beyond the lab and into real-world application.

CCNY demonstrated strong performance across these domains, reflecting its ability to consistently advance innovations into therapies, companies, and measurable health outcomes.

About Cure and the Cure Innovation Index

Led by Cure, the premier healthcare innovation ecosystem that provides knowledge, infrastructure and tools to accelerate progress toward cures, the Index was developed in collaboration with a multidisciplinary group of experts across academia, industry, and government, with analytical support from Deerfield Intelligence, a division of Deerfield Management Company.

The methodology integrates validated data from more than a dozen federal and commercial sources, complemented by proprietary inputs from surveys of more than 3,000 researchers and industry leaders, as well as institutional audits assessing infrastructure, technology transfer capabilities, and translational programs. Cure is headquartered in New York City. The campus houses flagship event venues and is home to healthcare organizations from idea stage to public companies. For more information, visit wewillcure.com.

Forbes ranks CCNY a top college nationwide for student payoff



A CCNY education offers students an impressive return on their investment, according to *Forbes*.

Reaffirming its reputation as a social mobility powerhouse, *Forbes* lists The City College of New York among the 25 colleges nationally with the highest payoff.

As part of its *Forbes* 2026 Top Colleges ranking, the business magazine put together a list of the 25 schools that offer students the best returns on their investment—high earnings potential for a relatively low price.

To determine this, *Forbes* looked at each school's price-to-earnings premium, a calculation by the think tank Third Way that shows the number of years it takes graduates to recoup the net cost (after grants and scholarships are deducted) of their education.

Forbes then looked at the schools' debt-to-percent-borrowed index, a figure that it created for the top 500 colleges list. It takes into account the percentage of students who take on debt to attend a school, and how much debt those graduates leave with. All of the federal data *Forbes* used is from the 2023-24 academic year.

Forbes noted that undergraduate students at The City College pay well under \$10,000, and according to Third Way data, graduates regain their net cost after six months.

CCNY is a 2026 Money Best College in America

CCNY has been recognized as one of *Money's* Best Colleges in America 2026. In addition, *Money*, which gives CCNY four and a half stars out of five, ranks it among the Best Public Colleges that provide excellent value for students in their home states, and as one of the Best Colleges in the Northeast.

Money's analysis showcases the country's top 735 four-year colleges based on 25 metrics, including graduation rates, cost of attendance, financial aid, alumni salaries and more, to help families find schools that deliver strong value. There's no single "best" college for every student, but its star ratings can help parents and prospective students compare affordable colleges, discover standout schools and build a college list that fits their budget.

Money's key findings about CCNY include:

60%

Acceptance Rate

60%

Graduation Rate

4.6 YEARS

Average Time to Degree

- Est. Full Price 2026-2027: **\$35,780**
- Est. Price with Average Aid: **\$4,920**
- Median student debt: **\$11,990**
- Median earnings for recent graduates: **\$42,637**

The online publication takes note of CCNY's remarkable diversity. Although "a vast majority of the roughly 14,000 undergraduate students are from New York, they still come from a variety of backgrounds." It also mentions the help its Immigrant Student Center for Resources renders to first-generation immigrants and students with undocumented status, who can qualify for in-state tuition and state financial aid.

"Alumni say that although classes can be hard, professors care about student success. The libraries are stacked, too, with more than 1.6 million print volumes—the largest library system within the CUNY system. Outside of class, students can participate in 14 NCAA Division III teams and more than 100 clubs, among them an esports club, stock market club and a Bollywood dance club," *Money* reported.

Data collection and analysis for the ratings were led by *Money's* rankings partner, Witlytic. *Money's* editorial staff, however, is solely responsible for the final ratings decisions.

The Princeton Review® names CCNY one of the nation's Best Colleges for 2026

CCNY once again features in The Princeton Review® Guide to Green Colleges: 2026 Edition

The Princeton Review®, known for its education services and resources for college-bound students, features The City College of New York in its online resource, The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges: 2026 Edition (October 21, 2025). On a scale of 60 to 99, CCNY received a Green Rating of 81.

The profiles provide detail on the schools' uses of renewable energy, their recycling and conservation programs, and the availability of environmental studies in their academic offerings. The profiles also include information on the schools' admission requirements, cost, and financial aid.

The Guide, which is accessible for free at princetonreview.com/green-guide, profiles 388 colleges that foster a culture of environmental responsibility and demonstrate a commitment to sustainability.

The Princeton Review® chose the colleges based on a survey the company conducted in 2024–2025 of administrators at 401 colleges about their institutions' sustainability-related policies, practices, and programs. The company also surveyed students attending the colleges about their "green" campus experiences. The school selections were based on more than 25 data points from the surveys.

"Among the hundreds of schools we surveyed for this project, The City College, which offers excellent academics, is also a stand-out for its record of environmentally-responsible practices. We are delighted to recommend it to college applicants who want their 'best-fit' college to also be a 'green' one," said Rob Franek, The Princeton Review's editor-in-chief.

Franek noted that The Princeton Review® is seeing strong interest among college applicants in attending green colleges. Of the more than 7,000 students the company polled for its 2025 College Hopes & Worries Survey, 59 percent said having information about a college's commitment to the environment would affect their decision to apply to or attend the school. A report on the survey findings is at princetonreview.com/college-hopes-worries.



The City College of New York is one of the nation's academically best undergraduate institutions according to the education services company The Princeton Review®. The company profiles CCNY in the 2026 edition of its annual college guide, *The Best 391 Colleges* (Penguin Random House) and its website feature story about the project.

The Princeton Review® does not rank the schools in *The Best 391 Colleges* hierarchically from 1 to 391. Only about 15% of America's nearly 2,400 four-year colleges are included in The Princeton Review® guidebook. The company chose the colleges for the book based on its surveys of 2,000 college administrators about their institutions' academic offerings. The company also surveyed students attending the colleges in the book who rated their own schools on dozens of topics and reported on their campus experiences.

The Best 391 Colleges has 50 categories of ranking lists: each list names the top 25 schools (of those in the book) in a particular category. The rankings are entirely based on the company's surveys of students attending the 391 profiled schools. Surveys of 170,000 students (about 435 per school on average) were tallied for the rankings in *The Best 391 Colleges*.

The Princeton Review® tallies rating scores from 60 to 99 for the schools in *The Best 391 Colleges* in eight categories. The ratings are primarily based on institutional survey data. A few rating scores also factor in student survey data.

CCNY appears on the following ranking lists:

- ✓ Best Value Colleges
- ✓ Best Northeast
- ✓ Green Colleges
- ✓ The Best 391 Colleges
- ✓ Top 20 Best Schools for Making an Impact (Public Schools) at #13

CCNY received the following rating scores in these categories:

- Academics – 75
- Admissions Selectivity – 81
- Financial Aid – 84
- Fire Safety – 90
- Quality of Life – 84
- Green – 81
- ROI – 88
- Professors Interesting – 83
- Professors Accessible – 86

In The Princeton Review® profile on CCNY, the company's editors praise the school for its "quality and challenging education" and quote students they surveyed for the project who described the college as "rigorous," offering a broad curriculum, and boasting an engineering school that is "one of the best public schools."

"The City College has outstanding academic programs and the feedback we received from its students we surveyed was very impressive," said Rob Franek, The Princeton Review's editor-in-chief and lead author of *The Best 391 Colleges*. "We are delighted to name City College one of our Best Colleges for 2026 and to recommend it to students searching for their 'best-fit' college."

CWUR ranks CCNY among top 2% schools globally



Top 2.2%
out of 21,291
universities worldwide



#114
in the United States



74.9
Overall Score

The City College of New York ranks in the top 2.2% out of 21,291 universities worldwide, according to the 2026 edition of the outcome-based Global 2000 list published by the Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) today. CCNY has been consistently ranked in the top 2% for more than a decade.

CCNY is #452 among the 21,291 degree-granting institutions of higher education analyzed by CWUR; #114 in the United States and #131 regionally (U.S. and Canada). Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University, in that order, occupy the first three places on the rankings.

CCNY's other placings on CWUR's 2026 list include: #22 for Quality of Education, #536 for Employability, and #978 for Research Performance. These amounted to an overall score of 74.9.

ABOUT THE METHODOLOGY

CWUR rankings are unique in that objective indicators are used for all four key pillars underlying the methodology of the ranking (education, employability, faculty, and research) with no reliance on surveys and university data submissions. Equal emphasis is put on student-related and faculty-related indicators. Eighty one million outcome-based data points were used for this year's rankings and 21,291 universities are ranked according to their academic performance.

CWUR uses seven objective and robust outcome-based indicators grouped into four areas to rank the world's universities:

- **EDUCATION (25%)** - based on the academic success of a university's alumni, measured relative to the university's size
- **EMPLOYABILITY (25%)** - based on the professional success of a university's alumni, measured relative to the university's size
- **FACULTY (10%)** - measured by the number of faculty members who have received top academic distinctions
- **RESEARCH OUTPUT (10%)** - measured by the total number of research articles
- **HIGH-QUALITY PUBLICATIONS (10%)** - measured by the number of research articles appearing in top-tier journals
- **INFLUENCE (10%)** - measured by the number of research articles appearing in highly-influential journals
- **CITATIONS (10%)** - measured by the number of highly-cited research articles

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

CWUR is a leading consulting organization providing policy advice, strategic insights, and consulting services to governments and universities to improve educational and research outcomes. CWUR has been publishing its list since 2012. In 2014, the ranking expanded to list the top 1,000, and in 2019 the top 2,000 out of roughly 21,000 universities worldwide, making it the largest academic ranking of global universities.



GIFTS OVER \$50,000

Each year, we work to create a comprehensive list of giving to the College. We are grateful to all of our supporters and work to ensure that our annual gifts list is accurate. If you see any errors, or would like a correction made to a future issue of this Report, please feel free to email us: give@ccny.cuny.edu

Sydney A. Hinds Trust	\$3,300,000.00
The Jerome J. Levy Foundation	\$2,405,497.43
Estate of Janice R. Zarowin	\$1,525,905.92
Open Society Foundations	\$1,416,040.00
Anonymous	\$1,042,549.54
Estate of Janet Autenrieth	\$626,084.12
The Grove Foundation	\$600,000.00
Bloomberg Philanthropies	\$500,000.00
Mother Cabrini Health Foundation	\$500,000.00
Friedman Family Foundation/Lucy N. Friedman	\$500,000.00
Estate of R. Beatrice McCalman	\$480,000.00
Estate of Judah Gerstein	\$437,898.42
The New York City Mayor's Office for Media and Entertainment	\$380,000.00
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation	\$355,550.00
The Ford Foundation	\$350,000.00
The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation	\$300,000.00
The Harcourt Jovanovich Foundation	\$287,433.45
Standard Chartered Bank	\$280,000.00
Charles H. Revson Foundation	\$250,000.00
Lucian Caste Charitable Foundation	\$230,000.00
Anonymous	\$225,000.00
Michael Mattis	\$208,400.00
Melvin J. Klugman	\$207,864.00
Public Welfare Foundation	\$200,000.00
Stavros Niarchos Foundation	\$200,000.00
The New York Community Trust	\$190,000.00
Adrienne S. Escoe	\$182,473.05

Estate of Jack Frankfurter	\$160,580.37
AccountAbility	\$150,000.00
New York Building Foundation, Inc.	\$150,000.00
Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund	\$150,000.00
The Community Foundation	\$150,000.00
The Winston Foundation	\$150,000.00
Estate of Margarete G McClintock	\$146,432.61
Vivien C. Tartter	\$132,000.00
Viola Foundation	\$130,000.00
National Philanthropic Trust	\$129,500.00
Estate of Daniel E. Rosner	\$120,387.80
Office of Naval Research	\$113,300.00
Santander Bank, N.A.	\$112,035.40
Judith Rodriguez	\$110,000.00
The Pinkerton Foundation	\$110,000.00
Anonymous	\$109,800.00
American Council of Learned Societies	\$109,000.00
Estate of Lynn Braswell	\$107,714.84
Ira and Judith K. Ockene	\$104,000.00
D. H. Kauffmann Joki	\$100,000.00
YBrain, Inc	\$100,000.00
Anonymous	\$100,000.00
Jacob Zabara Family Foundation	\$100,000.00
Democracy Fund	\$100,000.00
The San Francisco Foundation	\$100,000.00
Ichigo Foundation	\$100,000.00
Estate of George Oliger	\$97,516.94

Estate of George Oliger	\$97,516.94
Howard V. Campbell	\$80,000.00
Estate of Steven J. Bernstein	\$80,000.00
Glickstein Living Trust	\$80,000.00
Rinna Evelyn Wolfe Trust	\$80,000.00
Barbara Dye	\$75,000.00
Research Foundation of SUNY	\$69,667.70
Theodore L. Cross Family Charitable Foundation	\$65,000.00
Life Science Cares Foundation	\$61,000.00
Aaron Rand	\$60,000.00
Robert Sterling Clark Foundation	\$60,000.00
Student Aid Association of City College	\$60,000.00
The Simons Foundation	\$54,513.00
Zimmer Biomet	\$54,000.00
CZ Biohub New York	\$53,190.00
Andrea S. Paladino	\$50,000.00
Innoveering	\$50,000.00
Theresa Krell	\$50,000.00
Henry and Lucy Moses Fund Inc.	\$50,000.00
The Rudin Foundations, Inc.	\$50,000.00
Glen Scheinberg	\$50,000.00
Sara Latta and Tony Liss	\$50,000.00
Ihab G. Girgis	\$50,000.00



GIFTS FROM \$10,000 TO \$49,999

Frank J. Sciamè \$46,500.00	Stuart Himmelfarb \$25,964.89	Jones Day \$20,000.00	Robert B. Welner \$14,500.00
David M. Bendich \$45,500.00	The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs \$25,757.50	Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP \$20,000.00	The Robert H. Levine 2023 Trust \$14,329.12
Estate of Robert Titzler \$43,750.00	Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society \$25,500.00	The Inner Circle Inc. \$20,000.00	St. George's Society of New York \$14,150.00
Quest A Community for Lifelong Learning \$42,000.00	Artech Holdings Limited DBA On the Stage \$25,407.74	The Simon Family Foundation \$20,000.00	New York City Department of Cultural Affairs \$14,000.00
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP \$40,000.00	Lynnel M. Garabedian \$25,000.00	Estate of George Olshin \$20,000.00	Ferdinand J. Carrillo \$13,860.00
The David Aronow Foundation, Inc. \$40,000.00	Mary Kay Laurent \$25,000.00	Jeffrey Petrucelly and Patricia Cantor \$20,000.00	David K. Rosner \$13,150.00
Richard and Barbara von Zerneck \$35,000.00	Nina A. Dioletis \$25,000.00	Sonjia Smith \$20,000.00	Maureen B. Mitchell \$12,500.00
Banco Santander \$32,975.60	Richard I. Pawliger \$25,000.00	Robbie Pearlstein \$20,000.00	Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC \$12,171.00
Bill and Laura Salganik \$32,320.00	Company Ventures LLC \$25,000.00	Estate of Moredecai Richlin \$17,973.35	Ostrovsky Family Fund \$12,000.00
Google Inc \$31,500.00	Moody's \$25,000.00	Professional Women in Construction \$16,664.00	Women's Media Group \$12,000.00
Joan Copjec \$30,476.92	The Winter Family \$25,000.00	Genworth Financial \$16,410.10	WX, Inc. \$12,000.00
Informa UK \$30,301.00	Margaret F. Mudd \$25,000.00	Enviro-Services & Constructors Inc. \$16,168.00	Springer Nature \$11,729.00
Kaman & Tina Ng \$30,050.00	California Community Foundation \$25,000.00	Maestro Cares Foundation \$16,000.00	Gabriella de Beer \$11,627.63
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Tides Foundation \$30,000.00	Marsha Porcell \$25,000.00	Anant G. Honkan \$15,000.00	Estate of Walter Mankoff \$11,240.62
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Chinatown Global Pediatrics PC \$30,000.00	Futures Unbound \$25,000.00	Newmark \$15,000.00	The Helene Foundation \$11,000.00
Concrete Masonry Products Board \$30,000.00	David Brause \$25,000.00	The Estate of Barbara S. Rothman \$15,000.00	Marshall W. Lesser \$10,766.38
The WhyNot Initiative \$30,000.00	NanoSieve, Inc \$24,017.00	Diana Granat \$15,000.00	Anonymous \$10,624.15
Alex Crumbley \$30,000.00	Rita V. Hirsch \$23,613.60	DFI Educational Trust \$15,000.00	Faith in Action \$10,500.00
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	Dominick N. Mazzone \$20,000.00	Covanta Energy Corp. \$14,985.00	Bernard V. Flam \$10,080.00
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Eugene E. Goldstein
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\$10,000.00

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\$10,000.00

Carolyn and Joseph L. Fleischer
\$10,000.00

Ken A. Ness
\$10,000.00

Leon E. Popovitz
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\$10,000.00

Linda Schoen-Giddings
\$10,000.00

Mary K. Brewster
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\$10,000.00

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\$10,000.00

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Susan S. Kornstein
\$10,000.00

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\$10,000.00

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\$10,000.00

Carolyn Fleischer
\$10,000.00

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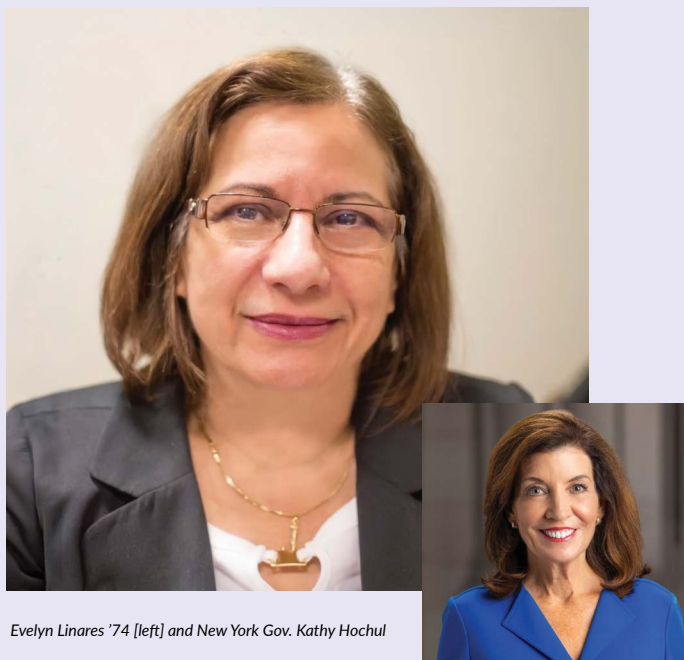
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Gov. Hochul announces Evelyn Linares Legacy Scholarship for students pursuing teaching careers



Evelyn Linares '74 [left] and New York Gov. Kathy Hochul

Gov. Kathy Hochul announced the launch of the Evelyn Linares Legacy Scholarship, a new \$50,000 fund housed at The City College of New York, to support New York students entering the teaching profession. This initiative is a direct continuation and expansion of the Carol Robles-Román Excellence Award at CUNY John Jay College announced during the 2025 SOMOS, Inc. New York Conference in Albany. By adding this new fund at CCNY, the Governor is building a comprehensive scholarship portfolio for New York students.

While the Robles-Román fund supports Law and Public Service, this new scholarship specifically targets rising seniors seeking to enter the teaching profession. It honors the late Evelyn Linares, a CCNY alumna and founding principal of P.S./I.S. 210, a dual-language school in Harlem, who dedicated 50 years to students and teaching. The announcement coincides with the one-year anniversary of her passing and the 50-year retirement tribute for her husband, Guillermo Linares. Linares graduated with a B.A. in 1974 from the School of Education. She majored in Elementary School Education.

"By investing in our young educators, we are investing in New York's future," Hochul said. "I am proud that the Evelyn Linares Legacy Scholarship will support CUNY students pursuing teaching careers. By ensuring students have the financial resources to transition from college to the workforce, we are preparing CUNY students for successful careers right here in New York's school system."

The establishment of this scholarship is in keeping with the Governor's commitment to "Continuation of Care" in education. A primary pillar of her affordability agenda, Gov. Hochul is ensuring students have the financial backing to transition from college into high-impact careers.

The announcement took place at the 2026 SOMOS, Inc. New York Conference in Albany during a reception at the Governor's Executive Mansion. Mayra Linares, a CUNY Trustee and daughter of Evelyn Linares, represented the family and accepted the honor on behalf of her parents.

"Evelyn Linares left a legacy at CCNY and in New York as a leading light for her students and an inspiration for educators and those who aspire to educate," said President Vince Boudreau. "This scholarship, supporting as it does students pursuing their student teaching requirement, provides support in a crucial and under-resourced stage in their education. It is precisely the type of generous and informed intervention that Evelyn Linares made over the long course of her career, and a fitting tribute to all she did for us. We are deeply grateful to her and to Governor Hochul for this legacy."

State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky said, "New York's public schools are only as strong as the people standing in front of our classrooms. This scholarship honors a life of extraordinary service and opens a door for the next generation of teachers who might not otherwise have the financial support to pursue that calling. The scholarship honors the matriarch of an incredible family. I thank Governor Hochul for this commitment to our students and to the teaching profession."

State Senator Cordell Cleare said, "I am particularly honored to celebrate the late Evelyn Linares, a great 50-year education advocate. As we know, there is a shortage of public school teachers; this Legacy Scholarship can help address that shortage and reduce notoriously large class sizes. This scholarship could provide the financial backing students need to transition from college into this noble profession."

Assemblymember Alicia L. Hyndman said, "Evelyn Linares spent 50 years proving that teaching is not just a profession, but a sacred calling. By establishing this scholarship at CUNY City College and presenting the scholarship during SOMOS Albany, Governor Hochul is ensuring that Evelyn's legacy continues through the next generation of educators. In Southeast Queens, we know that representation in the classroom matters; this fund removes the financial barriers for our students so they can focus on what they do best: shaping the minds of our future leaders."

Assemblymember Jordan Wright said, "Governor Hochul's launch of the Evelyn Linares Legacy Scholarship is a powerful investment in the future of education across New York. By supporting CUNY students as they step into the teaching profession, we are not only honoring the extraordinary legacy of Evelyn Linares, but also strengthening the pipeline of diverse, dedicated educators our communities depend on. I commend the Governor for continuing to prioritize affordability and ensuring our students have the resources to lead and serve in high-impact careers."

CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez said, "Evelyn Linares spent half a century proving that a school is the most powerful place to change a life. This scholarship is a beautiful way to carry forward her spirit and honor the legacy of a family that has done so much for our city and state. We are grateful to Governor Hochul for her steadfast support of CUNY and our students, helping us prepare a new generation of teachers at City College who will lead with the same heart and dedication Evelyn did."

Reinhardt Family Foundation Trust's third gift to CCNY goes to humanities students



Mark Reinhardt, Esq.

The Reinhardt Family Foundation Trust has continued in its generosity to CCNY with a gift—that brings their total CCNY funding to \$93,000—to be used to support internship stipends for students enrolled in the Division of Humanities and the Arts.

In 2024, the Reinhardt Foundation's first gift of \$42,000 provided recipients, at the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, with full tuition plus expenses over three years; In 2025, their second gift of \$42,000 provided recipients, at the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, the same over three years. Their current, and third, gift of \$9,000 will be used to support three students, in the Division of Humanities and the Arts, with \$3,000 stipends for internships.

“

My legal career started with internships; they allowed me to gain a depth of understanding through hands-on work which would not have been possible otherwise.

- Mark Reinhardt, Esq.

”

"We are incredibly grateful for the Reinhardt Family Foundation Trust's continued partnership and generosity," said Annika Lüdke, director of foundations and corporate relations at The Foundation for City College. "It is especially meaningful to see their support grow to encompass three schools at City College, expanding opportunities for even more students to pursue their academic and professional aspirations."

This latest gift also marks the creation of The Reinhardt Family Foundation Social Justice Fellowship Awards, which is overseen by Mark Reinhardt, Esq., Trust Chairman. The stipend will be awarded during the 2026-2027 academic year for internships at organizations that have a social justice mission.

"Our foundation board was excited when we heard about internships at CCNY. My legal career started with internships; they allowed me to gain a depth of understanding through hands-on work which would not have been possible otherwise," said Reinhardt. "We believe these stipends will expose students to another type of learning, which will make them better in both school and life."

Reinhardt is a founding partner of Reinhardt Wendorf & Blanchfield Law Firm and is of counsel to the firm. For the last 40 years, he has devoted a major amount of his practice to antitrust, complex commercial, and class action litigation.

He was able to attend college and law school through scholarships, and in the spirit of giving back, the Reinhardt Foundation has donated to several institutions that help those in need of financial assistance to continue their academic journey.

\$1M gift to Grove School establishes scholarship fund for undergrads



James Cunningham, BEE '69, and Vicki Cunningham

Wishing to provide opportunities for future generations of full-time Grove School of Engineering undergraduate students at The City College of New York, James Cunningham, BEE '69 and his wife, Vicki Cunningham, have contributed \$1,000,000 to establish the James and Vicki Cunningham Scholarship Fund.

The new endowed fund will generate annual awards of \$40,000 to support five full-time Grove School undergraduate students who maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher with scholarships of \$8,000 each. The scholarships are to be used for tuition costs and research-related expenses, allowing recipients to continue their studies.

"CCNY did very well by me," said Cunningham, who graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School in 1961 before serving at the U.S. Air Force's Strategic Air Command based at Westover (Mass.) Air Force Base for four years. He then attended CCNY on the GI Bill, studying for his degree in electrical engineering while paying \$27 a semester. "I entered as a 22-year-old freshman," he said. "I was the old man in the classroom."

Cunningham earned a doctorate in electrical engineering from Stanford University before embarking on a 40-year career with various aerospace and defense electronics companies, including TRW, Rockwell International and several small consulting companies. He began in research of acousto-optic technologies for the Defense Advanced Research Agency, but soon transitioned to systems engineering of missile detection and tracking systems for the military. He finished his career as the system engineering manager of a major satellite program back at TRW (now part of Northrop Grumman).

"The Cunninghams' generosity will enable future engineers to focus on their studies, secure summer internships, and graduate on time, unburdened by financial stresses," said Senior Vice President of the Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations Dee Dee Mozeleski. "We are grateful for their ongoing commitment to engineering education in New York and it has been wonderful to work with them on the development of this new gift."

CCNY-based Health and Opportunity Leadership Institute raises \$2M



CUNY HOLI students, with Founding Director Dave A. Chokshi (left), at the Common Health Coalition's Annual Meeting in Washington

The CUNY Health and Opportunity Leadership Institute (HOLI) launched in spring 2026 elevates its mission of cultivating a new generation of health leaders drawn from diverse and historically marginalized communities.

Under the leadership of its founding director, Dave A. Chokshi, the Sternberg Family Professor at the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership and a former New York City health commissioner, HOLI has raised \$1.9 million thus far, including \$1.4 million to support operations and projects from January 2026 through March 2028. Supporters include the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, and the Charles H. Revson Foundation.

"HOLI is preparing students to undertake bold approaches to current health challenges through rigorous coursework, real-world leadership opportunities, and meaningful career preparation," said Chokshi.

HOLI welcomed new Managing Director Harmony D. Osei who is responsible for day-to-day program operations, student leadership programs, and partnership development. A former leader at Baruch College Honors Program and Macaulay Honors College, Osei is also earning her Ph.D. in urban education at the CUNY Graduate Center. Her doctoral dissertation examines the educational trajectories of foster youth, drawing upon her own experiences in

foster care and as a first-generation college student.

"I am committed to providing students with opportunities that are transformative and will empower them to be changemakers in their communities," said Osei. "As I undertake this inaugural role, I plan to focus my initial efforts on enhancing HOLI's visibility and increasing participation in the Institute's high-impact program offerings."

HOLI has signed up more than 400 CUNY students, about 40 of whom are part of intensive experiential learning and leadership development initiatives. It has recruited 18 fellows and senior fellows to mentor HOLI students, and regularly collaborates with 14 global, national and regional strategic partners, including Northwell Health, NYC Health + Hospitals, EqualCure, Public Health Solutions, Manatt Health, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Health and Political Economy Project, and the Common Health Coalition.

Twenty HOLI students have been placed in paid internships with these partners, participating in teams that contribute to large scale and local health initiatives.

Through interdisciplinary "Tiger Teams," HOLI is also addressing issues such as eliminating Hepatitis C, improving care for patients with sickle cell disease, and initiating community-based blood pressure programs.

Alumnus John Ploss '77 funds travel scholarship at Spitzer School of Architecture



John Ploss

John Ploss '77, a distinguished alumnus of the Bernard & Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, is giving back to his alma mater after a successful career as an architect.

He's funding a \$5,000 annual travel scholarship for Spitzer architecture students nearly 50 years after graduating with a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the School.

Ploss spent 44 years as an architect in San Francisco. He was self-employed for 33 years and retired at age 70.

"I'm thrilled that John is supporting this travel fellowship for an architecture student at Spitzer. Travel abroad is life changing; it is one of the most important opportunities we can offer to our students," said Marta Gutman, dean of the Spitzer School.

Advanced students in the undergraduate and graduate programs in architecture are eligible to apply for the John Ploss Travel Fellowship. The winner will be selected by a committee based on a research proposal with a concise description of the topic, a bibliography, itinerary with a budget, and a transcript.

“Travel abroad is life changing; it is one of the most important opportunities we can offer to our students.”

- Marta Gutman
Dean of the Spitzer School

Additional funds for CCNY from the David Aronow Foundation



David Aronow

The David Aronow Foundation (DAF) is continuing its partnership with The City College of New York by gifting an additional \$20,000 to the David Aronow Fellowship. The fellowship is named after the Class of 1913 alumnus David Aronow and provides a \$4000 stipend to students with unpaid internships. DAF previously gifted \$75,000 in 2023 to CCNY.

Aronow was the youngest, and only, member of his immigrant family to have the chance to get a free college education at City College. His four siblings had to work to keep their families afloat, and once he graduated and was professionally successful, he gave back to his extended family and through his foundation, which was founded in 1947.

The foundation is working on raising \$200,000 to support a second fellowship, the shared goal of DAF and CCNY.

CCNY students can apply for the fellowship through the college's Career & Professional Development Institute. For more information visit <https://davidaronow.foundation/ccny>.

Gerstner Philanthropies' CCNY funding nears \$1 million

For the fourth time in three years, Gerstner Philanthropies is supporting critical programs to address the needs of students from low-income households as they pursue an education. A new \$35,000 grant will bolster Benny's Food Pantry at CCNY and its community dining programs.

Launched in 2017, one of Benny's goals is to address food insecurity among those in need on campus. But Benny's is also open to anyone in the City University of New York community, whether student, faculty or staff. CCNY, which was established in 1847, is the founding institution of CUNY.

"We're proud to broaden our support of CCNY by investing in food access alongside our existing commitment to their emergency funds. Together, these efforts help ensure students have the resources they need to persist and graduate," said Victoria Coker, program officer at Gerstner Philanthropies.

CCNY Senior Vice President Dee Dee Mozeleski, who's also the executive director of The Foundation for City College, lauded Gerstner's unequivocal support for the College. "Once again, Gerstner Philanthropies has shown such tremendous leadership in supporting one of our core missions to uplift students from low-income households. We are immensely grateful for their unwavering partnership."

With this latest grant, Gerstner has awarded over \$900,000 in support to CCNY since 2023 for support of the Helping Hands Student Emergency Fund. The program provides one-time assistance to students facing one-time emergencies with the goal to help see them through to graduation.



“

We're proud to broaden our support of CCNY by investing in food access alongside our existing commitment to their emergency funds. Together, these efforts help ensure students have the resources they need to persist and graduate.

”

- Victoria Coker
Program Officer at Gerstner
Philanthropies.

CUNY DSI receives gift of antique maps for new Dominican Arts and Culture Center



The first modern map of the Dominican Republic as part of a collection of 500 rare maps and artifacts depicting the history of the Caribbean and West Indies.

The City College of New York-based CUNY Dominican Studies Institute received a historic collection of almost 500 historical items, including maps of the island of Hispaniola and its environs, some dating back as far as the 16th century, at a ceremony at the CUNY DSI Library in CCNY's North Academic Center.

This gift, the Joseph A. Gonzalez and Ralph E. Magnus Collection of Antique Maps of Hispaniola and the West Indies, took the two donors almost three decades to amass. The items in the collection include: a map of the island of Santo Domingo published in 1858 by order of the president of the Dominican Republic; "Isle de St. Domingue et débouquements circonvoisins," a 1724 map by French cartographer M. Frezier; and Willem Blaeu's "Insulae Americanae in Oceano Septentrionali" from the mid-1630s, the rarest map in the collection.

"In this collection, curated with exceptional care and historical insight, La Española emerges as a space of firsts, where a New World fashioned by the Old World took shape," said CUNY DSI Director Ramona Hernandez. "Joseph's contribution is priceless to Caribbean historiography, particularly to the island that served as the gateway through which both Europe's and Africa's institutions, peoples, and ideas first entered the Americas."

The collection, held by the Foundation for City College, will be managed by the City University of New York when the artifacts go on display in the new Dominican Center for the Arts and Culture currently under construction in the Inwood section of Manhattan. Scheduled to open in May 2027, the 25,000-square-foot Center will house a multipurpose room, gallery spaces, an oral history room, and the only children's library in New York state that is dedicated to the Spanish language.

The Center was made possible due to a total of \$39.85 million in federal and state funding. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul allocated \$12 million of that funding in 2024, with the remainder due to the efforts of U.S. Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-N.Y.).

"This extraordinary collection is a gift to the Dominican community, scholars, students, and future generations across our nation," said Espaillat. "These historic maps and manuscripts tell the story of the Caribbean and the Americas through centuries of exploration, migration, and cultural exchange."

"It gave us great pleasure to discover the CUNY DSI website several years ago, and after meeting Hernandez and her

extraordinary team, and coming to understand her vision for CUNY DSI's future and its planned museum, we knew that we had found the ideal future home for our collection of antique maps and atlases of our beloved island," said Gonzalez.

He and Magnus scoured the world as they built their collection. Their journeys took them as far as Hong Kong and Sydney, as well as to Buenos Aires to acquire "Yslas de la Mar del Norte," a rare manuscript map of the West Indies drawn by Juan Lopez de Velasco circa 1600. Closer to home, they found a famous 1606 composite map of Hispaniola and Cuba by Gerardus Mercator, the Flemish geographer, cosmographer and cartographer most renowned for creating the 1569 cylindrical world map based on what is now known as the Mercator projection.

"The gift of 500 artifacts and maps will be foundational to the collection being curated for our Dominican Cultural Center," said CCNY President Vince Boudreau.

"Thanks to the generosity and trust of Joseph Gonzalez and Ralph Magnus, and the support of Governor Hochul and Rep. Espaillat, these artifacts—and their new home at the Dominican Center for Arts and Culture—will help CUNY preserve Dominican history and celebrate the community's contributions to New York and the world," said CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez.

New York City Councilmember Carmen De La Rosa, who helped to secure \$10 million in funding for the Institute, also spoke, as did CUNY Board of Trustees Chairperson William C. Thompson, Jr., CUNY Executive Vice Chancellor Hector Batista, and New York state Assemblyman Manny De Los Santos. Also in attendance were: CCNY Provost Tony Liss; Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership Dean Marc Ostfield and Associate Dean Kevin Foster; Hostos Community College Vice President of Continuing Education and Workforce Development Evelyn Fernandez-Ketcham and Research Programs Director Sofia Oviedo; Higher Education Services Corporation Acting President Doris González; and physician Douglas Mendez, a longtime Northern Manhattan community leader.

CCNY Senior Vice President of the Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations Dee Dee Mozeleski, who is also the executive director of the Foundation for City College and senior advisor to President Boudreau, served as the event's master of ceremonies.

A History of The City College of New York

SELECTED MILESTONES [1847-2026/7]

1847

City College is founded as the Free Academy by Townsend Harris at 23rd Street and Lexington Avenue in Manhattan. It is the first public institution of higher education in New York City and the first tuition-free college in the nation.



1853

The Alumni Association of The City College of New York is founded by the class of 1853.

1884

William Hallett becomes the first known African-American graduate of CCNY.



1907

CCNY's uptown campus, designed by George P. Post, opens along Convent Avenue.

1919

City College School of Technology, and City College School of Business and Civic Administration established.

1921

Albert Einstein delivers his first-ever academic lecture in the United States in CCNY's Great Hall on April 14. The School of Education is established.



1930

Women are first admitted to graduate and business programs.

1940

Legendary avant-garde filmmaker Hans Richter establishes City College's film program.

1950

CCNY's men's basketball becomes first and only team to win both the NCAA and NIT tournaments in one season.



1951

City College becomes entirely coeducational.



1953

CCNY acquires the campus of Manhattanville College and expands south to 130th Street on Convent Avenue.

1962

The School of Technology becomes the School of Engineering and moves into its new home in Steinman Hall.

1963

Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers the commencement address.



1968

The School of Architecture is established. CCNY's Baruch School of Business and Civic Administration becomes Baruch College of the City University of New York.

1970

CCNY leads the establishment of the "Open Admissions" program in CUNY.

1973

Lewisohn Stadium, an amphitheater and athletic facility built in 1915, is demolished to make way for the North Academic Center.





1976

Tuition is imposed at the height of New York City's fiscal crisis.

1978

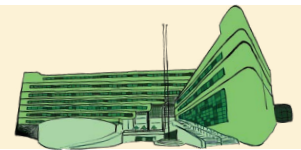
The Center of Biomedical Education becomes the Sophie Davis School for Biomedical Education.

1979

Performing arts center Aaron Davis Hall opens.

1982

The North Academic Center, housing classrooms, offices, cafeterias and a library, opens as the largest academic building in the CUNY system.



1990

Nelson Mandela receives the CCNY President's Medal.

1993

Yolanda T. Moses becomes the first female president of CCNY.

2003

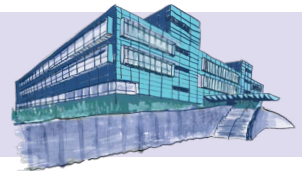
School of Engineering becomes the Grove School of Engineering, named for Andrew S. Grove '60, a CCNY alumnus and co-founder of Intel Corp.

2005

The Towers at The City College of New York, the first residence hall built on a CUNY campus, opens.

2009

The School of Architecture becomes the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture. It is named for Bernard Spitzer '43, a New York City real estate developer.



2013

The Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, formerly the Division of Social Science, is inaugurated.

2015

CCNY establishes CUNY School of Medicine, the first at a public school in upper Manhattan.

2016

Michelle Obama delivers her last commencement as FLOTUS at CCNY.



2018

The Grove School of Engineering celebrates its centennial.

2019

City College Celebrate Year of Film and begins planning for a year highlighting the College's work.

2022

The City College of New York turns 175 with \$1B campaign.

2026

CCNY announces that more than \$500 million has been raised in the campaign.

2027

Celebrating 180 Years of The City College of New York.



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Three-Dimensional Molecular Diversification **\$326,560.000****LAURA BRANDT**Psychology
Colin Powell SchoolDeveloping an FDA-Qualified Clinical Outcomes
Assessment for Opioid Withdrawal **\$1,478,413.00****HAZEL CARTER**Learning, Leadership, & Culture
School of EducationTRIO - Upward Bound **\$788,020.00**CCNY TRIO Education Talent Search **\$288,470.00****DORIS CINTRON-NABI**Operations
Office the ProvostCity College Initiative to Promote the Academic Success
of STEM Students - Experiential Learning & Career
Engagement Initiative (CiPASS-ExLCEI) **\$1,348,642.00****NARESH DEVINENI**Civil Engineering
Grove School of EngineeringResilience to Growing Extreme Natural Hazards:
Developing a Northeast Hazards Workforce **\$627,308.00****ADRIANA ESPINOSA**Psychology
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Grove School of EngineeringNSF Convergence Accelerator Real World Chemical
Sensing Applications **\$549,998.00****MARILYN GUNNER**Physics
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Biomimetic Systems **\$328,725.00****SPENCER A. HILL**Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Division of ScienceCollaborative Research: Extreme Rainfall in South Asia-
Mechanisms of Variability **\$408,862.00****RAMONA HERNANDEZ**

CUNY Dominican Studies Institute

CUNY DSI infrastructure renovation and expansion **\$3,150,000.00****REZA KHANBILVARDI**NOAA CREST Center
Grove School of EngineeringCISESS: CUNY IRA Climate Hub for Analytical Research
and Monitoring (CHARM) **\$290,000.00****LIA KRUSIN-ELBAUM**Physics
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Quantum Materials **\$256,518.00****MAHESH LAKSHMAN**Chemistry
Division of ScienceNovel Synthetic Platforms for the Modifications of
Nucleosides **\$600,000.00****ANGELO LAMPOUSIS**Office of Institutional Advancement Communications
and External Relations**DEE DEE MOZELESKI**Office of Institutional Advancement Communications
and External RelationsThe Charles B. Rangel Infrastructure Workforce Initiative **\$2,000,000.00****JONATHAN LEVITT**Biology
Division of ScienceU-Rise at City College of New York **\$545,436.00****YANG LIU**Mechanical Engineering
Grove School of EngineeringFundamental Study of the Dynamic and Thermal
Behaviors of Supercold Droplet Interacting with Plasma
Discharge **\$266,836.00****IAN MCCRUM**Chemical Engineering
Grove School of EngineeringCAREER: Predictive design and control of the electrode/
electrolyte interface for improved electrocatalysis **\$460,127.00****ROBERT MELARA**Psychology
Colin Powell SchoolBridges to the Baccalaureate Research Training Program (T34)
for Racial/Ethnic Minorities at the Borough of Manhattan
Community College and The City College of New York **\$360,170.00****CARLOS MERILES**Physics
Division of ScienceEquipment: MRI Track 1: Acquisition of a Narrow
Linewidth, Broadly Tunable Laser for the Investigation of
Virtual Atoms in Condensed Matter Systems **\$650,000.00**Exploring Mesoscale Interactions in Color Center Clusters **\$425,000.00**GOALI: Exploring New Routes to Electric, Magnetic, and
Electromagnetic Nanoscale Sensing via Virtual Atoms in Solids **\$499,386.00****AHMED MOHAMED**NOAA CREST Center
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Building Energy Smart Technologies (BEST) **\$299,998.00****FRED MOSHARY**Electrical Engineering
Grove School of EngineeringNOAA Cooperative Science Center for Earth System
Sciences and Remote Sensing Technologies-II **\$3,433,053.00**

PARAMESWARAN NAIR

Physics

Division of Science

Collaborative Research: Geometry, Entanglement and the Dynamics of Fields, Strings and Gravity

\$509,998.00**PRATHAP RAMAMURTHY**

Mechanical Engineering

Grove School of Engineering

Enhancing Air-Quality Analysis and Forecasting for Cities Using TEMPO (EnAACT)

\$384,157.00**LESIA RUGLASS**

Psychology

Colin Powell School

Translational Research Training in Addictions: Pathways for Behavioral and Biomedical Scholars (TRACC)

\$369,234.00**RUTH STARK**

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G-RISE: Graduate Research Initiative for Student Advancement at The City College of New York

\$1,639,803.00**SAMAH SAEED**

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\$382,861.00**EDWARD VESSEL**

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Combining Category Learning with Machine Vision Models to Test Aesthetic Valuation

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Biology

Division of Science

1/2 CCNY-MSK Partnership for Cancer Research, Education and Community Outreach

\$1,317,485.00

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Learning, Leadership, & Culture

School of Education

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Science and Technology Entry Program

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Office of Student Success

Division of Science

City College Academy for Professional Preparation

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Elementary/Early Childhood Education

School of Education

CUNY Initiative on Immigration and Education (CUNY- IIE)

\$840,000.00

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Grove School of Engineering

Sustainability Help Center FY24

\$249,733.00**MICHAEL BOBKER**

Institute, CUNY for Urban Systems

Grove School of Engineering

Energy Data Lab

\$12,354,425.00

Sustainability Help Center FY24

\$442,036.00**JOHN FILLOS**

Civil Engineering

Grove School of Engineering

Research And Development Projects To Optimize Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations

\$2,500,000.00**RAMONA HERNANDEZ**

CUNY Dominican Studies Institute

Dominican Studies Institute

\$1,010,000.00**DEE DEE MOZELESKI**

Office of Institutional Advancement

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Division of Science

Exploring Correlated Polaritons and Polariton Condensates in Optical Cavities

\$344,257.16**BAO VUONG**

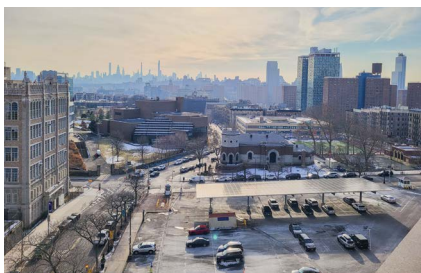
Biology

Division of Science

Temporal/Spatial Germinal Center Omics to Generate Human Therapeutic Immune Models

\$921,987.00

Gov. Kathy Hochul announces \$300K funding for CCNY clean energy program



NAC solar panel and EV charger installation.

A clean energy program at The City College of New York for vehicles has received a \$300,000 boost from the New York Power Authority, the largest state public power organization in the U.S. The money is CCNY's share of \$4 million in funding announced by Gov. Kathy Hochul to support clean energy workforce development programs across the state.

At CCNY, the funds will establish a pilot program that will prepare participants for careers in electric vehicle charging infrastructure, combining technical instruction with industry-recognized certification pathways to meet workforce needs in the clean energy economy.

"We're investing in New Yorkers and the clean energy jobs of the future," Hochul said. "By supporting workforce development programs across the state, this funding will open doors to good-paying careers while strengthening one of the state's fastest-growing industries." NYPA Chairman John R. Koelmel said, "The \$4 million in NYPA funding support for these workforce training initiatives will help provide New Yorkers with the skills needed to excel in the state's clean energy economy. By investing in these programs, NYPA is doing more than advancing careers; it is positioning New York to lead the nation in innovative clean energy solutions."

Last year, CCNY and CUNY worked with NYPA, Labella Associates, and Sunrise Power Solutions to install solar panels and electric vehicle chargers in a campus parking lot. A 141.6 kW array of solar Photovoltaic modules was installed above a steel cantilever frame, acting as a "solar carport" above the parking spaces. Additionally, 10 dual port electric

vehicle charging stations were installed in the lot.

CCNY plans to install more EV stations and a Battery Energy Storage System to reduce peak demand costs as well as assist with emergency power during outages.

"There's a lot that makes us excited about these EV stations," said CCNY President Vince Boudreau. "First of all, the Harlem community is currently vastly under-resourced in these kinds of amenities, and establishing a facility on our campus to redress this imbalance is a start. We're glad to play that role. But the facility also will serve as an educational site, being one more resource in our efforts to teach CCNY students and members of our community how these solar sites operate and why they are important. In this sense, it fits perfectly with the college's clean energy mission."

N.Y. leaders Schumer and Espaillat secure \$5.1M in funding for CUNY DSI and RIWI



Rep. Adriano Espaillat [4th from right].

The City College of New York is the recipient of \$5.1 million in both federal and state funding for projects supporting workforce development and the CCNY-based CUNY Dominican Studies Institute. The funds are part of a record \$25 million in U.S. Congressional Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations to CUNY.

Of CCNY's federal allotment, \$3.1 million was procured by U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and Representative Adriano Espaillat (N.Y.-13) for the CUNY DSI.

The funding will enable the Institute to renovate, expand its facility, allowing for more in-person activities. Founded in 1992, CUNY DSI is the nation's first university-based research institute devoted to the study of people of Dominican descent in the United States

and other parts of the world.

"This support will lead to more community events at the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute at City College. I won't stop fighting for the resources to support CUNY and its students as they pursue a high-quality higher education," said Schumer.

The remaining \$2 million in Federal support for CCNY was secured by Espaillat for the College's Rangel Infrastructure Workforce Development Initiative (RIWI). It will expand RIWI's skills-based workforce development programs for low-income New Yorkers through increased access to computer labs, instruments and career opportunities.

Espaillat is a longtime supporter and advocate of RIWI, which is in his Congressional District. This latest funding brings to nearly \$13 million the amount raised by the Congressman for the Initiative, whose overarching goal is to prepare the local workforce for the crucial work of rebuilding America's Infrastructure.

CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez lauded New York's congressional delegation for the funding to CCNY and other CUNY schools. "Federal support will safeguard CUNY's proven ability to provide an affordable, high-quality education that prepares students for academic and professional success in a fast-changing world," he said.

“

I won't stop fighting for the resources to support CUNY and its students as they pursue a high-quality higher education.

- Chuck Schumer
U.S. Senate Minority Leader

”

"City College and the Rangel Workforce Development Initiative has been blessed by consistent and powerful support from our national congressional and

senatorial representatives,” said CCNY President Vince Boudreau. “This year’s allocations from Senators Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand on the one hand and Congressman Espaillat on the other, represent the latest evidence of their deep commitment to making sure that City College and the Rangel Workforce Development Initiative is positioned to make sure that all members of our community will have the education and skills they need to join in the historic paths of rebuilding New York and America’s infrastructure.

“CCNY, and I personally, am deeply grateful for the enthusiastic support that we have enjoyed both from Senators Schumer and Gillibrand as well as Congressman Espaillat.”

CCNY partners with NYU and Stanford in \$4M project to accelerate privacy-preserving computing



Rosario Gennaro (left) and Tushar Jois

CUNY Distinguished Professor Rosario Gennaro and Assistant Professor Tushar Jois, two of The City College of New York’s leading cryptography experts, are participants in a \$3.8 million National Science Foundation-funded project led by New York University to speed up cryptographic computing. Stanford University is the other institution involved in the four-year research helmed by NYU Tandon School of Engineering.

The challenge facing the team is that the most advanced cryptographic computing technologies today—which enable privacy-preserving computation—are confined in research labs by one critical barrier: they’re orders of magnitude too slow for everyday use. The researchers’ goal is to build the missing infrastructure that could make those technologies practical, via a new design platform and library that will allow engineers and researchers to develop and share the design of computer chips specialized in

speeding up cryptographic operations. The team’s proposed solution is a new platform called “Cryptolets.” Currently, researchers working on crypto-accelerator chips must build everything from scratch.

Cryptolets will provide three things: a library where researchers can share and access pre-built, optimized hardware designs for privacy computing; tools that allow multiple smaller chips to work together as one powerful system; and automated testing to ensure contributed designs work correctly and securely.

This chiplet approach—using multiple small, specialized chips working together—is a departure from traditional single, monolithic chip optimization, potentially breaking through performance barriers.

At the Grove School of Engineering, Jois will be working on developing performance benchmarking for the infrastructure and on outreach and engagement through initiatives that create tutorials and integrate Cryptolets into undergraduate and graduate curricula. Gennaro will provide the theoretical foundations for the benchmarks and infrastructure as well as work on new advances in cryptography and network security that will be enabled by the Cryptolets infrastructure. The two will be assisted by Cora Ruiz, a Ph.D. student in electrical engineering.

CCNY part of \$20M NSF award to accelerate AI development



Zhigang Zhu

Zhigang Zhu, the Herbert G. Kayser Professor of Computer Science in the Grove School of Engineering, is a co-principal investigator for a new National Artificial Intelligence Materials Institute, which has been awarded a five-year, \$20 million investment by the National Science Foundation.

NSF AI-MI, as it is known, will accelerate and transform the discovery of next-generation materials by integrating human scientific expertise with AI methods. Eun-Ah Kim, the Hans A. Bethe Professor of Physics at Cornell University, serves as principal investigator.

“Artificial intelligence is key to strengthening our workforce and boosting U.S. competitiveness,” said Brian Stone, who is performing the duties of the NSF director. “Through the National AI Research Institutes, we are turning cutting-edge ideas and research into real-world solutions and preparing Americans to lead in the technologies and jobs of the future.”

NSF AI-MI brings together computer scientists, materials researchers, and data scientists to tackle knowledge- and data-centric challenges to advance AI and materials science. The Institute will integrate data generation, AI analysis and rapid experimental feedback to reduce the time it takes to discover new materials from months to days, and to establish reproducible, reusable workflows for the broader research community.

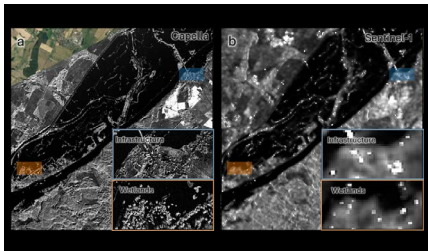
To support this work, AI-MI plans to create the AI Materials Science Ecosystem, or AIMS-EC, an open, cloud-based portal that integrates a science-ready large language model with data from experiments, simulations, images and scientific literature.

“As a researcher in AI and computer vision for various applications, I would work with my student and the AI-MI team to implement the key algorithms in the integration of LLMs and computer vision for material designs, especially on AI applications for assistive human-machine interaction with advanced smart materials,” said Zhu. “As the Broader Impacts for Students Lead of AI-MI, my goal is to get our more talented students in computer science, data science and material sciences from CCNY and other institutions involved in the activities of this exciting cross-disciplinary AI Institute.”

Zhu directs the CUNY Computational Vision and Convergence Laboratory and co-directs CCNY’s master’s degree program in Data Science and Engineering. He is also on the faculty of the doctoral program in Computer Science and the M.S. program in Cognitive Neuroscience at the CUNY Graduate Center.

In addition to Cornell and CCNY, researchers from the Advanced Science Research Center at CUNY, Princeton University, and Boston University are involved in the effort.

New NASA-Funded HiFLOWS Project underway



A difference in clarity: Left, high-resolution imagery from the commercial satellites used in the HiFLOWS project clearly shows flooded streets and wetlands. Right, older satellite imagery of the same area is too blurry to distinguish critical details.

As Arctic flooding accelerates due to climate change and current satellite systems frequently miss the peak of flood events, scientists led by Nicholas C. Steiner have embarked on a pioneering project that addresses a critical gap in responsive flood monitoring for Arctic and sub-Arctic regions.

The High-Latitude Flood and Open Water Surveillance (HiFLOWS) project runs from 2025 to 2027 with more than \$350,000 in funding from NASA's Climate and Earth System Response to Arctic Change program. It will use commercial Synthetic Aperture Radar constellations to capture flood events at their peak stage. HiFLOWS will provide a model for faster disaster monitoring that could be applied beyond the Arctic.

"The October floods in western Alaska underscore why these efforts are needed. Entire communities in remote regions are at risk of fast-moving disasters," said Steiner, research assistant professor and head of the Steiner Lab for remote sensing of terrestrial hydrology. "We are now able to capture reliable images several times a day, for situational awareness during floods as they unfold."

HiFLOWS is one of the first studies to make use of a new generation of satellites that operate in constellations of many small-satellites, that can make rapid observations of the surface, on demand, anywhere on earth.

"Because they use radar, they can see through clouds, so we can get reliable images even during storms. Using the low latency observations, we can track fast moving floods while they are happening, something older satellite systems couldn't do," explained Steiner.

By working with industry partners ICEYE, Capella Space, and Umbra, the HiFLOWS team at CCNY will prototype low-latency workflows that deliver near-real-time observations of fast-moving Alaskan floods. These efforts will both advance scientific understanding of extreme hydrology and strengthen climate resilience for vulnerable northern communities.

Kyle McDonald, Terry Elkes Professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and director of CCNY's Sustainability in the Urban Environment Program, is Steiner's co-principal investigator on the project.

Chemist Mahesh Lakshman receives \$600k NSF award to continue research on nucleosides



Mahesh Lakshman

Professor of Chemistry Mahesh Lakshman has been awarded a \$600,000 research grant from the National Science Foundation for "Novel Synthetic Platforms for the Modifications of Nucleosides."

This award, the fifth that Lakshman has received from the NSF since 2003, will enable him to continue his efforts on the development of novel chemical methods for the modifications of nucleosides. The fundamental building units of genetic material, modified nucleosides possess applications that range from pharmaceuticals to fluorescent probes for biochemical and biological processes. Lakshman's four previous NSF awards have supported his research on developing metal-catalyzed and uncatalyzed, as well as hypervalent iodine mediated, methods for chemically modifying nucleosides.

Over the course of the next three years, this latest award will enable Lakshman and his research group to obtain a fundamental understanding of novel chemical processes in order to achieve desired selective modifications of the nucleoside family of compounds via new methodologies. Research participants will also obtain professional hands-on experience in planning, developing, and performing chemical reactions, as well as

the purification and characterization of products.

Since coming to CCNY in 2000, Lakshman has been awarded more than \$4.5 million in research grants. He has received numerous accolades, including the President's S.T.A.R. (Service, Teamwork, Action, and Results) Award, the Outstanding Mentor Award, the President's Award for Excellence and, most recently, the CCAPP Teacher of the Year Award. He has also received a CUNY Mentoring Award.

Lakshman is an elected fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, and serves on the editorial board of its publication, Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry. He has also received a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science travel fellowship and a Fulbright Senior Scholar Award.

Spitzer School of Architecture earns Independent Project grants



Credit: Jin Hao (Vincent) Wu and Hung Fai Tang, "You(th) Fab"

Two faculty members and one graduate student of the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at The City College of New York have received 2025 Independent Projects grants from the New York State Council on the Arts in conjunction with the Architectural League of New York.

Each \$10,000 award was granted for a self-generated year-long project in design practice and research that sought to answer the question of where design can go next. In the 2025 cycle,

25 proposals were selected out of 176 applications by a panel of 12 designers and educators.

The CCNY grant recipients are:

Assistant Professor Laura Sara Wainer for “The Design Turn: Unpacking Incentives, Values, and Impacts in New York City’s Affordable Housing Architecture” in both Westchester and New York City. The project investigates the “design turn” in New York City’s affordable housing, where rising design ambitions meet deepening scarcity. It examines how architects, policymakers, developers, and residents define and negotiate “good” design, and whether these aspirations expand access to quality housing or reproduce new forms of exclusion. The project aims to identify design strategies that align aesthetic ambitions with housing justice

Adjunct Lecturer Anoushae Eirabie with Zach Blaue for “Newburgh Tools: Forge & Fabrication Lab.” It identifies and activates high-impact, low-cost sustainable material strategies in the context of urban placemaking through the design and construction of a community tool library. The lab aims to remediate soil, sow and harvest materials on the neglected site, forage waste and surplus substances from the surrounding environment, and implement community workshops to prototype these resources for use in the walls of the building and beyond

Graduate student Jian Hao (Vincent) Wu with architect Hung Fai Tang for “You(th) Fab: A Mobile Community Design & Fabrication Lab for Youth in Flushing, Queens,” a mobile design lab for underserved youth aged 12 through 18 to bring hands-on workshops and mentorship into public spaces, including building urban benches, neighborhood kiosks, community displays, and cultural signage, to gain skills and cultivate ownership of their neighborhood. Wu connected with Tang through the Spitzer School of Architecture’s participation in the Architectural League’s Mentorship program. Wu is also an Architecture Summer Career Lab alumni.

“It is a tremendous honor to see the Spitzer School recognized once again by the New York State Council on the Arts and the Architectural League of New York,” said Dean Marta Gutman. “Our awardees represent the very best of our community’s innovative spirit and dedication to expanding the boundaries of design for social impact.”

Pinkerton Foundation awards CCNY STEM Institute \$110K grant



The City College of New York’s STEM Institute is the recipient of a \$110,000 grant from the Pinkerton Foundation. The one-year support began in summer 2026 and will bolster the Institute’s programs aimed at empowering students from historically underrepresented communities to pursue meaningful STEM careers.

PINKERTON FUNDING WILL SUPPORT

- Curriculum development
- Staff training
- The purchase of classroom materials
- Technology access
- Enhanced project experiences

In addition, the grant will enable the Institute to strengthen opportunities for collaboration with New York City agencies, municipal and industry partners, and community organizations, offering mentorship, professional guidance, and real world problem-solving experiences.

The investment in this integrated framework will enable the STEM Institute to cultivate the next generation of STEAM innovators; students who are confident, skilled, and prepared to address urban challenges, contribute to their communities, and pursue meaningful careers in STEM fields.

This is the Pinkerton Foundation’s second assistance to CCNY in two years.

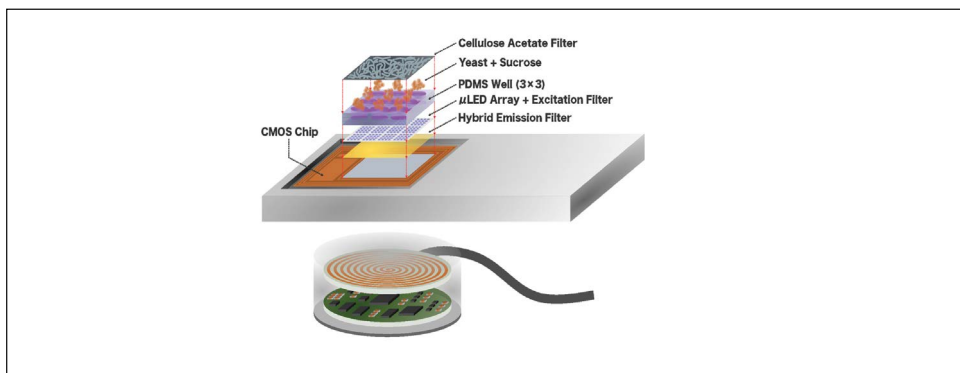
In summer 2024, a \$20,000 Pinkerton grant enabled the Institute to launch the CCNY Research Internship in STEM Program (CRISP) in collaboration with the New York Science Research Mentoring Consortium (NYSRMC). The goal was to support a cohort of approximately 20 students to complete deeper, mentored research with added expert guidance. Student teams later presented their research at a symposium at the American Museum of Natural History.

Last year, a STEM Institute team won the U.S. Congressional App Challenge for New York’s 13th District for innovative app development and student creativity. It was CCNY’s third success in a row.

Earlier in 2025, CCNY STEM students co-mentored by Luke St. Amand, a Lectec co-founder, completed a hands-on engineering and entrepreneurship curriculum where they built electric vehicles, learned about manufacturing, and explored real-world applications of STEM. An innovative STEM education company whose goal is to change how students experience STEM, Lectec later showcased the same cutting-edge educational tools used in the classroom on the ABC network’s Shark Tank series.

The Pinkerton Foundation is an independent grantmaking organization established in 1966 by Robert Allan Pinkerton, the Chairman and CEO of Pinkerton’s, Inc., then the nation’s oldest and largest security company. The foundation, which retains no ties to the firm, supports community-based programs for children, youth and families in economically disadvantaged areas in New York City.

Two CCNY engineers share \$2M NSF award with Columbia University to monitor drinking water



A marketable prototype of the engineered microbial sensor for monitoring PFAS in drinking water, as developed by a team from CCNY and Columbia University

Krish Ramalingam and Alex Rosenthal of the Department of Civil Engineering of the Grove School of Engineering are co-principal investigators of a team awarded a \$2 million National Science Foundation grant to develop a device to detect so-called “forever chemicals” in drinking water.

The three-year project, “NSF Convergence Accelerator Real-World Chemical Sensing Applications: Engineered Microbial Sensors for Monitoring Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Drinking Water,” is a cooperative agreement between CCNY and Columbia University that commenced on July 1, 2025.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS, are a large, complex group of synthetic chemicals that have been used in consumer products around the world since about the 1950s, according to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. These chemicals do not degrade easily in the environment.

This award is to fund Phase II of the project. In Phase I, the initial one-year grant, the team developed the project’s idea and concept, conducted market research to determine the need for such a product, and constructed a marketable prototype. Phase II will involve testing the prototype in the lab before deploying it at sites around the country where an immediate need to obtain PFAS data exists.

Currently, the fastest analysis for PFAS compounds can take up to two months, and can cost between \$200 and \$400 per sample.

“We intend to cut the time to real time or a few hours, and to reduce the cost to approximately \$60,” said Ramalingam. “Also, by using a combination of

synthetic biology (with yeast as the base), microprocessor technology, and artificial intelligence, coupled with machine learning techniques, we aim to make this product ubiquitous in the industry. This will be a game changer.”

Virginia W. Cornish, the Helena Rubinstein Professor of Chemistry at Columbia, is the project’s principal investigator.

Launched in 2019, the NSF Convergence Accelerator builds upon basic research and discovery to accelerate solutions toward real-world impact. The program funds teams to solve complex challenges through convergence research and innovation. To enhance its impact, the Accelerator also places teams together in cohorts, synergizing their work through facilitated collaboration.

CCNY opens Upper Manhattan Small Business Development Center to aid aspiring entrepreneurs



The City College of New York has partnered with the New York Small Business Development Centers to open

a regional center at CCNY to encourage entrepreneurship and the creation of small businesses by the members of the CCNY community, as well as entrepreneurs and small businesses throughout Upper Manhattan.

This will be the fifth CUNY campus to host a regional center, joining Baruch College, York College, the College of Staten Island, and LaGuardia Community College. The center will be located in Shepard Hall and managed by the Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations (OIACER). It will provide no-cost one-on-one business advisement, training and research for aspiring entrepreneurs and business owners.

In addition to the full-time staff, CCNY faculty members with relevant subject expertise will be encouraged to participate as regular consultants.

During the staffing recruitment phase, the center’s interim executive director is Dee Dee Mozeleski, the College’s senior vice president of OIACER, executive director of the Foundation for City College, and senior advisor to President Vince Boudreau, the project’s principal investigator.

“This regional center is a watershed moment for our campus,” said Mozeleski. “Small Business Development Centers provide a direct link from our campus back into the local community we serve. Our goal, as a central figure in the workforce development goals for New York state, is to provide a hub for business owners to access advice, research, and educational and informational services to support them through all phases of business development.”

CCNY has already started such a transformation through the Charles B. Rangel Infrastructure Workforce Initiative’s partnership with the Edward J. Malloy Initiative for Construction Skills (CSKILLS) to train workers for union construction careers.

“Opening our Upper Manhattan SBDC hosted by The City College of New York, the founding institution of the CUNY system, marks an exciting new chapter rooted in partnership and expanded opportunity for the communities we serve,” said Sonya Smith, state director of the New York SBDC. “We’re proud to collaborate with CCNY’s incredible

leadership team and look forward to supporting entrepreneurs across Upper Manhattan for years to come.”

Funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration, the state of New York, and regional and private partners, the New York Small Business Development Centers is a nationally accredited organization and part of a statewide network of 20 centers and more than 70 satellite locations. It is also one of 63 SBDC chapters nationwide, operating in every U.S. state and territory, and united by a shared mission to support entrepreneurs, strengthen small businesses, and share best practices across the country.

The New York Small Business Development Centers are the most expansive small business network in New York State. The NYBDC provides free and confidential one-on-one business advisement, training, and research to small business owners and entrepreneurs.

It is a joint federal and state economic development organization, administered by the State University of New York (SUNY), that operates regional small business centers in all of New York's 10 economic development regions. These centers, hosted at SUNY, CUNY, Pace University and St. Thomas Aquinas College, link higher education to small businesses.

Additionally, the SBDC has dozens of satellite locations with community partners such as chambers of commerce, economic development corporations, industrial development agencies, and incubators.

\$2.4M grant enables School of Education to train more teachers

The School of Education is the recipient of a \$2.4 million grant from New York state to expand its existing New York City Teaching Fellows (NYCTF) alternative certification program.

The expanded program, Education Workforce Investment, aims to address current teacher shortages in New York City Public Schools by training and placing these new teachers in high-need subject areas and in high-need NYCPS classrooms. The grant will also

provide increased financial aid and academic support for those students to ease their entry into full-time teaching careers, and to promote retention and long-term success.

The high-need subject areas, as identified by NYCPS and NYCTF, are students with disabilities, bilingual childhood education, and secondary Spanish for grades seven through 12. Since launching its alternative certification program in 2000, SoE and its partners have hosted 4,651 Teaching Fellows pursuing certification in these areas.

As many as 80 candidates were selected for two cohorts of 40, each to start in the summer of 2026 and 2027.

After summertime pre-service training, the Fellows are assigned to a classroom in a school community that is committed to preparing new teachers and to serving historically marginalized communities. They continue to work toward their master's degrees and to work as full-time teachers in the schools that hired them. They receive support from academic advisors, program directors and faculty, and full funding, including stipends for additional expenses and certification exam preparation workshops.

It is expected that, by the end of Year Three, 40 candidates will have completed graduate programs leading to initial certification in students with disabilities, bilingual childhood education, and secondary Spanish (grades 7-12). By the end of Year Four, the expectation is that 40 additional candidates will have met this goal.

“This grant will afford the CCNY School of Education the opportunity to continue to prepare educators who are committed to diversity and democracy,” said CCNY School of Education Dean Edwin M. Lamboy. “This has been at the core of the work the School of Education has done for over 100 years, and it is still as important as ever.”

Currently, more than 9,000 New York City Teaching Fellows work in the city's schools. Six hundred Fellows serve as principals, assistant principals, or other instructional administrators, including NYCPS Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos, M.A. '10.



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- Edwin M. Lamboy
Dean of the School of Education

J. Max Bond Center receives Sloan Foundation grant for creation of affordable housing, data-driven tool



The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation awarded The City College of New York's J. Max Bond Center for Urban Futures at the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture a \$355,550 grant for a project called "The Equitable Development Index," or EDI, which aims to create a data-driven, decision-support tool to strengthen transparency, equity, and shared governance in New York City's housing and land-use review process.

Shawn Rickenbacker, director of the J. Max Bond Center and associate professor, is the principal investigator of the project. Alden Copley, senior researcher at the J. Max Bond Center, and Lizzie MacWillie, assistant director of the J. Max Bond Center, are both co-PIs.

"Supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, we are putting to use the untapped potential of existing citywide real estate development data and offering new civic infrastructure to help solve New York City's housing and equity challenges," said Rickenbacker. "By providing diverse stakeholders with a transparent, data-driven tool, we are demonstrating that urban crises have achievable solutions through common knowledge and interest. This initiative elevates the value of civic participation, transforming urban growth into a shared achievement. We invite those interested in the future of urban innovation to join our effort."

The EDI leverages unique user real estate development priorities coupled with advanced AI and Large Language Models (LLMs) to transform over a decade of fragmented public data into a powerful, data-driven, decision-support tool focused on more equitable development outcomes for New York City's future.

The principal source of this fragmented data is Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), which are required for new developments seeking land use and zoning exceptions. These contain vital

data on housing, density, and economic impact. However, their sheer density and technical scope have historically rendered them inaccessible to decision-makers throughout the development review and approval process. By synthesizing the data in these EIS documents, incorporating community data and comparing it to user-generated priority profiles, the EDI will provide community boards, city agencies, citizens and elected officials with rankings which reflect their own concerns about development for proposed land use and zoning exceptions.

This shift democratizes urban data and planning by reducing the accessibility gap, increasing procedural efficiency of a complex and costly process, while reestablishing negotiations between decision-makers and developers from anecdotal debate to verified data-driven discourse. Stakeholders will be able to evaluate project trade-offs between affordability, community investment, displacement risk, and public benefit, ensuring that NYC's growth is as equitable as it is innovative.

"As New York looks to remove obstacles to building more affordable housing, a public-facing, data-driven tool like EDI is primed to have significant impact," said Joshua M. Greenberg, program director at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. "At the same time, the Bond Center's community-centered approach also aligns with the Sloan Foundation's history of supporting efforts to democratize data access to inform local decision-making."

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation is a not-for-profit, mission-driven grantmaking institution dedicated to improving the welfare of all through the advancement of scientific knowledge. Established in 1934 by Alfred Pritchard Sloan Jr., then-president and CEO of the General Motors Corporation, the Foundation makes grants in four broad areas: research in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and economics; initiatives to increase access and opportunity in graduate science education; projects to develop or leverage technology to empower research; and efforts to enhance and deepen public engagement with science and scientists.



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By providing diverse stakeholders with a transparent, data-driven tool, we are demonstrating that urban crises have achievable solutions through common knowledge and interest. This initiative elevates the value of civic participation, transforming urban growth into a shared achievement. We invite those interested in the future of urban innovation to join our effort.

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- Shawn Rickenbacker
Director of the J. Max Bond Center
and Associate Professor

ACSA announces Spitzer School's June Williamson as 2026-2027 President



June Williamson

June Williamson, professor and director of Graduate Programs in Architecture has been named 2026-2027 president of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA).

A longtime supporter of ACSA, Williamson has been elected to the ACSA Board of Directors twice: as second vice president in the 2024-2025 term and as a director-at-large from 2018-2021. "I've had a long association with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, going back to my very first academic paper—it was such a thrill—presented at an international conference in Copenhagen in 1996, when I was somewhat fresh out of architecture school, teaching evening studio," she said.

As president, Williamson will advance ACSA's work to shape the future of architecture by empowering faculty to understand and act within a dynamic world.

A U.S.-licensed architect since 2003, Williamson is registered to practice in New York state. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture from Yale College, a Master of Architecture from MIT, and a Master of Urban Planning in Urban Design from CCNY. She's taught architecture and urban design since 1995 at institutions such as Boston Architectural College, University of Utah, Georgia Tech, University of Arizona, and Columbia GSAPP.

Williamson joined the faculty of CCNY's Spitzer School in 2008. She served a term as elected Architecture department chair and was appointed as director of Graduate Programs in Architecture in 2022, overseeing the M.Arch and M.S.Arch programs.

"I've been fortunate to teach for the past 18 years at one of the most truly diverse professional architecture schools in North America, the Spitzer School of Architecture at the City College of New York, a senior college of CUNY, in West Harlem, New York," said Williamson. "Our wonderful students take many, many different paths to get here, overcoming significant personal and structural challenges."

As an architect and urban designer, Williamson documents transformations of obsolete suburban built form and is regarded as one of the world's foremost experts on retrofitting suburban form. She's authored and co-authored three award-winning books on the architecture and urban design of northern American suburbs: *Case Studies in Retrofitting Suburbia* (2021), *Designing Suburban Futures* (2013), and *Retrofitting Suburbia* (2009).

The mission of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture is to lead architectural education and research. Founded in 1912 by 10 charter members, ACSA is an international association of architecture schools preparing future architects, designers, and change agents. Members include all of the accredited professional degree programs in the United States and Canada, as well as international schools and two- and four-year programs. Together, ACSA schools represent some 7,000 faculty educating more than 40,000 students. ACSA seeks to empower faculty and schools to educate increasingly diverse students, expand disciplinary impacts, and create knowledge for the advancement of architecture. For more information, visit www.acsa-arch.org.

The Architecture Summer Career Lab attracts attention by Archinect



The Architecture Summer Career Lab at the Spitzer School of Architecture was included in the Archinect's 2026 roundup of summer architecture programs focused on courses and workshops for recent high school graduates, college students, and adults at any stage of their academic journey. CCNY's Summer program targets students ages 16 and up, and professionals or career changers. The most recent dates of the program were July 7–August 1, 2026.

Archinect also acknowledged the dedication of the program's coordinators, instructors, organizers, and volunteers, who devote their time to teaching and sharing knowledge.

Summer programs cater to a wide range of interests and experience levels. The curated list included Pratt, Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc), UCLA Architecture and Urban Design, NYIT School of Architecture & Design, University of California, Berkeley College of Environmental Design, Harvard Graduate School of Design, The School of Architecture, Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and Yestermorrow Design/Build School.

Also listed: Parsons Summer Intensive Studies (College/Adult); Interior Design Studio; Introduction to Architecture Online: Foundation Studies and Portfolio Development for College Students at the Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture of The Cooper Union in NYC; Summer Studio in Classical Architecture at the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art in NYC; YArch Summer Architecture Program at the University of Illinois-Chicago; and AA Summer School at the Architectural Association in London.

The Spitzer School addresses “The Elephant in the Room”



SUNY Buffalo Professor Joyce Hwang presented the opening lecture of the Spring 2026 Sciame Lecture Series at the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture. “The Elephant in the Room: Locating Animal Lives in Buildings, Cities and Landscapes” was the theme of the Series. Hwang’s lecture, “In consideration of Neighbors,” was delivered on Thursday, Feb. 19.

The Series took its title from the expression “the elephant in the room,” which originates in the Russian author Ivan Krylov’s 1814 fable, “The Inquisitive Man.” In the story, a visitor to room in a natural history museum becomes so enthralled with countless “birds and beasts” that he overlooks the largest of them all: a colossal elephant. As the expression gained currency, any reference to real animals gave way to metaphorical ones.

The Sciame Lecture Series took the idiom literally by addressing the common failure to notice all animals in the built environment. In the lecture series, scholars, designers, thinkers, and activists cast light on imagining, designing, and sharing buildings, cities, and landscapes with other species.

All lectures were in-person, free, and held on Thursdays at 5:30 pm at the Spitzer School of Architecture’s Sciame Auditorium.

The other talks in the series included: Richard Fadok’s “Ghosts in the Glass: An Architectural Hauntology of Bird-Window Collisions in the U.S.” on Feb. 26; Yamini Narayanan’s “Animating Construction: Animal Labor and Urban Architectures of Violence” on March 12; Megan Nielsen Hegstad’s “Natural by Design: Creating Spaces for Conservation, Choice, and Connection” on March 19; Martin Cobas’s “A Stone Fallen From the Moon...or Elsewhere” on April 16; and Ben Goldfarb’s “Paved Paradise: The Impacts of Roads

and the Rise of Transportation Ecology” on April 23.

The Sciame lecture series was made possible by the Spitzer Architecture Fund and the generous support of Frank Sciame ’74, CEO of Sciame Construction, and chairman of the Foundation for City College since 2024.

Therapy dogs paw their way into the hearts of CCNY students, faculty and staff



Associate Dean Michael J. Miller, who is also an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Theatre and Speech, has a mission to bring therapy dogs to CCNY. Always an animal lover, Miller remembers the huge success years ago when therapy dogs were brought to campus by a friend of his in Student Affairs.

“I was really shocked how long the lines were to sit with these little fuzzballs for 15 minutes,” said Miller. “As a dog dad, I intimately understood the magic of simply sitting and petting a dog, but the research and data on how this impacts people’s wellbeing is incredible. I thought, well gosh, architecture is an incredibly stressful major. What if we brought the dogs to SSA?”

Due to COVID-19 and the pandemic, it took Miller time to find the right partner. New York Therapy Animals and Executive Director Nancy George-Michalson were the perfect fit to bring happiness in the form of furry friends to campus. Miller can’t say enough good things about the organization and George-Michalson. And she reciprocates: “I love working with Michael! We have so much in common

as dog lovers. CCNY has given New York Therapy Animals a rewarding opportunity to bring therapy dog teams onto campus for the therapeutic benefits of the human-animal bond. There is so much thought that goes into structuring a safe and welcoming atmosphere for the attendees, and Michael is an advocate for them as well as for the therapy dog’s comfort. Smiles, relaxation, and appreciation abound,” said George-Michalson.

Each team from New York Therapy Animals consists of a dog and its handler, both of whom go through rigorous training. The pair then travel throughout the New York City boroughs visiting sports teams, professional organizations, hospitals, schools, and universities.

“Now it’s a regular thing! Funny enough, almost every date I request, Columbia has already snagged it,” said Miller.

Miller tries to plan four to six sessions per academic year. Two per semester are specifically for students around midterms and finals. Two sessions are solely for faculty and staff with one in January to help staff to shake off the winter blues.

Finding innovative ways to reduce stress is critical, especially for CCNY students who often carry a full load of classes, work a job, and juggle an internship.

Miller encourages anyone on campus to “find a few moments of peace” with the therapy dogs. It’s a way to reset the nervous system, even for a few minutes, he explained. “People love it. You can see students leave the room more relaxed and focused. It’s wonderful,” said Miller.

It was a safe environment for all, even those afraid of dogs.

“It’s magical to see. It’s been fun to see graduate and undergraduate students run downstairs to get in line and see the pups. It brings a smile to my face,” said Miller.

“While a small thing we do here, I’m deeply proud of it,” said Miller. “It doesn’t cost a lot to do and it gives people a unique few moments in their very hectic, crazy, and stressful semester.”



Colin Powell School names Social Mobility Lab research grant recipients



Social Mobility Lab Director Bob McKinnon announced the 2026-27 cohort of Social Mobility Lab research grantees at the Lab's Second Annual Summit, held at CCNY. At this year's Summit, attendees heard six current grantees share their research on social mobility, exploring issues such as family dynamics, effective supports, and rethinking how we measure and create social mobility.

The Social Mobility Lab at the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership aims to discover new ways to accelerate and expand opportunity for students, their families and the communities they represent.

"With this new round of grants, the Lab has now funded 36 researchers at 19 colleges and universities throughout the United States and, for the first time this year, abroad," said McKinnon. "We're so excited by this cohort of grantees as their work bridges scientific inquiry and real-world application. Each project is designed with translational impact at its core and the potential to meaningfully improve lives."

During the 2026-27 academic year, grant recipients will participate in discussions and activities aimed at enhancing the translational impact of their research. In 2027, they will share their findings with students, faculty, administrators, and staff during the Social Mobility Lab's next Annual Summit.

TWELVE SCHOLARS DEDICATED TO ADVANCING SOCIAL MOBILITY THROUGH INNOVATIVE RESEARCH WERE CHOSEN FOR THE UPCOMING COHORT:

Alexander Browman, assistant professor of psychology at the College of the Holy Cross, who will identify the educational experiences that strengthen the beliefs of first-year college students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds about the attainability of mobility, and examine whether these experiences can strengthen their academic motivation and outcomes.

Prabal De, chair and professor of economics and business at The City College of New York, and **Zixiao Feng**, doctoral candidate in economics at the CUNY Graduate Center, who will explore the impact of lower tuition rates on intergenerational mobility.

Gul Gunaydin, professor of psychology, and **Emre Selçuk**, professor of social psychology at Sabanci University in Istanbul, who will bring together first-year students from different socioeconomic backgrounds for brief, casual conversations, and examine whether these interactions help students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds build cross-class connections and gain better access to opportunities and resources.

Ivan Hernandez, assistant professor of psychology and child development at California Polytechnic State University, and **David Silverman**, assistant professor of psychology at Yale University, who will examine how community colleges can communicate social mobility opportunities in ways that help students take meaningful steps toward transferring and improving their long-term outcomes.

Hedda Phan, doctoral candidate in economics at the CUNY Graduate Center, who aims to discover the impact of affirmative action policies in college admissions on the intergenerational income mobility of minorities.

Paul Piff, associate professor of psychology, and doctoral candidates **Anais Geronimo Jimenez** and **Rudy Medina** at the University of California at Irvine, who will investigate how familial interdependence, rather than being an obstacle, can be an asset for students from working-class backgrounds as they go to college, so that they need not abandon their core identities.

Psychologist Glen Milstein elected divisional president of APA



Glen Milstein

Associate Professor Glen Milstein was elected 2026 president of the Society for the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality, Division 36 of the American Psychological Association.

The division, one of 54 in the APA, has 1,100 members.

Psychologist Milstein is leading the presidency with “clarity about the ubiquity, tenacity and plasticity of religion,” he said. “My goal, as president, is to describe the empirical findings that [describe] the possible utility of religion for well-being.”

His leadership goals are based on his life’s work which began in October 1992 as a Columbia University doctoral student. After transcribing ideas in a notebook for possible inclusion in his dissertation, his erudite scribbles became the foundation of his work for the next third of a century, culminating in the publication of “COPE: Community Outreach & Professional Engagement – a framework to bridge public mental health services with religious organizations,” a paper of which he is the lead author, in *Frontiers in Psychiatry* in August 2025.

The paper sets out theoretical and operational frameworks to bridge the domains of “clinic” (mental health service organizations, or MHSOs) and “community” (spiritual/faith-based organizations, or SFBOs). Citing evidence that supports the role of religion and spirituality to promote wellbeing, the paper also reviews ways in which such partnerships can prevent the onset of mental disorders and support recovery after clinical treatment. The paper also provides case examples of categories of collaboration, and includes recommendations for future research in the context of outcomes for public mental health.

The paper also offered an example of a clinical assessment tool with demonstrated utility: FICA (Faith, Importance, Community, Action), four assessment

questions that provided “operational definitions that other clinicians and researchers could use,” he said. These definitions facilitate the assessment of individuals’ experiences of their religious faith and spirituality, making FICA a useful tool for individual clinical treatment, as well as for community engagement of collaborative partnerships.

Former Ambassador Marc Ostfield is the new Colin Powell School Dean



Executive, scholar, educator and diplomat Marc Ostfield became the Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean of the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership on Jan. 26, 2026.

Identified through a search process that drew more than 100 applicants from across the country, Ostfield spent more than two decades in government service, including serving as the U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Paraguay from January 2022 to January 2025. As the chief diplomatic representative of the U.S. government to this South American ally, he oversaw all bilateral relations and public engagement, a 230-person staff, six U.S. Government agencies, and a \$20 million operating budget.

“Ambassador Ostfield brings decades of experience in public service and education, leading organizations and programs that empower individuals to become agents of positive change—values that closely align with the Powell School’s mission,” said Linda Powell, co-chair of the Colin Powell School Board of Visitors.

“Ambassador Ostfield’s deep understanding of how global forces shape local communities will be invaluable as we prepare students to engage with an increasingly interconnected world,” said Board of Visitors co-chair Marco Antonio Achón.

Ostfield previously served in numerous

leadership roles in the U.S. Department of State, including: ombudsman; acting director and deputy director of the Foreign Service Institute; director of the Office of Policy and Global Issues in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs; senior foreign affairs officer for the Office of Science and Technology Cooperation; and senior advisor on bioterrorism, biodefense, and health security in the Office of International Health and Biodefense.

From 1987 to 2002, Ostfield created and led large-scale donor-funded HIV/AIDS and global health programs for the United States Agency for International Development, the Centers for Disease Control, and other agencies.

An accomplished researcher who has published and presented extensively on foreign policy, national security, and global health issues, Ostfield has also specialized in group dynamics, organizational behavior, negotiation, and leadership.

“I believe in public service,” said Ostfield. “My career has always been about helping to make the world a healthier, safer, more just, and more equitable place. The Colin Powell School talks about lifting leaders, shifting power and transforming society. It’s a mission that goes beyond how we prepare an individual student to take on their professional lives; it’s about helping students grow and become leaders that can change the world for the better.”

Ostfield received three degrees from the University of Pennsylvania: a Ph.D. in communication; an M.A. in human sexuality education; and a B.A. in women’s studies. He speaks Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, and French.

Wynton Marsalis receives 2026 Colin L. Powell Distinguished Leadership Award

Acclaimed musician, composer, band leader, educator and cultural leader Wynton Marsalis received the 2026 Colin L. Powell Distinguished Leadership Award honoring his exemplary achievement in his field and for embodying the leadership values demonstrated throughout the life and career of Gen. Colin L. Powell, a 1958 graduate of CCNY.

In his opening remarks at the ceremony, Marco Antonio Achón, co-chair of the Colin Powell School’s Board of Visitors



Wynton Marsalis and Linda Powell.

and global head of Corporate Banking at Santander Corporate & Investment Banking, reflected on General Powell's legacy and its continuing influence on the school.

"Gen. Powell didn't just walk into a room—he expanded it," said Achón. "He made you feel seen, and then responsible for what you could become. That belief lives on at the Colin Powell School, which takes potential and gives it direction. Tonight, we honor a leader who carries those same values with discipline, clarity, and an unmistakable voice."

In presenting the award, Colin Powell School Board Co-Chair Linda Powell celebrated both Marsalis's achievements as a musician and also the ways in which he has also used music as a force for justice and civic engagement. Citing his 2024 collaboration with civil rights advocate Bryan Stevenson, Freedom, Justice, and Hope, and a new civic initiative, JazzCall for Freedom, Powell said, "He has helped audiences around the world understand jazz not only as music but as a powerful expression of American history and democratic values, collaboration, discipline, listening, and respect for others."

A native of New Orleans, Marsalis is widely regarded as one of the most influential musicians of his generation.

He has won nine Grammy Awards, including the historic distinction of winning in both the jazz and classical categories in the same year at age 22. In 1997, he became the first jazz musician to receive the Pulitzer Prize for Music for *Blood on the Fields*, his large-scale work exploring the history of slavery and the meaning of freedom. As managing and artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center, Marsalis has helped bring jazz to audiences around the world while expanding educational initiatives such as Jazz for Young People, Jazz in the Schools, and Essentially Ellington.

This marked the first time this award has been presented to a leader in the arts. Colin Powell School Dean Marc Ostfield described the selection of Marsalis as a natural extension of the school's mission.

"Leadership, at its core, is about using one's talents and voice to bring people together," said Ostfield. "Jazz reflects the very values that sustain democratic life—freedom of expression, listening, trust, and collective responsibility."

The Colin L. Powell Distinguished Leadership Award was conceived by Marco Antonio Achón and is made possible through the generous support of Santander.

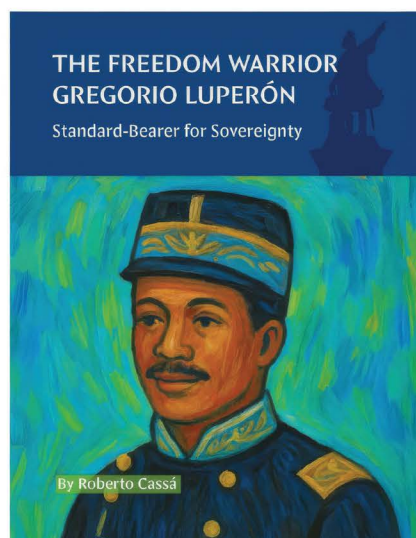
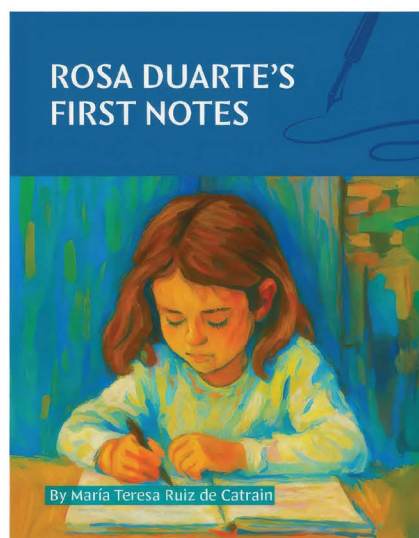
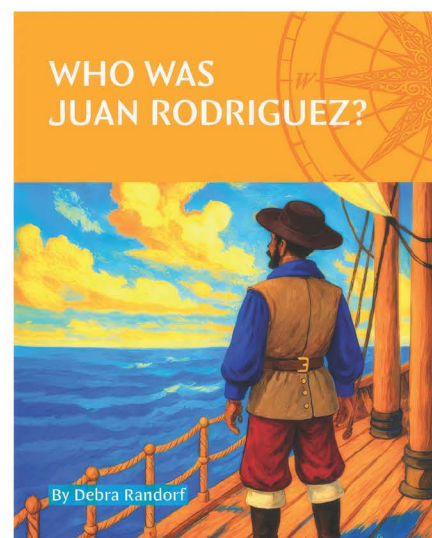
“

He has helped audiences around the world understand jazz not only as music but as a powerful expression of American history and democratic values, collaboration, discipline, listening, and respect for others.

”

- Linda Powell
Co-chair of the Colin Powell
School's Board of Visitors

CUNY DSI at CCNY launches Cultural and Historical Legacy Initiative



The CUNY Cultural and Heritage Legacy Initiative - Extraordinary Dominican/Latino Historical People Children's Book Series by the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute

“

This is a pioneering project that brings together students, teachers, and families through a unified educational approach grounded in history, culture, and research.

”

- Ramona Hernández
Director of CUNY DSI and
Sociology Professor, Colin Powell
School

The CUNY Dominican Studies Institute unveiled the CUNY Cultural and Historical Legacy Initiative (CUNY CHLI) at CCNY, marking a major milestone in a multi-year effort to strengthen the teaching and understanding of Dominican history and culture across the educational spectrum.

Developed with input from educators and scholars, CUNY CHLI is designed to support students, teachers, and families through a comprehensive approach that weaves together archival research, pedagogy, and storytelling. The initiative offers students a strong foundation in their cultural and historical legacy while supporting educators in bringing this content thoughtfully into the classroom.

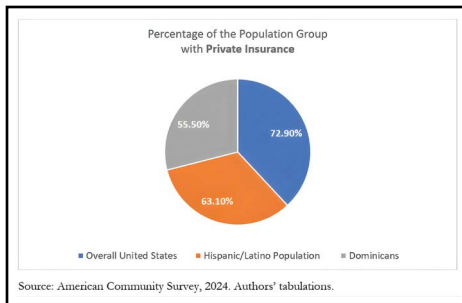
“This is a pioneering project that brings together students, teachers, and families through a unified educational approach grounded in history, culture, and research,” said Ramona Hernández, director of CUNY DSI and professor of sociology in CCNY’s Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership. “By presenting these stories through multiple formats, we are not only ensuring that they are accessible but also helping secure their place in collective memory and continuity and relevance over time.”

The launch took place May 26 and was titled “CUNY Cultural and Historical Legacy Initiative Unveils: A Children’s Book, Curriculum, and Documentary, Preserving the Legacy of Normandía Maldonado.” For the first time, it brought together the full body of work developed through the initiative, including a children’s book series, K–12 curricula, and a documentary film series, presented as an integrated educational model. A documentary on Maldonado, honoring her enduring contributions as a cultural leader, debuted at the film series.

At the center of this model is a unique framework in which each historical figure is explored through three interconnected components: a children’s book portraying the figure in their early life, curriculum materials for classroom use, and a documentary highlighting their contributions. Together, these elements create a cohesive learning experience that extends from the classroom to the broader community.

Funding for CUNY CHLI was secured through a grant awarded by U.S. Rep. Adriano Espaillat, U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer. It’s administered through the U.S. Department of Education.

Dominicans among highest health insured in U.S., according to new CUNY DSI study



In a landmark nationwide study, the City College of New York-based CUNY Dominican Studies Institute reported that Dominicans have among the highest health insurance coverage rates among Hispanics/Latinos. This is largely due to their significant reliance on public health insurance and publicly supported plans.

The report constitutes the first detailed national study focused specifically on the health insurance status of Dominicans in the United States.

It was co-authored by Ramona Hernández, director of CUNY DSI and professor of sociology in CCNY's Colin Powell for Civic and Global Leadership; Francisco L. Rivera-Batiz, adjunct research associate at CUNY DSI and Professor Emeritus at Columbia University; and Sidie S. Sisay, research associate at CUNY DSI.

"The study shows that access to health coverage varies markedly across groups, with Dominicans relying overwhelmingly on publicly funded insurance as their primary and often only source of coverage," said Hernández. "Any budget cuts in this area would have severe and disproportionate consequences for this community, placing Dominicans among the Latino groups most at risk of losing access to essential health services."

Drawing on the latest American Community Survey data, the study shows that Dominicans have sharply reduced their uninsured rate over the last 15 years, cutting it by more than half. The outcome today is a demographic with one of the lowest uninsured rates among Hispanics/Latinos nationwide.

In 2024, while the uninsured rate among Dominicans is slightly above that of the overall U.S. population, it is substantially

lower than that of Hispanics/Latinos overall. Only 9.9% of Dominicans were uninsured, compared to 17.2% of Hispanics/Latinos overall, giving Dominicans one of the lowest uninsured rates among Latino groups.

Nearly 50% of insured Dominicans receive some form of public support (Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP, or Marketplace subsidies), compared to about 30% nationally. This reliance on public support places the community in a vulnerable position amid ongoing policy debates and proposed reductions in Medicaid and other government programs.

The report also identifies significant state-level variation. In New York City, home to nearly 691,000 Dominicans, the uninsured rate among Dominicans is just 5.4%, significantly lower than the national Dominican uninsured rate of 9.9%. New York City mirrors New York state's comparatively low uninsured rate. Dominicans in New York City have even lower uninsured rates than Dominicans nationwide, reflecting the importance of state-level policy environments.

Massachusetts shows some of the lowest uninsured rates for both its overall population and Dominicans, while Texas has among the highest uninsured rates, affecting Dominicans and the general population alike.

For more information or to obtain the complete report, please contact: Martha Borish at mborish@ccny.cuny.edu.

CUNY DSI, Google Arts & Culture partnership expands access to Dominican history



The City College of New York-based CUNY Dominican Studies Institute partnered with Google Arts & Culture to create a groundbreaking digital hub. The collection features archival

treasures and stories spanning migration, innovation, culture, and activism. It offers unprecedented access to Dominican history, culture, and contributions in the United States and beyond.

The collaboration places Dominican voices and experiences on a global stage, offering audiences everywhere a dynamic exploration of the Dominican journey through archival treasures, cultural icons, and interactive storytelling.

The online platform can be visited at <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/cunydsi> and features stories, including "Early Dominican Day Parades in NYC," the origins of this vibrant celebration; "Sazón y Trayectoria: The Culinary Legacy of Chef Persio Félix," music and cultural pioneer Félix Antonio Nolasco; "Tumbando Puertas: The Santiago Cerón Story," acclaimed salsero; "Nuestra Fe, Nuestra Voz: The Dominican Presence at Saint Rose of Lima Church;" "Club Deportivo Dominicano: A Cornerstone of Culture in Washington Heights;" and the profile of artist Louis Arcadio Espinal.

Of the partnership with Google Arts and Culture, President Vince Boudreau said it "will ensure that the cultural, historical resources of the Institute are easily accessible to all members of the community—access that is especially necessary in moments when communities of new Americans are fearing that their histories are being segregated from the story of America. This essential resource is an important and visionary remedy for that feeling."

"This collaboration is a dream come true, as it enables us to connect with every person of Dominican ancestry, no matter where in the world they reside, and to share with all the richness and treasures of our historical and cultural legacy," said Ramona Hernández, director of CUNY DSI and professor of sociology in CCNY's Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership.

The project was led by Jhensen Ortiz, librarian at CUNY DSI, and Martha Albuquerque Borish, director of special projects. The partnership was initiated in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

AAAS Honors three researchers as Lifetime Fellows 2025

Kevin H. Gardner, David J. Lohman and Vinod M. Menon have been elected 2025 Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. They are among the nearly 500 scientists, engineers and innovators who have been recognized for their scientifically and socially distinguished achievements by one of the world's largest general scientific societies and publisher of the *Science* family of journals.

A tradition dating back to 1874, election as an AAAS Fellow is a lifetime honor, and all Fellows are expected to meet the commonly held standards of professional ethics and scientific integrity. Distinguished past honorees include W.E.B. DuBois, Ellen Ochoa, Steven Chu, Grace Hopper, Alan Alda, Mae Jemison and Ayanna Howard.

"This year's AAAS Fellows have demonstrated research excellence, made notable contributions to advance science, and delivered important services to their communities," said Sudip S. Parikh, AAAS chief executive officer and executive publisher of the *Science* family of journals. "These Fellows and their accomplishments validate the importance of investing in science and technology for the benefit of all."

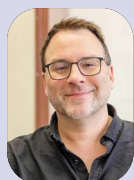
"I couldn't be happier at the recognition of the excellence of these three scientists that this Fellowship represents," said Provost Tony Liss. "The AAAS Fellowship is a true honor that is not lightly bestowed. It is both a recognition of the work they have already done, as well as an expectation of impact from the work they are yet to do."

The CCNY trio and the other new Fellows were recognized at the annual Fellows Forum in Washington on May 29.



Kevin H. Gardner

An international leader in the field of structural biology, Gardner has earned his AAAS Fellowship for "outstanding research to connect basic and applied biological and medical research and to generate novel cancer treatments." He is a CUNY Distinguished Professor and the Einstein Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at CCNY. His research thrust has entailed using combined structural biology methods to probe how proteins perceive and react to changes in their environment. In addition to providing insights into fundamental biological processes, these discoveries laid the foundations for two companies which developed a new targeted cancer therapy and novel biotechnology tools. Gardner has received over \$40M in funding for his work and holds six patents. In addition to his faculty position at CCNY, he's the founding director of the Structural Biology Initiative at the CUNY Advanced Science Research Center, located on the City College campus.



David J. Lohman

AAAS cites Lohman's "distinguished contributions to the study of the evolution and biogeography of butterflies, in particular the phenomenon of mimicry in the fauna of Southeast Asia" for his election as a Fellow. A renowned entomologist, he studies the ecology, evolution, and biogeography of insects in the Old World tropics. Lohman is a National Geographic Explorer and the recipient of three Fulbright Research Scholar Awards to conduct fieldwork in the Asia-Pacific region. He uses a combination of field ecology and molecular phylogenetic methods to investigate how interactions between insects and other organisms affect evolution and community structure. Lohman's pioneering research has earned him wide recognition in science, including the naming of three species after him. *Themira lohmanus*, a fly like no other, was first discovered in Manhattan's Central Park where it subsists on duck droppings. In Thailand, *Chimaeragathis lohmani*, a wasp, was found; while a new orchid species first documented on the Philippine island of Mindanao, was named *Bulbophyllum davidlohmanii*. Lohman is chair of the Department of Biology.



Vinod M. Menon

A pioneering physicist, Menon's Fellowship is for his "distinguished contributions to the field of strong light-matter interaction and its control in atomically thin materials using engineered photonic media." His research in light-matter interaction in atomically thin materials has advanced the field of photonics. His research thrust includes the development of nanoscale structures where the quantum nature of light is exploited for potential applications in computing, communication, sensing and energy harvesting. Menon's Laboratory for Nano and Micro Photonics (LaNMP) has made several key contributions to the fields of photonics and the interface between condensed matter physics and optics. This includes controlling magnetism via light in ultrathin magnets, use of metamaterials to control light-matter interaction, development of on-demand single photon emitters, and discovering half-light half-matter quasiparticles in 2D materials. The lab has also demonstrated a new class of artificial optical media called photonic hypercrystals that could lead to such benefits as ultrafast LEDs for Li-Fi (a wireless technology that transmits high-speed data using visible light communication). He is also a Fellow of the American Physical Society and Optica (formerly the Optical Society of America).

ABOUT THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

AAAS is the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal *Science* as well as *Science Translational Medicine*, *Science Signaling* (a digital, open-access journal), *Science Advances*, *Science Immunology* and *Science Robotics*. AAAS was founded in 1848 and includes nearly 250 affiliated societies and academies of science, serving 10 million individuals.

Top honors continue for David J. Lohman

Harvard Radcliffe Institute announced the selection of David J. Lohman, chair of CCNY's Department of Biology as a fellow for the 2026–2027 academic year. Lohman is a biodiversity scientist interested in the ecology, evolution, biogeography, and conservation of butterflies, primarily in Southeast Asia. At Radcliffe, he will collaborate with Harvard scientists and use the entomology collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoology to investigate how perceptual limitations of butterfly predators impact the evolution of mimetic fidelity.

Following his fellowship in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Lohman will travel to Thailand as a Fulbright Research/Teaching Scholar. This will be his third Fulbright Fellowship to conduct fieldwork in the Asia-Pacific region. He uses a combination of field ecology and molecular phylogenetic methods to investigate how interactions between insects and other organisms affect evolution and community structure. His pioneering research has earned him numerous honors.

Lohman is a National Geographic Explorer, which is the designation for the National Geographic Society's most prestigious community of groundbreaking scientists, conservationists, and storytellers.

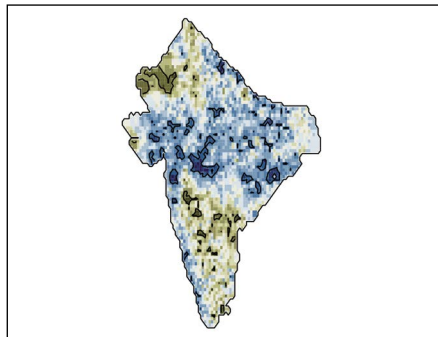
"I'm inspired by the wisdom, creativity, and passion of our incoming fellows," says Tomiko Brown-Nagin, dean of Harvard Radcliffe Institute, the Daniel P.S. Paul Professor of Constitutional Law at Harvard Law School, and a professor of history in the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences. "At a time when higher education has been under heightened scrutiny, our new fellowship class offers hope and purpose—a reminder of the vital importance of scholarly exploration and advanced study. Their work signals a promising future."

This year's Radcliffe fellows will be part of a unique interdisciplinary and creative community that will step away from routines to tackle projects that they have long wished to move forward. Throughout the academic year, fellows convene regularly to share their work in progress with the community and public. With access to Harvard's resources, Radcliffe fellows develop new tools and

methods, challenge artistic and scholarly conventions, and illuminate the past, present, and future.

Each fellowship class is drawn from some of the most thoughtful and exciting contemporary scholars in the humanities, sciences, social sciences, and arts—along with writers, journalists, playwrights, and other distinguished professionals.

Unique study of extreme Indian rainfall upends conventional wisdom



How extreme rainfall days within India change with the El Niño-La Niña cycle. Blue shades mean extreme rain is more likely, and brown shades mean less likely, during El Niño summers compared to La Niña summers.

New research led by scientist Spencer A. Hill challenges generations-old beliefs about how El Niño events influence rainfall during the Indian summer monsoon. Entitled "More extreme Indian monsoon rainfall in El Niño summers," the study appears in the journal *Science*.

"Our key finding is that you tend to get more days with extreme amounts of rainfall within India, not less, in El Niño summers. An El Niño event means that ocean surface temperatures in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean are warmer than usual," said Hill, an assistant professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. "This finding was unexpected, because it has been known for over a century that El Niños do precisely the opposite, meaning they promote drought, for total rainfall summed over the rainy season, June through September."

Hill, whose affiliations include the CUNY Graduate Center Departments of Earth and Environmental Sciences and of Physics, as well as Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, however pointed out that these changes are not distributed uniformly within India. "The increases in extreme daily rainfall under El Niño compared to La Niña are concentrated in central India and in the

southwestern coastal band, whereas in the southeast and northwest the signal is opposite, meaning daily extreme rainfall is less likely in El Niño summers," he noted. Highlighting the importance of the study, Hill said that extreme rain events come every summer, destroying infrastructure and killing people through flooding and landslides. The World Bank estimates that some 80 million people live in extreme poverty in the world's most populous country of more than 1.45 billion. "Better predictions of when and where extreme rainfall events are likely to occur give society better chances to prepare, such as perhaps by earlier and better warnings or pre-mobilizing aid."

And this novel work will continue beyond this study thanks to a new three-year \$408,862 grant awarded to Hill this fall by the National Science Foundation. "In this new NSF grant we will investigate how and why the type of storms responsible for much of this extreme rainfall, called monsoon low-pressure systems, change depending on whether there are El Niño or La Niña conditions," said Hill.

“Better predictions of when and where extreme rainfall events are likely to occur give society better chances to prepare.”

- Spencer A. Hill
Assistant Professor, Earth
and Atmospheric Science

Experts celebrate launch of CCNY Digital Game Degree



The City College of New York marked the launch of its pioneering Bachelor of Science in Digital Game Development program with a symposium on Sept. 16. Participants, including leading academics, educators and industry experts, explored how New York City could increase the economic impact of the video game industry on its economy and strengthen its technology ecosystem, foster entrepreneurship, and create new pathways for high-quality employment.

Key to this is the need to develop a skilled and inclusive workforce that reflects the diversity of New York City's communities. The symposium focused on ways to prepare the next generation of innovators, equipping them with the tools and opportunities necessary to thrive in today's digital economy.

The new degree program was made possible by a multi-million-dollar investment from the City. Pat Swinney Kaufman, commissioner of the NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, hailed its start.

"We are excited to participate in City College's symposium celebrating the launch of the Bachelor of Science in Digital Game Development, which this administration invested over \$2 million into as part of a larger strategy to uplift and expand New York City's digital game industry and make it accessible to all New Yorkers," said Swinney Kaufman. "The bachelor's degree program, combined with other efforts of this office, including the Minecraft Education Battle of the

Boroughs Esports Competition, has solidified a K-college pathway to prepare the youngest New Yorkers for jobs in the city's digital games workforce."

President Vince Boudreau said public institutions have public obligations, and today's CCNY answers those obligations in part by tuning its curricular offerings to the economic development needs of the city. "When the Mayor's office announced its plans to make New York a center for economic activity around the gaming industry, we realized that our various departments had the capacity to be a hub for talent development. Now, after several years of work and in partnership with Science and Arts Engagement New York, we are launching our gaming major. Student demand is extremely high as are our expectations for the program," said Boudreau.

According to Stan M. Altman, Gaming Pathways Program director, the skills students gain for careers in the video game industry extend well beyond games—as they are valuable in entertainment, public relations, fashion, product design, and other technology-driven industries.

"This symposium will showcase the many ways video games are being used, from advancing education to supporting mental health, and even helping the public understand how their choices impact society's ability to address challenges like climate change," said Altman. "With the launch of City College's new Bachelor of Science degree in Digital Game Development, we are contributing to New York City's efforts to build a diverse pipeline of talent that will drive the growth of the digital game industry and strengthen the city's creative economy."

The Digital Game Development major provides students with a foundation in the three main disciplines in game development: game design, programming, and digital art production. With that basis, students join teams to build game projects in studio classes, focusing on the specialization of their choice and learning critical teamwork and producing skills.

Students enrolled in the four-year program take courses in programming, game design, animation, graphic design, and more advanced techniques as they progress. Beginners take introductory courses that provide them with the skills and software needed to develop digital games from scratch.

Boudreau and Altman spoke at the symposium that took place in CCNY's Steinman Hall Auditorium. Other speakers included:

Edward Metz, former U.S. Department of Education Program manager

Nick Fortugno, co-director of the Digital Game Development Program

Philip Courtney, CEO, Urban Arts

Harold Goldberg, president, Playing with Purpose, New York Videogame Critics Circle

Anthony Casasnovas, manager, NYCPS Division of Instruction & Information Technology

Susan Perkins, provost, SUNY Potsdam and co-founder of the Digital Game Development program when she was dean of Science at CCNY

Matthew R.F. Balousek, game designer and new media artist

Alia Jones-Harvey, associate commissioner MOME served as moderator on the panel "Reimagining K-12 Education for the 21st Century." In addition, Kyra Willis-Umdenstock, program advisor, Digital Game Development program moderated a panel of students majoring in digital game development.

CCNY-led NASA Arctic coastal mission earns U.N. Decade Project endorsement

The Arctic Coastlines-FORTE mission, a \$15 million NASA-funded initiative led by Professor Maria Tzortziou to study the changing coastal Arctic and impacts on coastal resources, ecosystems, food security, and coastal communities, has earned UNESCO designation as a U.N. Ocean Decade Project.

FORTE is one of the latest additions to Ocean Decade Projects deemed by the U.N. to strengthening international scientific cooperation in the Southern Ocean, Antarctica and the Arctic Ocean, and contributing to the Decade of Action



Caribou in the Arctic coastlines where CCNY scientist Maria Tzortziou is leading a study of changes there and their wide-ranging impact. The \$15 million NASA-funded mission is now a U.N. Ocean Decade Project.

for Cryospheric Sciences (2025-2034) and the International Polar Year 2032-2033. These projects focus on diverse topics, from Antarctic sailing expeditions to advanced ocean observing systems in the Alaskan Arctic and research on zero-emission ice-thickening technologies.

FORTE (short for "Frontlines of Rapidly Transforming Ecosystems,") began in January and runs through March 31, 2030. UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission [IOC] cited it as: "a NASA Earth Venture Suborbital (EVS-4) Mission that will apply cutting-edge ocean observing technologies and state-of-the-art models to explore the remote and rapidly transforming ecosystem of the coastal Alaskan Arctic and how environmental change is impacting this region and beyond." This is one of the most critical areas on Earth for energy resources, transportation, subsistence, security, biodiversity and cultural heritage.

President Vince Boudreau lauded the U.N.'s "wonderful recognition" of Tzortziou's work and the impact the mission will have on humanity's understanding of ocean health and climate change.

The Martin and Michele Cohen Endowed Professor of Environmental Sciences at CCNY's Center for Discovery and Innovation (CDI), Tzortziou's FORTE project entails observing changes in river systems on the North Slope of Alaska. It is one of six NASA-funded airborne missions designed to use novel, high-resolution observations from aircraft to complement what scientists can see from orbit, measure from the ground, and simulate in computer models.

FORTE's Science Team brings together experts from 18 leading institutions, including the Alfred Wegener Institute, City University of New York, Columbia University, Duke University, Florida State

University, the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the U.S. Naval Research Lab, University of Massachusetts, Amherst and many others.

Tzortziou is director of Research and Applications at the CREST Remote Sensing Earth Institute. She is also affiliate professor with Columbia University/LDEO, and senior research scientist at NASA Goddard, where she serves as the deputy program applications lead for NASA's PACE satellite mission and the applied science lead for GLIMR, NASA's first geostationary hyperspectral ocean color mission.

Tzortziou has led numerous field campaigns across a range of environments, from the tropics to the Arctic. She has served as an expert on numerous interagency advisory and leadership boards relevant to ocean science, marine technology, and policy, including the Science Steering Committee for the Ocean Carbon Biogeochemistry Program, the Science Leadership Board for the North American Carbon Program, and the National Ocean Research Advisory Panel that provides independent recommendations to the Federal Government on matters of ocean policy.

Renowned molecular neurobiologist Leslie Vosshall creates a buzz at 2025 Cosloy-Blank Lecture



Leslie Vosshall

Leslie B. Vosshall, the noted molecular neurobiologist renowned for her work on the genetic basis of chemosensory behavior in both insects and humans, delivered the 10th Annual

Sharon Cosloy-Edward Blank Family Distinguished Scientist Lecture at The City College of New York on Tuesday, Sept. 30. Her talk, "Mosquitoes: A Flexible and Dangerous Predator of Humans," was held at the CUNY Advanced Science Research Center located on the CCNY campus and was free and open to the public.

Vosshall is the vice president and

chief scientific officer of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, as well as HHMI investigator, and Robin Chemers Neustein Professor, head of the Laboratory of Neurogenetics and Behavior at The Rockefeller University.

Her notable contributions to science include the discovery of the insect odorant receptors, and the elucidation of general principles regarding their function, expression, and the connectivity of the sensory neurons that express them to primary processing centers in the brain. She founded the Rockefeller University Smell Study in 2004 with the goal of understanding the mechanisms by which odor stimuli are converted to olfactory percepts.

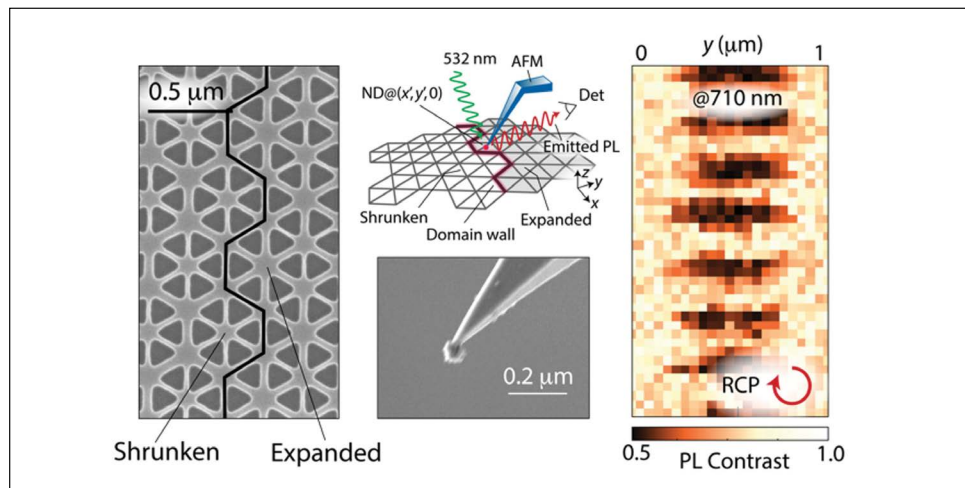
Currently, her group is interested in the molecular neurobiology of mosquito host-seeking behavior. The Vosshall group addresses questions, such as why are some people more attractive to mosquitoes than others, how do insect repellents work, and how are multiple sensory cues integrated in the mosquito brain to elicit innate behaviors.

Vosshall received an A.B. in biochemistry from Columbia University and a Ph.D. from Rockefeller University. She joined the Rockefeller faculty in 2000. She is the recipient of the 2008 Lawrence C. Katz Prize from Duke University, the 2011 Gill Young Investigator Award, the 2020 National Academy of Sciences Pradel Research Award, and the 2021 W. Alden Spencer Award (jointly with neuroscientist Kristin Scott).

Vosshall is an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, and the American Philosophical Society.

The Professor Sharon Cosloy and Edward Blank Family Distinguished Scientist Lectureship is regarded as the preeminent scientific lecture on campus. The City College of New York is grateful to Edward Blank and his family for their generous support. Professor Sharon Cosloy was a member of The City College biology faculty for 27 years and served as chair of the Biology Department for six years. She was a beloved mentor, educator, wife and mother, and a passionate investigator of life and science.

CCNY physicists make quantum emitter discovery in diamonds



An NV-hosting nanodiamond on an AFM tip probes a topological waveguide. Suppressing RCP emission at 710 nm reveals regions supporting chiral modes (fringes in right image).

Researchers have shown how a quantum emitter, the nitrogen-vacancy (NV) center in diamond, interacts in unexpected ways with a specially engineered photonic structure when moved around with a scanning tip. The study, led by Carlos A. Meriles, Martin and Michele Cohen Professor of Physics and entitled “Emission of Nitrogen–Vacancy Centres in Diamond Shaped by Topological Photonic Waveguide Modes,” appears in the journal *Nature Nanotechnology*.

What has long been considered a drawback of the NV center—its broad and messy emission spectrum—turns out to enable a new type of coupling that reshapes its light in ways not seen before. This discovery has fundamental importance for quantum information technologies, since such coupling could help overcome long-standing challenges like spectral diffusion and open pathways toward robust spin–photon and spin–spin entanglement on a chip.

At the same time, the work demonstrates a novel sensing capability: by analyzing the NV emission, the team could reconstruct detailed, polarization-resolved images of the photonic modes with remarkable contrast.

“Beyond photonic structures, this polarization sensitivity could eventually be applied to detecting chiral molecules, which are central to biology and medicine,” said Meriles.

He added that follow-up research will continue along both directions—probing quantum emitter–structure interactions more deeply and developing new sensing applications based on the same principles.

Renowned materials scientist Stephen O'Brien is new science dean



Stephen O'Brien

Stephen O'Brien, a noted materials scientist who heads the O'Brien Research Group, is the new Martin and Michele Cohen Dean of Science. His appointment follows a nation-wide search.

A Fellow of Britain's Royal Society of Chemistry, he had served as interim dean since July 2025.

O'Brien joined CCNY as an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry (now Chemistry & Biochemistry) in 2009. He was department chair from 2020 to 2025, becoming the Louis J. Curtman Chair in 2023. He stepped down from the chairmanship last summer to become the interim dean of Science.

As a materials scientist, O'Brien works at the intersection of nanotechnology, materials chemistry, and applied physics, with a focus on functional nanomaterials for energy and electronic applications. His

research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Department of Education, and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, among other entities.

In addition to an extensive teaching portfolio at The City College and the Graduate Center, CUNY, O'Brien has supervised 12 Ph.D. and two M.S. students to completion. He continues to mentor doctoral and postdoctoral researchers.

“Dean O'Brien's long history as a faculty member, a department chair and, finally, interim dean will serve him well as we work to rebuild faculty numbers across the College, including the Division of Science,” said CCNY Provost Tony Liss, adding, “and in so doing, build the Division around its substantial strengths and the new opportunities that will define its future as the premier science program of the University.”

Ground-breaking geneticist Dr. Christine E. Seidman gives Levine-de Beer lecture



Dr. Christine E. Seidman

Dr. Christine E. Seidman, the Thomas W. Smith Professor of Medicine and Genetics at Harvard Medical School, presented the 2026 Louis Levine-Gabriella de Beer Lecture in

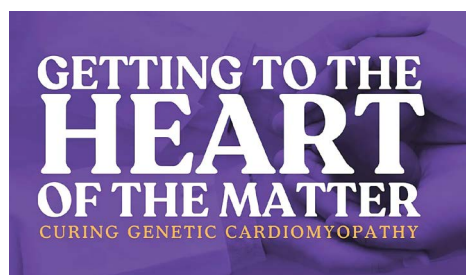
Genetics on March 18. Her talk, “Getting to the Heart of the Matter: Curing Genetic Cardiomyopathy,” was given in The Great Hall. Seidman's lecture was on hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), the most common cause of sudden cardiac death on the athletic field that causes symptoms, arrhythmias, and heart failure. HCM alters cardiac morphology (increase ventricular wall thickness) and function (hyperdynamic contraction and poor relaxation) that propel adverse outcomes in affected patients. With the discovery of human gene mutations that cause HCM, disease models were developed that enabled mechanistic studies to explain and address disease pathophysiology.

At Harvard, the Seidman Lab has pioneered the discovery of the genetic mechanisms for hypertrophic

and dilated cardiomyopathies and congenital heart disease—work that has enabled development of clinical gene-based diagnostics, early and accurate identification of at-risk individuals, and pre-emptive interventions to limit the progression and devastating outcomes associated with these disorders.

Building on these insights Seidman helped to develop mavacamten, the first FDA-approved precision medicine for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Her work continues with a goal to translate genetic therapies that are effective in experimental models into cures for human patients.

Seidman is also director of the Cardiovascular Genetics Service at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She's received numerous honors, including the American Heart Association Basic Science Prize, the Joseph A. Vita Award, the Paul Dudley White Award, and the American Society for Clinical Investigation Award. She is a member of both the U.S. National Academy of Medicine and the National Academy of Science.



The Louis Levine-Gabriella de Beer Lecture in Genetics was established by Gabriella de Beer in memory of her husband, Professor Louis Levine. A graduate of CCNY, he earned his Ph.D. in population genetics under the late great evolutionary geneticist Theodosius Dobzhansky at Columbia University. Professor Levine's research centered on population studies of *Drosophila* and behavior genetics of mice. Human genetics and forensic genetics were among other areas to which he was devoted. Professor Levine taught in the Department of Biology and in the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education.

The lectures are to perpetuate Professor Louis Levine's lifelong interest in the ever-expanding field of genetics.

The lecture was presented by President Vince Boudreau and the Foundation for City College.

CCNY team discovers potential chemo-induced cognitive changes in cancer survivors

Researchers have linked chemotherapy treatment to lasting cognitive changes in rats—potentially shedding light, for the first time, on cognitive problems some cancer survivors experience long after treatment ends. Entitled “Chemotherapy treatment alters DNA methylation patterns in the prefrontal cortex of female rat brain,” the study appears in the journal *Nature: Scientific Reports*.

“Our study explored how chemotherapy affects the brain at the molecular level using an animal model,” said Karen Hubbard, professor of biology, who co-led the study. “We found that chemotherapy doesn’t just target cancer cells—it also disrupts how genes are regulated in the brain, specifically in the prefrontal cortex, the area responsible for decision-making and executive function.”

For the first time, the team showed that a commonly used chemotherapy combination—doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide—significantly increases the expression of DNMT3a, a gene involved in adding methylation marks to DNA. This change was linked to altered DNA methylation patterns in key brain regions, which may help explain why many cancer patients experience long-term cognitive issues after treatment, often referred to as “chemo brain.”

The study, Hubbard added, offers a biological explanation for these cognitive problems that many cancer survivors, especially breast cancer patients, report long after treatment ends.

This may help to identify patients who are most vulnerable to cognitive side effects, and guide the development of targeted epigenetic therapies, such as DNMT or HDAC inhibitors, to prevent or even reverse chemotherapy-induced cognitive decline.

The research continues with focus on investigating the role of RNA-binding proteins, which are known to be involved in brain aging, in both the prefrontal cortex and hippocampus of the team's chemotherapy-treated animal model. “This work aims to further uncover how chemotherapy disrupts molecular

pathways linked to cognitive decline,” said Hubbard.

Other members of Hubbard's team include (all CCNY unless indicated): Shami Chakrabarti, Chanchal Wagh, Ciara Bagnall-Moreau (CCNY/Institute of Molecular Medicine, The Feinstein Institute of Medical Research), Fathema Uddin, Joshua Reiser, Kaliris Salas-Ramirez (CUNY School of Medicine), and Tim Ahles (Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center).

“

Our study explored how chemotherapy affects the brain at the molecular level using an animal model. We found that chemotherapy doesn't just target cancer cells—it also disrupts how genes are regulated in the brain, specifically in the prefrontal cortex, the area responsible for decision-making and executive function.

”

-Karen Hubbard
Professor of Biology
Division of Science

Inaugural Eagle Academy of Harlem Takeover Day at CCNY



“

I love the vision [of] pouring into the young men, making them responsible leaders who go back and make their community better [by] developing the whole person. Not just being well-educated, but young men of character who will make the world better.

”

- Carmel Macklin
Assistant Principal, Eagle
Academy Harlem

Eagles invaded The City College of New York just before spring break, when students, faculty and staff from nearby Eagle Academy for Young Men of Harlem held its CCNY Takeover Day on the campus for the first time.

More than 100 students from the public high school hiked up the hill from the school at 6 Edgecombe Ave. for a regular day of classes, interspersed with discussions and tours of the School of Education and various academic departments, including Black Studies, WHCR and the CUNY School of Medicine.

Hosted by the School of Education, the day was an initiative of CCNY's Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP), which is housed in the School. There are 51 New York state-funded LPPs, nine of which are within the CUNY system. They work with local schools to prepare students for post-secondary education. Under Director Yussuf Khan, CCNY LPP aims to give local high schoolers “tangible college experiences,” which he called “invaluable for students.”

“For many of our high schoolers, CCNY could be their next step,” he said. “We’re just up the hill, yet some students don’t even know about the college. That’s one of the reasons why an event such as this is so critical.”

Khan and Charles Curtis, Eagle Academy Harlem’s post-secondary success manager, organized the CCNY Takeover. Curtis had done volunteer work preparing young men for college and careers before making such work his full-time vocation.

“It would be awesome if we plopped our students into the CCNY campus,” he recalled thinking.

Eagle Academy students had previously toured SUNY’s Canton, Broom, Binghamton, Oneonta and Potsdam campuses, and Drew University in Madison, N.J., a visit that junior Aneudy Tarez found to be “liberating.”

Tarez, who transferred to Eagle Academy after the eighth grade from Success Academy, had previously attended classes on the CCNY campus in the summer of 2023 as an Urban Scholar. That program, of which LPP is a part, is directed by Associate Professor of Educational Leadership Hazel M. Carter.

Tarez aspires to study forensic science at John Jay College of Criminal Justice or chemistry at CCNY.

Senior Modiu Thiabou, who is considering a career in nursing, liked the college atmosphere that CCNY provided. “There are no bells in the classroom,” said the recent transfer from James Monroe High School in the Bronx. “You’re your own person in college. I like that.”

Assistant Principal Carmel Macklin said that the highlight of her job is “exposing young men to life.” She always wanted to work with young men, she said, and continues to fulfill that desire. She was a CCNY teaching fellow before earning her graduate degree in education in 2010.

“I love the vision [of] pouring into the young men, making them responsible leaders who go back and make their community better [by] developing the whole person,” she said. “Not just being well-educated, but young men of character who will make the world better.”

SPSA Project Continues to Grow

The Sustainability Public Service Announcement Project at The City College of New York entered its fourth phase in 2025-26, increasing its participation and impact.

This campus messaging campaign on sustainability topics with digital content was created and led by Adjunct Lecturer of Science Education Stephanie Rose in the School of Education, in which she also directed the Science Learning & Public Engagement major in spring 2026, and Adjunct Assistant Professor of English Pamela Stemberg in the Division of Humanities and the Arts, in 2023.

"The SPSA Project gives students a way to think about the current climate crisis from a place of agency," said Stemberg.

Centered on the creation of an SPSA Faculty Learning Community with instructors incorporating the Sustainability Public Service Announcement Common Assignment into their courses and participating in professional learning together, the mission of the SPSA Project is to support sustainability-related teaching and learning, communication, messaging, activism, community engagement and career development on campus, as well as community service throughout New York City.

The project consists of three major components: SPSA Faculty Learning Community; Student Involvement; and Campus Engagement.

Including this year's project, which spanned the entire spring 2026 semester, more than 2,800 CCNY students in more than 100 courses led by 43 instructors from five of the College's schools and divisions have created SPSA content shown on the public display screens throughout the campus. In Spring 2026, the SPSA Faculty Learning Community included 17 instructors who wove the SPSA Common Assignment into their 22 courses.

One of the unexpected outcomes of the spring 2026 semester was the graduate educational theater course's adopting the theme of sustainability for the entire semester by creating theater pieces about sustainability, one of which was shared at the SPSA culminating event in May.

The SPSA Project helps students connect with the work of more than 80 community organizations and campus initiatives. In addition, students generated topics of their own for SPSAs that connect with sustainability issues and their coursework. Now fully funded by the Office of the Provost, the SPSA Project has been incorporated into 110 classes, and has almost quintupled the number of students who completed the assignment, since Phase One was launched in spring 2023. "We can do a lot as individuals, but being part of the City College community of 15,000 students, faculty and staff, on 36 acres of land in the middle of Harlem offers us many unique opportunities to use our campus as a living lab to explore and practice solutions to big problems facing our neighborhood, city, country and world," said Rose.

School of Education's Science Learning and Public Engagement major's career panel



Science educators offered their perspectives to prospective and current students at the School of Education's Science Learning and Public Engagement major's career panel.

Professionals from a variety of scientific and educational organizations shared their insights and experiences at the third annual Spring 2026 Science Learning and Public Engagement (SLPE) Career Panel, coordinated by the Science Education and Public Engagement major in the School of Education.

"For the Spring 2026 event, we included more panelists, and in turn, attracted a slightly bigger crowd of students. At the close, there was much more interaction between students and the panelists. Students engaged in networking conversations with the panelists and a lot of great connections were made. We are also seeing a lot more interest in the SLPE major from students at CCNY and from transfer students. Some students are even

transferring to CCNY for this major," said Program Director and Adjunct Lecturer Stephanie Rose.

Each of the five speakers gave an overview of their career path before dispensing advice to the 60 attendees. They were introduced by current students, Hudy Weiss and Kevin Dillon, who is also pursuing an accelerated master's degree in Middle School Science Education, which is an available option for SLPE majors. The pair also screened a public service announcement that they created to promote the program.

The panelists were: Giselle Herrera, lead manager of Internships and Workforce Development at The Natural Areas Conservancy; Jake Weinberger, CCNY's sustainability coordinator; Maya Dutta, a New York City Parks and Recreation Department project planner; Arden Feil, manager of the New York City Science Research Mentoring Consortium at the American Museum of Natural History; Noha Haggag, senior clean power attorney at the Environmental Defense Fund; and Nicole McClain, director of stewardship at the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.

They all urged students to take networking and mentorship seriously, to build their professional networks by maintaining relationships with professors in the field, whether they took classes with them or not, and to stay in touch with people as opportunities exist years after meeting them.

McClain exhorted attendees to stay local for career opportunities. "New York City has a lot to offer," she said. "You do not have to travel."

Herrera was "surrounded by biodiversity" growing up in South Florida. "The idea of urban ecology really opened my eyes."

As an undergraduate at Washington University in St. Louis, Dutta found herself interested in the relationship between ecology, anthropology and urban planning.

Feil called her career trajectory a "circle" as she advised the attendees that "your career will not be linear and that's okay."

The first Career Panel was held in Spring 2024. The next Science Engagement Career Panel will take place in February 2027.

Research Professor Kaveh Madani wins ‘Nobel Prize of Water’



Professor Kaveh Madani delivers his acceptance remarks at the 2026 Stockholm Water Prize ceremony. Photo Credit: United Nations University

“
Professor
Kaveh Madani’s
recognition
with the
Stockholm
Water Prize
is a moment
of immense
pride for all
of us at CCNY
and in the
global water
community.”

- Reza Khanbilvardi
Executive Director of the
CUNY-CREST Institute and
co-executive director of
UNU-Hub

In a royal ceremony in Stockholm, during World Water Week in August, Kaveh Madani received the 2026 Stockholm Water Prize. His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden gave Madani, research professor in the CUNY-CREST Institute, and director of the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), the prize. The King is the official patron and presenter of Water Week.

The Prize is the ultimate global recognition for extraordinary achievements in water-related activities. Often described as the “Nobel Prize of Water,” it is the most prestigious water award given annually for outstanding contributions to the sustainable use and protection of water resources. It is awarded by the Stockholm Water Foundation in cooperation with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

The architect of the ‘water bankruptcy’ concept, Madani has earned this immense honor for his courageous and peerless ability to transform groundbreaking research into global policy, diplomacy and outreach under extreme personal risk and political complexity.

In March, in a special ceremony at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris to mark World Water Day, Madani was named the 2026 Stockholm Water Prize recipient. At age 44, Madani is the youngest laureate in the prize’s 35-year history, the first UN

official, and the first former politician to receive the honor.

“In the Persian tradition of Nowruz, water is a symbol of light and purity on our New Year table,” said Madani. “To be named the Stockholm Water Prize Laureate during Nowruz [in March] is a vindication I share with all Iranians who believed in me when I was labeled a ‘threat’ for simply speaking the truth. I share this award with the millions of compatriots who stood by me, with my friends in the conservation community, who were imprisoned and killed for their love of nature, and with the brave and innocent Iranian lives taken from us in January 2026, and those lost before and since.”

For Madani, water was a calling long before it was a career. Born in Tehran in 1981, he was the son of two professionals who both worked in Iran’s water sector. Growing up in a country facing severe water challenges helped shape his academic path. He earned his BSc in Civil Engineering from the University of Tabriz before moving to Sweden to complete a MSc in Water Resources at Lund University. He later earned a Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis, and conducted post-doctoral research at the University of California, Riverside.

He is known internationally for his work on integrating game theory into water resources management models as well as

his role in raising public awareness about water and environmental problems. He joined the City College of New York in 2021 and since 2023 has been serving as the director of UNU-INWEH.

"Through his work and outstanding achievements, Professor Madani has made invaluable contributions to our understanding of cross-cutting and complex water issues. In the face of a changing climate, this knowledge is more important than ever," said Anette Scheibe Lorentzi, chair of the Stockholm Water Foundation.

"Only a small number of scientists succeed in bridging the worlds of research, policy, and public understanding. Professor Madani belongs to that rare group," said CCNY President Vince Boudreau.

"Professor Kaveh Madani's recognition with the Stockholm Water Prize is a moment of immense pride for all of us at CCNY and in the global water community," said Reza Khanbilvardi, executive director of the CUNY-CREST Institute at CCNY and co-executive director of UNU-Hub at CCNY, the first in the U.S.

Tshilidzi Marwala, U.N. Under Secretary-General and Rector of the United Nations University, said: "Prof. Kaveh Madani exemplifies the mandate of the United Nations University: turning rigorous scientific insight into practical solutions for the world's most urgent challenges."

Madani's U.N. investigation concludes humanity's in a state of Global Water Bankruptcy

For decades, the world has been warned of a looming water crisis. A landmark report released today at the United Nations Headquarters argues that the time for "crisis management" has passed. The report, "Global Water Bankruptcy: Living Beyond Our Hydrological Means in the Post-Crisis Era," is the outcome of an investigation led by renowned environmental scientist Kaveh Madani. The study concludes that humanity has entered a state of "Global Water Bankruptcy."

The investigation reveals that nearly three-quarters of the world's population lives in countries classified as water-

insecure. Unlike a "crisis," which implies a temporary shock, water bankruptcy represents a state of insolvency where long-term water use exceeds renewable inflows and safe depletion limits, causing irreversible damage to rivers, lakes, and aquifers.

The report uses financial terminology to describe a catastrophic environmental reality. By over-extracting surface and groundwater, and destroying ecosystems, humanity is no longer living off the "interest" of the water cycle but is instead consuming the "principal" or "capital."

"In finance, when you spend more than you earn for too long, you go bankrupt. We are now living in a post-crisis reality where the old 'normal' can no longer be recovered. Acknowledging this bankruptcy is not an act of resignation; it is the essential first step toward a fresh, honest, and more sustainable start for our planet's future," said Madani, who currently leads the United Nations University Institute of Water, Environment and Health, known as the "U.N.'s Think Tank on Water."

The liquidation is visible in the rapid decline of global water storage: vanishing glaciers, aquifer collapse, and loss of infrastructure. The world has lost more than 30% of its glacier mass since 1970, destroying the "water towers" that provide seasonal security for billions. Excessive groundwater extraction has caused land to sink over 5% of the global land area. In some regions, the ground is sinking by up to 25 centimeters per year, permanently crushing the geological structures, or aquifers, that once held water.

Over the past 50 years, the world has lost roughly 410 million hectares of natural wetlands. The infrastructure loss due to the destruction of wetlands translates into \$5.1 trillion and an annual global cost of drought-related damages equal to \$307 billion.

Roughly 70% of global freshwater withdrawals are for agriculture, and more than half of the world's food production is now located in areas where total water storage is either declining or critically unstable. Seventy-five percent of the global population lives in water-insecure or critically water-insecure countries. Four billion people experience severe water scarcity for at least one month per year.

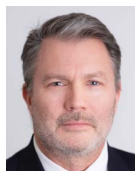
One in four people worldwide lack access to safely managed drinking water.

The report calls for a fundamental reset of the global water agenda during the upcoming 2026 and 2028 UN Water Conferences. It urges governments to move from "crisis management"—which focuses on returning to a lost past—to "bankruptcy management," which emphasizes adaptation to new hydrological normals, protecting remaining natural capital, and ensuring water justice.

“In finance, when you spend more than you earn for too long, you go bankrupt. We are now living in a post-crisis reality where the old 'normal' can no longer be recovered. Acknowledging this bankruptcy is not an act of resignation; it is the essential first step toward a fresh, honest, and more sustainable start for our planet's future.”

- Kaveh Madani
CUNY CREST research professor

Jeffrey Morris and alumnus Israel Wachs '73 elected to National Academy of Engineering



Jeffrey F. Morris, director of the Benjamin Levich Institute for Physico-Chemical Hydrodynamics in the Grove School of Engineering, has been elected to the National

Academy of Engineering (NAE). The recognition is for his research on the fundamentals of concentrated suspension and hydrate slurry flows and for implementing applications in many industries.

The Academy has also welcomed Israel E. Wachs, the noted CCNY alumnus from the Grove School's Class of 1973, as a member. The G. Whitney Snyder Distinguished Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Lehigh University, Wachs' election is "for establishing fundamental structure-activity/selectivity rules governing molecular engineering of mixed oxide catalysts" that guide the rational design of solid catalysts (materials that accelerate and control chemical reactions) for air pollution remediation, sustainable energy, fuels, chemicals, plastics, and pharmaceuticals.

Morris and Wachs are among 130 new members from the U.S. and 28 international members in the Academy's Class of 2026. Election to the NAE is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer. Academy membership honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to engineering research, practice, or education. Members are also recognized for pioneering new and developing fields of technology, making major advancements in traditional fields of engineering, or developing and implementing innovative approaches to engineering education.

The Class of 2026 was inducted during the Academy's annual meeting October 4-6 in Washington, DC.

A professor of chemical engineering, Morris is one of the world's leading experts in the field of rheology, the science of the deformation and flow of matter. His research group in the Levich Institute has conducted significant

research on rheologically-induced phenomena unique to mixtures, including bulk particle migration. He was the recipient of the Bingham Medal from the Society of Rheology. In 2022, Morris earned the Weissenberg Award from the European Society of Rheology, becoming the first non-European to win the top award. In 2019, he received the American Physical Society's Stanley Corrsin Award for achievement in the field.

For almost four decades, Wachs has earned international recognition for his research spanning both the fundamental and applied dimensions of solid-based catalysis. A prolific inventor and researcher, Wachs earned his B.E. in chemical engineering from CCNY. He holds more than three dozen U.S. patents, plus an additional 70 international patents, some of which have been licensed for industrial use. His scholarly impact is equally substantial: Wachs has published more than 400 highly cited technical articles, with a career publication citation count exceeding 53,000.

Wachs' major national and international honors include the R.H. Wilhelm Award in Chemical Reaction Engineering, the George A. Olah Award in Hydrocarbon and Petroleum Chemistry, the Humboldt Research Award for Lifetime Achievements from Germany, and two Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellowships (in Argentina and Israel). He is a Fellow of both the National Academy of Inventors and the American Chemical Society.

Founded in 1964, the National Academy of Engineering is a private, independent, nonprofit institution, part of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, which is chartered by Congress to provide objective analysis and advice to the nation on matters of science, technology, and health.

UNU Hub R-SIRUS at CCNY presents workshop to address global sustainability challenges

UNU Hub R-SIRUS at CCNY presents workshop to address global sustainability challenges

Marking the first anniversary of its establishment at The City College of New York, the United Nations University Hub on Remote-Sensing and Sustainable Innovations for Resilient Urban Systems

(R-SIRUS) presented a weeklong Professional Development Workshop in Digital Earth and Artificial Intelligence for Sustainability in January 2026.

The five-day micro-credential workshop took place from Jan. 12-16, inperson and virtually. It was designed for professionals, researchers, and policymakers looking to harness digital innovation for global sustainability challenges and provided hands-on training in Earth remote sensing and artificial intelligence/machine learning for forecasting and policy support. Participants gained experience working with satellite data, applying machine learning techniques, and building reproducible workflows using Python and open science datasets. The program culminated in a capstone project designed to deliver real world impact.

The idea for the workshop was an extension of R-SIRUS's core mission to advance applied research and capacity-building at the intersection of Digital Earth technologies, artificial intelligence, and sustainability, according to NOAA Chair and Professor of Civil Engineering Reza Khanbilvardi of the Grove School of Engineering, R-SIRUS's executive co-director. The concept was jointly conceived by colleagues at UNU and CCNY who recognized that rapid advances in AI and Earth-observation products are opening new opportunities, but also widening skill gaps, for professionals working in environmental management, climate resilience, and disaster-risk reduction.

"We chose to offer this workshop now because the first year of the UNU Hub at CCNY has clearly demonstrated strong demand for practical, high-level training that connects theory with real-world applications," said Khanbilvardi. The workshop closed out the Hub's first year "with a focused, high-impact capacity-building program, while setting the tone for deeper engagement with our partners in 2026."

Khanbilvardi envisions the Hub becoming a leading center for innovation, training, and thought leadership in the areas of climate resilience, urban sustainability, and AI-enabled environmental intelligence.

"Workshops like this one are part of a broader strategy to expand recruitment of world-class scholars, deepen collaboration across the UNU system, and engage professionals, faculty, and graduate students who want to contribute to global

sustainability efforts,” he said. The workshop was chaired by CCNY Professor of Chemical Engineering Mitchell Goldberg, who also holds the title of distinguished research scientist for the Grove School of Engineering-based National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Center for Earth System Sciences and Remote Sensing Technologies (NOAA-CESSRT).

CCNY hosts second edition of “Science for Ukraine” program

For the second time in three years, some of Ukraine’s brightest high school students can count on The City College of New York as they continue on the path to become their embattled nation’s next generation of scientists and engineers.

The “Science for Ukraine” program is the brainchild of former CCNY physicist Alexander Khanikaev, a pioneer of topological photonics and one of the world’s Highly Cited Researchers. It brings students, mostly from the STEM-focused Ukraine Physics and Mathematics Lyceum (UPML) in Kyiv, and is supported by the Simons Foundation, the Office of Naval Research, as well as CCNY and the Graduate Center, CUNY.

Thirty students from UPML spent three weeks at CCNY as the latest

cohort of the program designed to be an immersive, intensive experience for top-performing students, many of whom are winners or finalists in international science Olympiads.

They worked directly with researchers and advisors from both CCNY and the CCNY-based CUNY Advanced Science Research Center, as well as Khanikaev’s team at CCNY and from the University of Central Florida. The students conducted experiments in photonics, including wave phenomena, polarization, interferometry, and two-dimensional materials like graphene, and immersed themselves in nanoscience, neuroscience research, and environmental science. At the end of the program, students presented research posters to showcase what they learned.

The program also introduces the students to the U.S. higher education system—something Khanikaev hopes will inspire longer-term opportunities. Students learned how to apply to American universities—including how to write application essays and prepare for interviews.

“Some of the students who participated [two years ago] are now students here in the U.S.” said Khanikaev. “And even if they decide to stay in Ukraine, it’s great for rebuilding the country after the war ends.”



“Some of the students who participated [two years ago] are now students here in the U.S... And even if they decide to stay in Ukraine, it’s great for rebuilding the country after the war ends.”

- Alexander Khanikaev
Professor of Electrical Engineering, Grove School



Gifted high school students visiting from the Ukraine gather around for a demonstration.

Grove School in medical breakthrough with wearable disposable electrotherapy



Examples of wearable electrotherapy developed at the Neural Engineering Group, and its uses.

Imagine going to the pharmacy and getting an adhesive bandage that applies gentle energy to accelerate wound healing, reduce infection or enhance skin complexion. Or sticking a patch on your forehead to control a migraine, depression or other brain disorders. Or getting your next vaccine booster not through a needle, but from a sticker. They may soon be a reality, thanks to cutting-edge research led by the Grove School of Engineering's Marom Bikson, Mohamad Fallahrad, and Dean Alexander Couzis.

Entitled "Wearable Disposable Electrotherapy," the CCNY team's work appears in the journal *Nature Communications*.

"It's a novel platform for medicine. Single-use millimeter-thick adhesive patches, delivering a specific therapy. Applications include skin healing, applying energy to treat brain disorders, and delivering drugs through the skin," said Bikson, who leads the Neural Engineering Group in the Grove School.

The disposable single-use devices, which are as discreet as adhesive bandages, and are activated simply by placement on the body. In the span of a few minutes or an hour, a single therapy dose is delivered. The device can then be removed and thrown away.

"We call it wearable medicine," said Bikson. What makes Wearable Disposable Electrotherapy a technological breakthrough is that each patch is a thin electronic device able to deliver a therapeutic dose without packaged batteries or electrical components.

"Since each patch is single use and disposable, we needed environmentally

benign materials—so, no electronics," said Couzis. "Wearable Disposable Electrotherapy is the first electronics-free device that can sense and change the body. It took multiple innovations in chemical, electrical, and biomedical engineering to achieve this."

The prescribed therapy dose is regulated by dozens of printed chemical components. Together they form a thin 3D electrochemical.

"Without using any electrical components, we created a device that self-powers and regulates therapy out of its electrochemical network," added Couzis. "For each application, such as wound healing, electrical therapy, or a drug-delivery patch, a unique electrochemical structure is created."

By using only scalable additive printing technology and abundant materials, the cost of each device is reduced to pennies.

The use of the device determines its shape and function. For wound healing and skin enhancement applications, Wearable Disposable Electrotherapy is made like adhesive bandages, but with the added benefit of bioelectric healing. For uses such as migraine, depression, or dementia a patch across the forehead delivers therapeutic electricity to the brain. For drug delivery, such as pain medication or even vaccines, the drug is also built into the device which delivers it through the skin when the patch is applied.

"We have produced prototypes for each application and proven they deliver the prescribed therapy. We are now planning clinical trials. For each use case we are working with leading medical centers to test therapy efficacy," said Bikson.

Grove School computer engineer Samah M. Saeed wins NSF CAREER Award



Samah M. Saeed

Samah M. Saeed, associate professor of electrical engineering, is the winner of a National Science Foundation CAREER Award. A computer

engineer, Saeed's award is for her project titled "CAREER: Towards Secure and Reliable Cloud-Based Quantum Computers." It aims to bridge the gap between the theoretical foundations of secure quantum computing and the practical limitations of near-term quantum systems. It focuses on enhancing both the integrity and confidentiality of quantum applications executed on cloud-based platforms, considering different trust models that capture different threat scenarios in this setting.

"An early outcome of this work is my recent paper, presented in May at the IEEE International Symposium on Hardware-Oriented Security and Trust, which has been selected as a Best Paper Award candidate," said Saeed. "This project builds on a rapidly expanding research program focused on building reliable, secure, and scalable quantum systems that I am leading at CCNY. That includes work on near-term quantum computing system reliability and quantum computing resource optimization in homogeneous, heterogeneous, and distributed quantum computing environment supported by U.S. Department of Energy awards, as well as research on reliable and secure quantum networking funded by AFRL [Air Force Research Laboratory], and co-designing security and reliability features of quantum hardware supported by Google."

This is Saeed's latest major award. In 2023, she was a co-recipient of a \$4.6 million [DoE] grant to advance quantum computing. The funding was for her project, "Toward Efficient Quantum Algorithm Execution on Noisy Intermediate-Scale Quantum Hardware."

Saeed is also director of CCNY's (SERS) Laboratory, a research group whose main focus is system reliability and security. SERS' research spans from classical to quantum computing systems. Its mission is to enable reliable and secure breakthrough applications for quantum and classical systems by making them more resilient to errors during mission mode and exposing and preventing any malicious activities that leak sensitive information or change functionality.

Saeed is also an affiliated faculty of the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab.

She earned her Ph.D. in computer science from the New York University Tandon School of Engineering. Her research interests span hardware security, secure

quantum computing systems, quantum circuit compilation and synthesis, quantum networking, and testing digital integrated circuits.

ASCE presents Grove School Engineering Professor Anil K. Agrawal with 2026 George Winter Award



Anil K. Agrawal

The American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) Structural Engineering Institute presented its 2026 George Winter Award to Anil K. Agrawal, professor and

chair of Civil Engineering. The honor is for "outstanding contributions in both structural engineering and mentoring of high school students in STEM." He received the medal and honorarium at ASCE's Structures Congress in Boston on May 1.

The award was instituted by the ASCE Board of Direction in April 1990, and is named after Professor George Winter, a world renowned teacher and researcher at Cornell University, who died in 1982. It recognizes the achievements of an active structural engineering researcher, educator or practitioner who best typifies Winter's humanistic approach to his profession: namely an equal concern for matters technical and social, for art as well as science, and for soul as well as intellect.

Agrawal's latest accolade comes a year after ASCE, the oldest national engineering society in the United States, bestowed three honors on him: the 2025 Moisseiff Award, the ASCE State-of-the-Art of Civil Engineering Award, and the ASCE Collingwood Prize.

Agrawal is a Distinguished Member of ASCE, and past chief editor of the ASCE's Journal of Bridge Engineering. He has served as chair of the ASCE SEI Committee on Bridge Inspection, Rehabilitation and Monitoring and the ASCE SEI Committee on Structural Control and Sensing. He has also chaired the Engineering Mechanics Committee of ASCE's Metropolitan Section since 2013 and served as vice-chair of ExCom of the SEI Technical Community Committee

between 2023 and 2025.

He's the founding chief editor of the International Journal of Bridge Engineering, Management and Research, founded in collaboration with the FABRE Consortium of Italy in September 2024. That same year, Agrawal founded the Journal of High School Research to encourage high school students to engage in research and critical writing. Agrawal has published more than 142 peer-reviewed papers, 26 major reports and more than 200 conference papers.

Yang Liu earns top honor from world's largest aerospace technical society



Yang Liu

Yang Liu, assistant professor in the Grove School of Engineering and an expert in experimental fluid mechanics, is one of the American Institute of

Aeronautics and Astronautics' Class of 2026 Associate Fellows. The honor is for his pioneering research and academic leadership. This includes his impactful contributions to experimental aerodynamics and multiphase flow, advancing aircraft icing mitigation, additive manufacturing, and plasma-droplet interactions.

The grade of Associate Fellow recognizes individuals "who have accomplished or been in charge of important engineering or scientific work, or who have done original work of outstanding merit, or who have otherwise made outstanding contributions to the arts, sciences, or technology of aeronautics or astronautics." To be selected as an Associate Fellow an individual must be an AIAA Senior Member in good standing, with at least 12 years of professional experience, and be recommended by three AIAA members.

"Congratulations to each member of the Class of 2026 Associate Fellows," said AIAA President Dan Hastings. "This distinguished group of professionals has performed extraordinary work and advanced the state of science and technology in aeronautics and astronautics. They exemplify a dedication to excellence in their specific technical

disciplines."

Liu is the Director of the Experimental Aerodynamics and Multiphase Flow Laboratory (ExAM-Flow Lab). His research explores how liquids, gases, and plasmas interact under extreme conditions to reveal the physics that govern complex flow and heat-transfer phenomena. His work bridges fundamental science and real-world applications in areas such as aerospace safety, additive manufacturing, and energy systems.

Liu's current research interests include plasma-droplet interactions, multiphase dynamics in additive manufacturing, shockwave-surface interactions, complex multiphase interactions driven by supersonic/hypersonic flows, aircraft icing physics and anti-/de-icing technologies, and unsteady flow dynamics in energy devices. He obtained his Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from Iowa State University in 2016 and a B.S. in aerospace engineering from China's Beihang University in 2011.

“

This distinguished group of professionals has performed extraordinary work and advanced the state of science and technology in aeronautics and astronautics. They exemplify a dedication to excellence in their specific technical disciplines.

”

- Dan Hastings
President, American
Institute of Aeronautics and
Astronautics

Faculty successes include grants, honors and re-releases

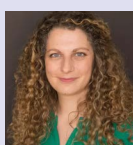
THE DIVISION OF HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS HAS AN ABUNDANCE OF GOOD NEWS TO SHARE FROM ITS FACULTY.



Writer and Professor **Emily Raboteau** (*Lessons for Survival: Mothering Against 'the Apocalypse'*) received a 2025 Environmental Arts Grant from the New York Foundation for the Arts and Anonymous Was a Woman. The grant supports environmental art projects led by women-identifying artists from the United States and U.S. territories. Raboteau, a professor of Black Studies, was awarded \$20,000 for her project, *Voices from the Cross-Bronx Expressway*. Her book-length essay in-progress amplifies the perspectives of local activists combating the Cross-Bronx Expressway's toxic harm for the sake of generations to come. In addition to historically displacing residents, separating communities, and abetting segregation, it is one of the most congested interstates in the nation with some of the highest rates of traffic and collisions. The neighborhoods surrounding the corridor suffer not only some of the worst health issues in the city, but the highest rates of asthma in the country. Raboteau's work will examine what it means to survive environmental racism and to struggle against it.



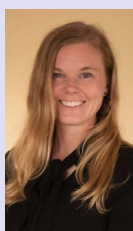
English Professor **Lyn Di Iorio** was the recipient of a 2025 Faulkner Society Faulkner-Wisdom gold medal for a work in progress. Di Iorio also teaches at the CUNY Graduate Center. Her novel *Outside the Bones* was shortlisted for the 2012 John Gardner Fiction Award and won a Foreword INDIES Silver Fiction Prize.



Philosophy professor **Elise M. Crull** was named a 2025 American Physical Society Fellow for "outstanding historical research, including the expansion of the historical record pertaining to the EPR paradox and revealing new commentary between 1927 and 1935, especially the contributions of Grete Hermann, and for leadership of the Women in the History of Quantum Physics working group." Crull was one of two recipients in 2025. She is the co-author, most recently, of *The Einstein Paradox: The Debate on Nonlocality and Incompleteness in 1935* with Guido Bacciagaluppi.



Chairman of the Art Department and Professor **Hajoe Moderegger** spent 10 months in Taiwan on a 2024-25 Fulbright Scholarship at the National Taiwan University's Graduate Institute of Networking and Multimedia to research and work on a new project: "Journey to the Semiconductor" that combines glove puppetry with electronic devices. This is Moderegger's second Fulbright. Since 2001, he has worked in conjunction with Franziska Lamprecht as a team. In Taiwan, the artistic duo explored the tools, rituals, and storytelling techniques of both historical and contemporary puppet performance. They found surprising parallels between digital handheld communication devices, such as smartphones, and their analog counterparts—hand puppets. Both serve as intimate extensions of the human body and tools of storytelling, performance, and communication.



Art historian and Lecturer **Jayne Cole** exhibited work in a show called "Legacies: Asian American Art Movements in New York City (1969-2001)," which won the ARTNews award for Best Thematic Museum Show. The show was at NYU's 80WSE, an art space located at 80 Washington Square East in Greenwich Village. Cole was a curator of the show along with Howie Chen and Christina Ong [sic]. The show exhibited from Sept. 11–Dec. 20, 2024. Competition was stiff and included nominees from the Art Institute of Chicago, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, and SITE Santa Fe. "Legacies" was billed as the first institutional show ever to survey artists of Asian descent in its titular city, surveying the period from 1969 to 2001. Ninety artists were included in the show and mostly centered around three organizations: Godzilla: Asian American Art Network, the Basement Workshop, and the Asian American Arts Centre.

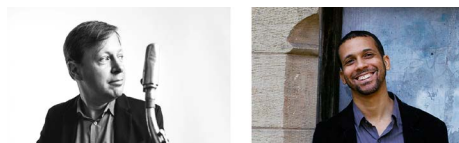


Filmmaker and Professor **Campbell Dalglish** was honored on the Bioneers website for his film *Savage Land*, as one of nine films that tell indigenous stories. Bioneers is an innovative nonprofit organization that highlights breakthrough solutions for restoring people and planet. *Savage Land* tells the story of the slaying of Mah-hi-vist Red Bird Goodblanket, an 18-year-old Cheyenne Arapaho boy, by Custer County Police. As descendants of the Sand Creek and Washita Massacres 150 years ago, the horrors of the past resonate in current America.



Film and Video Professor **Andrea Weiss** and her Jezebel Productions have had two films digitally remastered and readied for release. *Escape to Life: The Erika and Klaus Mann Story* has been newly restored from 35mm film. The film is playing at select cinemas and is now available on Amazon for home streaming. Directed by Weiss and Wieland Speck, it's a cautionary tale for our dark times. The brilliant, rebellious children of German author Thomas Mann, Erika and Klaus espoused vehemently anti-Nazi views in a Europe swept up in fascism and were defiantly queer in an age of secrecy and repression. The film is based on Weiss' book, the Publishing Triangle Award winner *In the Shadow of the Magic Mountain: The Erika and Klaus Mann Story*, now available in paperback. And the film *Paris Was a Woman*, written and produced by Weiss and directed by CCNY alumni Greta Schiller, was re-released by Zeitgeist Films, thanks to the exhaustive work of IndieCollect and the support of the Women's Film Preservation Fund. The film is also based on a book Weiss wrote, the Lambda Literary Award-winner of the same name.

Tenor saxophonist Chris Potter, drummer Adam Cruz headline 2026 CUNY Jazz Festival



Chris Potter (left) and Adam Cruz.

Tenor saxophonist and composer Chris Potter, a leading voice of a generation of jazz artists, headlined the 2026 CUNY Jazz Festival at CCNY. Also featured were acclaimed drummer Adam Cruz performing with the CCNY Faculty Jazz Ensemble. Performances were held in the Aaron Davis Hall on Thursday, May 7 and Friday, May 8.

The festival began with a performance by the CCNY Faculty Jazz Ensemble made up of internationally acclaimed jazz artists Jason Rigby on tenor saxophone, Pete McCann on guitar, Ray Gallon on piano, Aidan O'Donnell on bass, Adam Cruz on drums, and the vocals of Suzanne Pittson.

The festival featured ensembles from CCNY and guest bands from Hunter College, Borough of Manhattan Community College, York College, Queens College and a tribute to jazz vocal legend Sheila Jordan by her former students.

The Friday evening concert featured Adam Cruz with the CCNY Small Jazz Ensemble performing the music of Wayne Shorter, followed by a jam session with Cruz for all festival participants.

The Saturday evening performance began with one of the City College graduate jazz ensembles followed by the Chris Potter Quartet. The festival closed with a performance from Potter with Adam Rogers on guitar, Scott Colley on bass and Nasheet Waits on drums.

"Chris Potter is widely considered the leading tenor saxophonist of his generation and a composer of historic importance. Chris was the festival guest 15 years ago and it is fitting that in the 26-year history of the CUNY Jazz Festival, he is the first repeat guest artist," said CCNY Jazz Studies Professor and Festival Director Mike Holober. Cruz also presented a master class, performed with CCNY students and participated in a jam session with all festival performers.

"With Chris' quartet performance and his master class, and Adam Cruz's day-

long presence, I am thrilled about the 2026 Festival," said Holober. "In its 26th year, the CUNY Jazz Festival has evolved into the most important event on the CUNY jazz calendar. City College has enjoyed being the host and sponsor of an event that is in the spirit of the joy of performing and thriving in an educational environment."

The festival is presented by The Simon H. Rifkind Center for the Humanities and the Arts at City College, the City College Music Department, and The Leonard Davis Center for the Performing Arts, as well as the Leonard and Sophie Davis Fund. Additional funding is from alumni Mel Litoff '64. Admission to all events was free.

Philosopher Nickolas Pappas is 2026-27 Stuart Z. Katz Professor



Nickolas Pappas

The City College of New York Philosophy Professor Nickolas Pappas has been selected as the Stuart Z. Katz Professor in the Division of Humanities & the Arts for the 2026-27 academic year.

This endowed professorship is supported by a \$1 million gift to CCNY by alumnus Stuart Z. Katz, Esq. '64. The gift supports one outstanding professorial faculty member in the Division for one academic year. Emerging from a competitive selection process, Pappas will receive \$10,000 to support his research and creative activity for the current academic year.

The 10th faculty member to hold this professorship since its establishment in 2016, Pappas came to City College in 1993. His research concentrates on ancient philosophy and aesthetics, and the overlap between how poetry and other arts were understood in the ancient world. In the past decade, he has developed an interest in how the thinkers of the ancient world, particularly Plato, perceived foreigners, immigrants, and others who were either ethnically or linguistically different.

"There were many, often surprising categories for understanding different types of strangers," he said. "What is striking to me is that those categories for faraway people informed even how people saw their nearest neighbors."

To deepen his understanding of categories for strangers, Pappas will travel to Greece this summer to visit lesser-known, small museums that hold relics from civilizations, such as Egypt and Syria, that exported art, furnishings and jewelry to the country. He expects that examining these artifacts will yield insights into Plato's stereotypes about foreigners that appear in his political writings.

These explorations will inform Pappas's upcoming book, *Strangers in the House of Philosophy*, the subject of his Stuart Z. Katz Lecture delivered at his formal installation on Monday, Oct. 26.

Katz and his family attended the lecture which was free and open to the public.

"My wife and I are so glad the 10th Katz Professorship was awarded to Professor Nickolas Pappas, a City College veteran for over 30 years, and a professor of philosophy and classics, subjects dear to my family," said Katz. "Professor Pappas was mentored by the late philosophy professor Stanley Cavell of Harvard University, a giant in his field. My wife and I look forward to getting to know Professor Pappas and to learn about his studies."

Chai and Chat Reading Series welcomes author Irvin Weathersby, Jr.



Irvin Weathersby, Jr.

The Master of Fine Arts Creative Writing's annual Chai and Chat Reading Series kicked off with author and Professor Salar Abdoh (*A Nearby Country Called Love*) in conversation with

writer Irvin Weathersby, Jr. on Wednesday, Oct. 22.

In Open Contempt: Confronting White Supremacy in Art and Public Space is Weathersby's first book. The CCNY Bernard Mendik Guest Professor, Weathersby read from *In Open Contempt*.

Weathersby is a Brooklyn-based writer and professor from New Orleans. His writing has been featured in *LitHub*, *Guernica*, *Esquire*, *The Atlantic*, *EBONY*, and elsewhere. He earned an MFA from The New School, an M.A. from Morgan State University, and a B.A. from Morehouse College. He received fellowships and awards from the Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation, the Research Foundation of CUNY, the Bread Loaf Writers'

Conference, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Mellon Foundation.

The event, which was free and open to the public, was sponsored by the Bernard Mendik Fund.

Prospective MFA candidates had an opportunity to meet Program Director Michelle Valladares at the event.

Alumna Kay Poema featured at 54th Annual CCNY Poetry Festival



Kay Poema

The Division of Humanities and the Arts presented the 54th Annual CCNY Poetry Festival on Friday, May 1 at Aaron Davis Hall's Theatre B black box space. Kay Poema, B.A. '15, M.F.A. '18, Bronx poet laureate emerita, was this year's featured guest poet.

Poema is an interdisciplinary artist, and educator whose work bridges language and image to explore themes of memory, identity, and transformation. The author of *Diary of Intercessor* (Finishing Line Press, 2021), she served as the Bronx poet laureate from 2023 to 2025, and was recently the artist in residence at the Bx Arts Factory, where she presented an exhibition based on her forthcoming memoir, *Where the Sun Splits Open*.

CCNY's Poetry Festival is New York's longest-running poetry celebration and was dubbed "the Woodstock of the Spoken Word." Schools from all five boroughs attend and read poetry, and some of the children who participated in the festival decades ago are now teachers who bring their classes.

"It's quite extraordinary mentoring these young students. They see the world with such different eyes, and then write without censoring themselves, with freedom," said Alyssa Yankwitt, co-director of the CCNY Poetry Festival, adjunct assistant professor at CCNY, and senior poetry outreach mentor. "This is a moment in time when poetry is more important than ever. These students have something to say, and the festival is a

place for them to use their voices."

In addition to the readings by Poema and students, each year the festival invites prominent poets to read their work like last year's featured poet, Hadara Bar-Nadav. Among those who have appeared are Paul Simon, Allen Ginsberg, Gwendolyn Brooks, Sonia Sanchez, and Pamela L. Laskin, former director of the CCNY Poetry Outreach Center, just to name a few.

The festival presents a special award for the best poems in a language other than English. Submissions have come from 20 different languages over the festival's history, reflecting the diversity of both New York City and CCNY.

The event commences with readings by elementary and middle school poets followed by winners of the festival's citywide high school poetry contest. Winners recite their poems and receive cash poetry prizes.

Some of the sponsors of the festival include the American Academy of Poets, Axe-Houghton Foundation, Poets & Writers, Inc., CCNY President Vince Boudreau and the CCNY Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations.

Composer David Cieri scores Ken Burns's THOREAU series



David Cieri

HENRY DAVID THOREAU, a PBS series executive produced by Ken Burns and musician Don Henley, narrated by George Clooney and featuring the voices of Meryl Streep, Jeff Goldblum, Ted

Danson and other acting legends, was scored by Adjunct Professor and master composer David Cieri.

A member of CCNY's music faculty for 16 years, Cieri currently teaches courses on music and film, and film scoring in Professor Paul Kozel's renowned Sonic Arts Center. A musician and composer for film, concert, and albums, Cieri has worked with many other celebrated

filmmakers such as Barak Goodman and George Lucas.

Cieri's work on *THOREAU*, a three-part, three-hour documentary directed by brothers Erik and Christopher Loren Ewers, aired on PBS in March.

Cieri's other recent work includes music for *Behind the Lines*, (directed by John Benitz, Cypher Films); *The American Revolution*, (Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein & David Schmidt, Florentine Films); *On the Line*, (Marika Hacking & Francesco Saviano, Unarmed Media); and *Annika Harris, Lights On*, (audio book, MacMillan Press).

He has recorded 21 acclaimed albums under his own name, the last 12 of which were released by Ropeadope Records. He has collaborated on a major live documentary project with the two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage and has made two records with the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Yusef Komunyakaa. Cieri wrote and performed the live scores for the first three seasons of *The Paris Review* podcasts.

In addition to City College, Cieri periodically teaches The Art of Listening and The Art of Improvising at the 92nd Street Y.

In *THOREAU*, the series examines the life and work of the 19th-century writer in the context of antebellum New England and the larger U.S., as well as through the universal themes he focused on in his writings: an individual's relationship to the state, how to live an authentic life, our connection to nature, and the impact of race on American life. Set against the political and social tensions of the mid-19th century, the film traces Thoreau's journey from his early days in Concord, Massachusetts to his deep engagement with the moral crises of his time, including industrialization, slavery, war, and environmental degradation. Through his essays, journals, and landmark works, such as *Walden* and *Civil Disobedience*, he became an inspiration for generations of writers, thinkers, and activists.

In addition to Clooney's narration, voices are provided by Danson (Ralph Waldo Emerson), Tate Donovan (William Ellery Channing), Goldblum (Henry David Thoreau), and Streep (Lidian Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Mary Merrick Brooks, and Maria Thoreau).

CCNY Dean Juan Carlos Mercado becomes ANLE Corresponding Member



Juan Carlos Mercado

Juan Carlos Mercado, dean of the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education, is one of five leading academics and “creators of recognized international prestige” elected Corresponding Members of the North American Academy of the Spanish Language (ANLE). The distinction recognizes outstanding academic careers dedicated to the study, teaching, and international promotion of the Spanish language and Hispanic culture.

ANLE cited Mercado as “a pioneer in expanding educational access and international cooperation.” It noted his research on Spanish Florida and Pedro Menéndez de Avilés as offering a new perspective on Spanish colonization and its cultural implications in the United States.

The academy also highlighted Mercado’s deep commitment to the guiding principles of academic excellence and to strengthening Spanish in the U.S.

“Professor Mercado’s incorporation will significantly strengthen our mission to preserve and enrich the Spanish language in the United States,” said Nuria Morgado, director of ANLE and a Corresponding Member of the Royal Spanish Academy. “This honor formally integrates him into a prestigious international network

of scholars dedicated to research, dissemination, and defense of the Spanish language.”

ANLE is one of the 23 academies of the Spanish language on four continents that serve 580 million Spanish speakers worldwide, with a physical presence in America, Europe, Asia and Africa. The mission of the ANLE is the study, development, and implementation of the normative rules of Spanish in the United States.

An Argentine-born academic and administrator, Mercado is a specialist in Spanish colonial history in North America. He has more than 15 years of leadership experience as the senior dean at CCNY’s Division of Interdisciplinary Studies. Mercado is also the dean of Study Abroad and International Programs, as well as Continuing and Professional Studies at City College. He’s on the faculty of the Ph.D. Program in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Languages at the Graduate Center, CUNY.

Mercado’s research includes 19th century Spanish American Literature, the History of Ideas, and the Spanish exploration of what is now the United States. His recent publications include *España y Norteamérica en el corredor transatlántico/Spain and North America in the Transatlantic Corridor* (with Carlos Aguasaco) (2023), and a new edition of *Menéndez de Avilés and Florida: Chronicles of Expeditions* (2024). Mercado is currently working on an annotated edition of Ruy Díaz de Guzmán’s *La Argentina: Historia de las Provincias del Río de la Plata/La Argentina: History of the Río de la Plata Provinces*.

ANLE’s four new other Corresponding Members are: Yannelys Aparicio Molina, Cuban specialist in Latin American literature; Manuel Díaz-Campos, Venezuelan linguist and expert in Hispanic sociolinguistics; Luis Correa-Díaz, Chilean poet and academic researcher in digital humanities; and Ángel Esteban, Spanish professor and renowned Hispanist and scholar of Cuban literature.

CWE’s Social Justice and Urban Life degree expands

Since launching its new major in Social Justice and Urban Life in 2025, the program has grown to an enrollment of 12 students for the fall 2026 semester.

This degree program provides the kind of education that opens new career paths for students, who themselves bring a rich tapestry of life experiences to the classroom. Through its interdisciplinary framework, the program guides students to turn a critical lens on urban life, focusing on the analysis of social justice issues and inequality within urban communities in New York City, the Americas, and globally. Drawing on the strengths of its faculty, the program offers grounding in the interdisciplinary fields of Urban Studies, Human Rights, Labor Studies, Carework, Black, Race, and Ethnic Studies, and Women’s and Gender Studies.

Students engage with scholars, professionals, and activists through coursework, experiential learning, and public lectures. Consequently, they are introduced to and presented with the opportunity to build networks leading to new career paths. Moreover, James Kim, as the first recipient of the new degree in spring 2026, highlights, that the program is designed for working adults and transfer students, who can accelerate their course of studies in a program specifically tailored to their needs. Offering various course modalities, including in-person, online, evening and weekend classes, the program responds to both the complexities and the opportunities that life in New York City has to offer.

Kim was recognized as a CCNY Class of 2026 Great Grad. Exemplifying the program’s mission to educate critical urban scholars through an interdisciplinary engagement with urban life, he credited the program with enabling him to “return to school as a working adult, earn a degree, and find a path that aligned with my intentions in life.” He is currently preparing to take the LSAT.

Relaunch of a classic: The Sophie Davis School for Biomedical Education



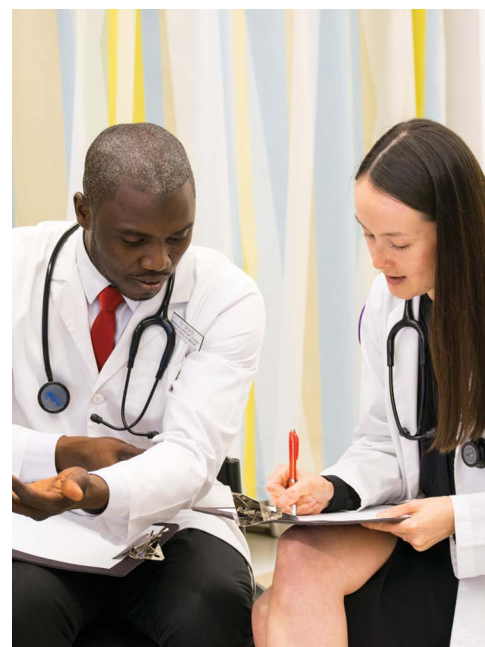
The City College of New York welcomes back the Sophie Davis Center for Biomedical Education (SDSBE). The School, founded in 1973, which was consolidated into the CUNY School of Medicine (CUNY Med) as part of its initial founding in 2015, is now back under the umbrella of CCNY. The underpinning foundation of SDSBE, CUNY Med became a fully accredited four-year medical school. SCSBE continues its original purpose of preparing pre-med students from a diverse background.

Originally founded for the purpose of attracting physicians to primary care specialties in the geographic areas of greatest need by offering an accelerated five-year curriculum, the institution integrated the requirements for a baccalaureate degree with the content of traditional preclinical medical education. Successful students were subsequently matched to partner accredited medical schools for the clinical training and conferral of the M.D. degree. It continues this mission as a feeder program to CUNY Med.

"For 53 years, the Sophie Davis School at City College, through an intensive three-year program, has prepared talented and diverse students for entry into medical school," said CCNY Provost Tony Liss. "That pathway, through a partnership with City College, now leads directly to the CUNY School of Medicine, further reducing the barriers to our students becoming doctors."

The Center was renamed the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education in 1978 for Sophie Davis (née Kesner), the wife of Colonial Penn founder Leonard Davis, a CCNY graduate, Class of 1944, and a major benefactor.

The commitment to serve has always been at the forefront of the work performed by pre-medical students in the Sophie Davis Program (Sophies) shared as part of the commitment to serve the community and to create a diversified health professional work force.



“

For 53 years, the Sophie Davis School at City College, through an intensive three-year program, has prepared talented and diverse students for entry into medical school. That pathway, through a partnership with City College, now leads directly to the CUNY School of Medicine, further reducing the barriers to our students becoming doctors.

”

- Tony Liss
Provost



North Academic Center, Fall 2025

At CCNY's 173rd Commencement, Macaulay Honors grad Shabnam Pahrand is CCNY Class of 2026 Valedictorian and Navy Corpsman Sayyid Rodriguez is Salutatorian



The City College held its 173rd Commencement Exercises on May 29 on the South Campus Great Lawn. President Vince Boudreau delivered the commencement address to the Class of 2026 which comprised 3,542 graduates of which approximately 2,163 received undergraduate degrees. Shabnam Pahrand, the daughter of Afghan immigrants who graduated summa cum laude from the Macaulay Honors College at CCNY with double majors in philosophy and political science, is The City College of New York's Class of 2026 Valedictorian. Sayyid Yobhel Vasquez Rodriguez, a Hospital Corpsman in the U.S. Navy Reserve who completed his B.S. in biology also with summa cum laude honors, is the Salutatorian.



SHABNAM PAHRAND

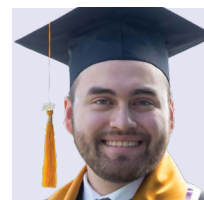
Born in New York, where her parents settled after emigrating from Afghanistan, CCNY's valedictorian was inspired from childhood by her philomath father, who prioritized education in the family, and her mother, who was an educator herself. Motivated by Afghan women at home who were denied access to education, Pahrand was admitted to the Macaulay Honors College at CCNY, where she pursued a double major in philosophy in the Division of Humanities and the Arts, and in political science in the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership.

Pahrand is a Colin Powell School International Human Rights Fellow and was also a Stanford Summer Research Fellow. She completed a year-long capstone project for the Macaulay Honors College examining the impact of poetry, and themes such as legacy and collective memory, within activist movements. She also conducted a second, semester-long project focused on enhancing civic engagement and participation at CUNY, which included proposing a grant to the Teagle Foundation and the Macaulay board. Renowned philosophy professor and author Nickolas Pappas ranks Pahrand among the top five students he has taught in more than 30 years at CCNY.

Pahrand is interning at the Afghan Support Network, where she mentors newly arrived Afghan refugee students through the U.S. college application process and serves as an editor for their quarterly newsletter.

After graduation, her plans include applying for a Global Peace Fellowship in Washington, D.C., and a Fulbright to conduct research abroad. Following this gap year, she will begin the law school application process to obtain her J.D., with the goal of pursuing a career in human rights law and nonprofit organizational work.

SAYYID YOBHEL VASQUEZ RODRIGUEZ



New York-born Vasquez Rodriguez moved to Mexico City as an infant when his father, a Peruvian-born surgeon, and his mother, an orthodontist from Venezuela, relocated for work. This would later instill in him an early appreciation for service and medicine. He lived in the Mexican capital until he graduated from high school.

Admitted to CCNY, he deferred enrollment for a year while doing Navy basic training in Great Lakes, Illinois. He later specialized as a Corpsman [medic] at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, and qualified to work as a field medic alongside Marines at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Throughout his service, he graduated with honors and earned accelerated advancement for outstanding performance.

At CCNY, Vasquez Rodriguez embarked on a path to medical school by pursuing a B.S. in biology, graduating summa cum laude, in the Division of Science. He's worked as a research assistant in the Computational Biophysics Laboratory, among other things conducting research on computational models of protein-membrane interactions and contributing to peer-reviewed publications.

He has co-authored three articles on his research findings, two of which have so far been published in the *Biophysical Journal* and the *Journal of Physical Chemistry*. "This is extremely rare, not only at CCNY but in the entire country!" said his mentor and co-author Professor Themis Lazaridis, of his mentee.

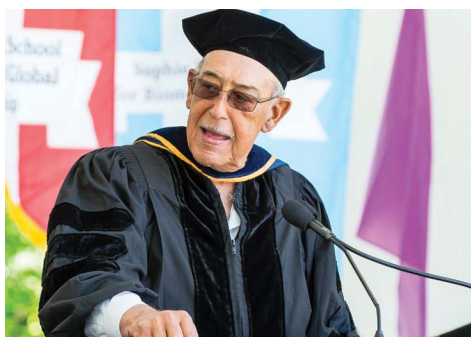
Vasquez Rodriguez, who's volunteered as a medical scribe and Spanish interpreter at Sure Medical Clinic, a primary care clinic serving a large Latino patient population in Queens, since 2024, completed his course work last September. He is applying for M.D.-Ph.D. programs with the goal of practicing medicine as an oncologist and conducting cancer research.

CCNY Commencement honors “Category 5 General” Russel L. Honoré and physicist Daniel Berg; CUNY honor for Mellon Foundation President Elizabeth Alexander

Retired U.S. Army Lieutenant-General Russel L. Honoré, who gained national renown in 2005 for his command of Joint Task Force-Katrina, and physicist Daniel Berg, a 1950 alumnus widely recognized for his work in the management of technology and innovation, received honorary doctoral degrees during The City College of New York’s 173rd Commencement exercises on May 29. Lt.-Gen. Honoré delivered the keynote address.

Elizabeth Alexander, president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from the City University of New York for her commitment to promoting the arts and humanities in society, particularly her efforts to expand access to the arts and education for diverse communities.

RUSSEL L. HONORÉ

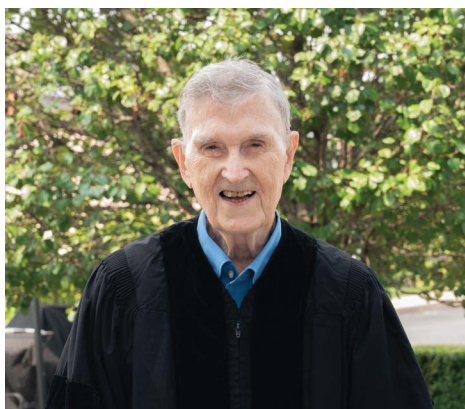


Honoré received the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters in recognition of his extensive military career and service to the nation, his striking leadership style, his success in planning, supporting and implementing disaster relief, his commitment to achieving what many may consider to be the impossible, and his continuing efforts to instill confidence in tomorrow’s leaders.

Over the course of his 37-year military career, Honoré served in a variety of command and staff positions which focused on defense support to civil authorities and homeland defense, including responses to hurricanes and

floods, and has received numerous awards and decorations for his service. He became known as “The Category 5 General” for his striking leadership style in coordinating military relief efforts.

DANIEL BERG



Berg was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science in recognition of his exemplary career, which spanned both the private sector and academia, his commitment to understanding and explaining the relationship of technology and society, and for his dedication to educational excellence, imparting his expertise to generations of scientists for the betterment of society.

Berg received numerous awards and accolades throughout his five decade-long career. He has published nearly 50 papers and indexed publications on the subjects of engineering, business, management and accounting, and computer science, for which he has been acknowledged as one of the world’s foremost experts in understanding the relationship of technology and the service sector, as well as the management of technological organization, innovation, policy, manufacturing strategy, robotics, and policy issues of research and development in the service sector. After a successful career at Westinghouse Corporation, he moved to academia, serving as dean of the Carnegie Mellon University College of Science, where he helped to found the Robotics Institute, and provost of the University; and vice president of academic affairs and provost, then president, of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, among other positions.

Berg has contributed over the years to CCNY. The Daniel Berg ‘50 and Frances H. Berg Professorship is awarded to distinguished Grove School of Engineering faculty to recognize expertise in areas such as chemical engineering, materials science, and related technologies.

ELIZABETH ALEXANDER



Alexander is a celebrated poet, distinguished scholar and educator, cultural advocate, and nationally recognized thought leader on race, justice, the arts, and American society. As president of the Mellon Foundation, she leads a multi-billion dollar philanthropic organization that is the nation’s largest funder of the arts and humanities, spearheading initiatives that promote their integration into society, helping build justice-centered communities, ensuring equity in arts access nationwide, and supporting educational institutions and cultural organizations, including the City University of New York, which, along with several of its campuses and research entities, has received more than \$20 million in support over the past decade. That support includes a \$10 million gift to advance CUNY’s initiative of programs in Black, Race, and Ethnic Studies and the humanities, expand a program that provides a pathway to arts-based careers for students from underrepresented communities, and an additional \$2.5 million to the Chancellor’s Emergency Relief Fund, established to help students facing financial hardship during the pandemic.



ALL-TIME WINNINGEST COACH CARLO EDRA HEADS UP MEN'S VOLLEYBALL



CCNY welcomed Carlo Edra as the new head coach of CCNY Men's Volleyball program. Edra arrived at The City College with an accomplished track record and a reputation for building championship-caliber programs. Across 11 seasons as a collegiate head coach, he compiled a career record of 186-125 (.598) while leading teams to multiple conference championships and postseason appearances, including two NCAA Tournament berths, six ECAC Tournament appearances, five Skyline Tournament berths, and numerous championship runs.

"I want to thank Duane Bailey for giving me the opportunity to lead the City College program and continue my career in the CUNYAC," said Edra. "From the moment I stepped into Nat Holman Gymnasium and spent time with Mr. Bailey, his vision for the athletic department and facility made this decision an easy one."

Most recently, Edra authored another historic season in 2026, leading his program to a CUNYAC Regular Season Championship, a CUNYAC Tournament Championship, and an appearance in the NCAA Tournament. For his efforts, he was named the 2026 CUNYAC Coach of the Year, adding to an already decorated coaching résumé.

The all-time winningest coach in program history at New Jersey City University, Edra returns to New York after a highly successful tenure guiding the Gothic Knights. During his leadership, NJCU successes included conference titles, postseason runs, and numerous program milestones.

"Carlo has demonstrated an exceptional ability to develop student-athletes, build winning cultures, and elevate programs on and off the court," said Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation Duane Bailey. "His passion, leadership, and vision for Men's Volleyball make him the ideal person to lead our program into its next chapter."

Edra earned Skyline Coach of the Year three times (2021, 2022, 2024) and NJAC Coach of the Year three times. Under his leadership, student-athletes earned an AVCA All-America Honorable Mention, multiple AVCA All-Region honors, conference Players of the Year, Defensive Players of the Year, Rookie of the Year recipients, and more than 45 All-Conference selections.

His teams have also excelled in the classroom, producing Academic All-Conference honorees and numerous conference academic honor roll selections.

"CCNY has a rich history and tremendous potential, and I'm excited to work with this group of student-athletes as we build a culture rooted in brotherhood, accountability, and championship standards. I'm eager to get to work and help take this program to new heights, and I hope the entire CCNY community shares that excitement," said Edra.

LAUNCH OF SOFTBALL PROGRAM REFLECTS GROWTH AND COMMITMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS AND RECREATION



Softball will be added to the list of intercollegiate athletics offered at CCNY. This signals CCNY's commitment to expanding opportunities for female student-athletes while continuing to

strengthen and elevate the Department of Athletics and Recreation's offerings. The Softball Program will begin competition as a club sport during the 2026-27 academic year and officially transition to NCAA varsity status for the 2027-28 season.

As the institution continues investing in student-athlete experiences, the new Softball Program represents an important milestone in broadening participation and creating pathways for success both on and off the field.

"Adding Softball is an exciting and meaningful step for our athletics department and institution," said Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation, Duane Bailey. "We are excited to build a program that reflects the pride, tradition, and excellence of the CCNY Athletics."

CCNY Softball will join a new conference among Division III institutions, eight of whom are current members of the CUNY Athletic Conference, along with Saint Elizabeth University and Pratt Institute, establishing a newly expanded NCAA Division III conference set to begin competition in the 2027-28 academic year. The conference, currently in the final stages of naming, branding, and incorporation, will focus on institutions located in and around the New York City metropolitan area.

Championships, continuing to gain valuable experience against top regional competition.

NCAA MENS LACROSSE PROGRAM BEGINS IN 2026-7

The City College of New York Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation Duane Bailey announced the addition of NCAA Men's Lacrosse as the department's newest varsity athletic program. The Beavers will begin competition during the 2026-27 academic year.

"Elevating Men's Lacrosse from a successful club program to NCAA varsity status reflects our investment in expanding opportunities for our students while continuing to build a competitive and dynamic athletic department," said Bailey.

Head Coach Ryan Garling will lead the program as it transitions into NCAA competition and guide the development of the team as it returns to NCAA competition.

"With the continued growth and popularity of lacrosse throughout the region, we are excited about the opportunities ahead for our student-athletes and the future of this program," said Bailey. "We believe Men's Lacrosse will be a strong addition to our department and campus community."

The Beavers will compete as an independent program upon entering varsity competition while the College explores future conference affiliation opportunities within NCAA Division III.

Duane Bailey named new Athletics Director



Following a national search, Duane Bailey has been appointed the new director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation. Bailey brings more than two decades of leadership experience across collegiate and professional sports.

Bailey most recently served as deputy director of Athletics and chief financial officer at the University of Louisiana, where he oversaw the department's business operations, human resources, facilities, equipment, and event management, while serving as sport administrator for women's soccer. In 2020, his role expanded to include oversight of housing, retail operations, dining, transportation, and media.

"I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to join The City College of New York and become part of this incredible community," Bailey said. "Athletics and recreation have the power to bring people together, to inspire pride, and to create a sense of belonging that reaches far beyond the playing field. My goal is to build on CCNY's strong foundation by supporting our student-athletes, engaging the entire campus, and strengthening our connection to the city we serve."

Before joining Louisiana, Bailey held key leadership positions at Seton Hall University, overseeing external relations, compliance, and financial operations. He managed more than \$39 million in athletic facility construction and renovations, and negotiated a major apparel partnership.

As Director of Athletics at the New York Institute of Technology, Bailey guided 13 varsity programs and led the addition of women's lacrosse and esports, and the construction of a student fitness center. Under his leadership, NYIT achieved record competitive and academic success, earning Bailey the 2016 ECAC Division II Athletic Administrator of the Year award.

At the University of New Haven, he oversaw 17 varsity and 12 club sports, leading programs that exceeded NCAA Academic Success Rate standards.

Earlier in his career, Bailey spent a decade in the National Football League, where he held positions in salary cap management and player compensation both at the league office and with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Bailey currently serves as vice chair of the Eastern College Athletic Conference Board of Directors and recently completed his term on the NCAA Women's Soccer Committee. He has also contributed to boards and subcommittees of sports governing bodies for U.S. Lacrosse, USA Bobsled & Skeleton, and the United States Tennis Association.

A proud New Yorker and graduate of St. John's University with a bachelor's degree in finance, Bailey also holds a master's degree in athletic administration from Adelphi University and an MBA from Long Island University.



Distinguished alumni and UFT President Michael Mulgrew honored at the 145th Annual Alumni Gala



It was a chic and rewarding night at the Annual Alumni Gala for all attendees, including President Vince Boudreau (end of row, right).



UFT President Michael Mulgrew gave his thanks via a video message.

2025 TOWNSEND HARRIS AWARDEES

Dr. Nichola J. Davis '94
Physician and vice president of Health and Hospitals NYC

Leon Golub '67
Astrophysicist at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory

Kirk McDonald '22
Business and marketing leader & CEO of Sundial Media & Technology Group

Arien K. Muzacz '09
Professional counselor, educator, and advocate for mental health

Garri Rivkin '10
Founder and executive director of The City Tutors

Emanuel James Stergiou '71
Actuary and Founder and CEO of SG Risk

Gary Weiss '75
Investigative reporter, author, and columnist, renowned for exposing white collar crime and organized crime in business and finance

Seven alumni received the Townsend Harris Medal from The Alumni Association of The City College of New York for outstanding post-graduate achievement. The honorees were acknowledged at the 145th Annual Alumni Gala in November in Shepard Hall.

The awardees were Dr. Nichola J. Davis '94, Leon Golub '67, Kirk McDonald '22, Arien K. Muzacz '09, Garri Rivkin '10, Emanuel James Stergiou '71 and Gary Weiss '75.

"A vibrant and thriving alumni community is one of the strongest indicators of a successful college. I am proud to say that the City College alumni community continues to flourish—connecting generations, celebrating our shared legacy, and strengthening our commitment to CCNY. I invite alumni from near and far to join us at our Annual Gala as we come together to celebrate and recognize the remarkable achievements of our alumni community," said Alumni Association President Shawn Chin-Chance.

The 2025 Townsend Harris Medalists are recognized for their exceptional post-graduate accomplishments and lasting contributions to society.

Michael Mulgrew, president of the United Federation of Teachers, received the 2025 John H. Finley Award for exemplary and dedicated service to the City of New York. Mulgrew's career represents steadfast advocacy for public education and his

leadership representing more than 190,000 educators and school professionals across New York City.

The Alumni Association of The City College of New York is an independent, member-driven 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting the welfare of The City College of New York and its alumni founded in 1853. For more information, visit www.ccnyalumni.org.

I am proud to say that the City College alumni community continues to flourish—connecting generations, celebrating our shared legacy, and strengthening our commitment to CCNY.

- Shawn Chin-Chance
President, CCNY Alumni Association

Salk Scholarship for alumna Ramela Xhaho '25



Ramela Xhaho

Ramela Xhaho, Class of 2025, is the recipient of a Jonas E. Salk Scholarship awarded by CUNY. The scholarships recognize exceptional students who plan careers in medicine and the biological sciences.

As a Salk Scholar, Xhaho, who graduated summa cum laude with a 4.0 GPA and a B.S. in biology, will receive a stipend of \$8,000 to be allocated over three or four years of medical studies. The Albanian-born immigrant, who resides in Brooklyn, is currently working as an adjunct lecturer in CCNY's Division of Science while waiting to enroll in medical school.

Her other academic honors at CCNY included:

- ✓ Division of Science Valedictorian
- ✓ The Outstanding Biology Presentation Award
- ✓ The Sharon D. Cosloy Undergraduate Research Scholarship in Biology
- ✓ The Bernard Levine Scholarship in Science and Mathematics

"My future goals are to provide compassionate care to patients from diverse backgrounds and to conduct research," said Xhaho. "Being an immigrant has influenced my desire to be a physician, as I plan to serve different immigrant communities. I also enjoy conducting research to integrate scientific discovery with patient care."

She volunteered at Montefiore Medical Center, where her duties included shadowing physicians in the Emergency Department. In her sophomore year, Xhaho participated in the Weill Cornell DedicatED Summer Apprenticeship Program, networking with physicians and medical students to discuss the process of applying to medical school.

The Salk Scholarship is named for Dr. Jonas

Salk, a 1934 graduate of City College, who developed the first polio vaccine in 1955. Salk turned down a tickertape parade in honor of his discovery, and asked that the money be used for scholarships instead. New York City provided initial funding for the scholarships that year. The Jonas Salk Scholarships are awarded annually to eight graduates of CUNY senior colleges who have been accepted by, and plan to attend, U.S. medical or graduate schools.

Sonic Arts Alumna Eli Akselrod '24 nominated for an Emmy



Eli Akselrod

Eli Akselrod, B.M. '24 was nominated for a 2025 Primetime Emmy Award in the Outstanding Editing for a Nonfiction or Reality Program category for the HBO series *100 Foot Wave*. Although the sound design team didn't win, the show won the 2025 Emmy for Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Series. Akselrod is a graduate of the Division of Humanities and The Arts' four-year Bachelor of Music degree with a major in sonic arts.

"I wanted to do audio engineering, and the Sonic Arts Center was the perfect place to do it," said Akselrod.

The pre-professional program gives students a well-rounded education in production and post-production, according to Paul Kozol, the Center's founding director. The program also offers students a chance to intern with professionals in the field. Akselrod worked for the White Noise Post Productions, Inc. the company of award-winning sound designer and sound effects editor Eric Di Stefano.

"I brought Eli on in the summer of 2022, during a crazy busy stretch when I needed an assistant to help manage several projects," he said. "Out of hundreds of résumés, hers stood out right away. She

clearly had a passion for sound and film, a drive to learn, and the kind of genuine personality you need when working closely with directors, producers, and editors." Together with Di Stefano, Akselrod worked on high-profile projects for HBO, Netflix, and Adult Swim, including *100 Foot Wave*.

Although Akselrod left White Noise Productions to start her own company, Di Stefano continues to hire her freelance.

"She's developed a sharp ear and brought a fresh perspective to my own work. After 15 years in the industry, it's easy to fall into habits, but working with Eli pushed me to take more risks and think outside the box with sound design," said Di Stefano.

“Out of hundreds of résumés, hers [Eli] stood out right away. She clearly had a passion for sound and film, a drive to learn, and the kind of genuine personality you need when working closely with directors, producers, and editors.”

- Eric Di Stefano
Sound Designer and Sound
Effect Editor, White Noise Post
Productions

Undergrads earn summer scholarships and fellowships

Five undergraduates won prestigious scholarships and fellowships so that they were able to pursue their academic research over the summer. The awardees came from four different divisions and schools, and are studying a variety of subjects.

Moyosola Adedoyin



Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education freshman Moyosola Adedoyin was a Fulbright U.K. Summer Institute selection. Though always interested in science, Adedoyin was active in social justice issues throughout her high school career, working for nonprofits concerned with issues such as youth leadership and community involvement, gun violence, and civil liberties. She also conducted research at York College. She spent three weeks at the University of Bristol, exploring the intersection of arts, activism, and social justice. “I want to connect healthcare and social justice,” she said. “There’s no way I could become a physician if I don’t understand why I have these patients to begin with and what communities they’re coming from. It’s very crucial to understand the social reasons as to why someone even becomes a patient to begin with.”

Alison Holst



Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership senior Alison Holst, a political science major, was a Hudson Institute Political Studies summer Fellow in political theory and practice. Holst chose the Hudson Institute Fellowship due to its focus on the works of Plato and Machiavelli. “The first time I read Plato...made me rethink things that I thought were already given,” she said. Holst first became interested in political theory in the first political science class she took as an undergraduate. “Immediately, I just felt like it was something that was really important and worth studying,” she said. “It opened my mind up to thinking about the world in different ways. I was just really drawn to it as a way to engage in ideas.” During the six-week program in Washington, she participated in Socratic seminars in the mornings with a different theme each week. Afternoon sessions featured seminars, prominent speakers and visits to landmarks such as the National Mall, the Gettysburg National Military Park and Arlington National Cemetery.

Marina Milea



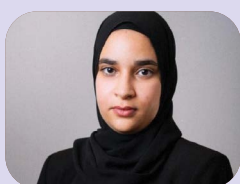
Division of Science junior Marina Milea, a biology major and chemistry minor, was a Goldwater Scholar. Combining her interests in research, teaching and writing, and women’s health, she is now exploring pursuing a doctorate in the relatively new field of genomics, specifically single cell RNA sequencing. During the summer, she spent 10 weeks at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass. The Queens-born daughter of immigrants—a mathematician father and an English teacher mother—Milea “fell in love” with science as a high school senior in London, where she interned at the Institute of Cancer Research. Diagnosed with a rare form of endometriosis shortly after returning to the U.S. to attend CCNY, she began to reorient her professional ambitions more toward research. “We need more people doing research to develop cures and treatments that doctors don’t have time to do,” she said. She interned at Columbia University’s IICD Summer Research Program through the S Jay Levy Fellowship for Future Leaders.

Ishika Nawar



Colin Powell School and Division of Humanities and the Arts junior Ishika Nawar, an economics, political science, and philosophy major, was a Roosevelt Network Emerging Fellow. A Bangladeshi immigrant, Nawar has been passionate about protecting free speech since high school in Astoria, Queens, where she founded a civics course, Your Rights Right Now, that promoted awareness of legal frameworks and methodologies that facilitate this. Developing her interest in policymaking and advocacy as a Moynihan Fellow at the Colin Powell School, she was a democracy protection intern at Human Rights First, monitoring threats to free speech, particularly on college campuses. The yearlong Roosevelt Network Emerging Fellowship, which meets for five hours each week, enables Nawar to research policy issues and, potentially, to publish her work in the Network’s journal. “As an aspiring attorney, I value the concept of making advocacy accessible to everyone,” she said. “Based on my experiences as an immigrant, I’m very much leaning towards immigration law. Given the fact that I’m so invested in First Amendment rights protections that are entailed by free speech, I’d be equally open to constitutional law.”

Zakia Safsaf



Colin Powell School senior Zakia Safsaf, a political science and international studies major, was a Public Policy and International Affairs Fellow. A Moynihan Public Service Fellow, Safsaf earned this competitive opportunity through her commitment to public service, global engagement, and policy leadership. The PPIA Fellowship provides intensive graduate level training, mentorship, and professional development, preparing her to continue her work advancing equity and social change. She attended the PPIA’s seven-week Junior Summer Institute at the University of Michigan’s Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, completing graduate-level coursework, strengthening her quantitative and policy analysis skills, and collaborating with peers and faculty to tackle real-world policy challenges.

Top marks at annual national STEM conference for undergrads

Five undergraduates from the Division of Science were winners at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS) in San Antonio, Texas. The winners were Litsi Auquilla, Arfath Chowdhury, Ken Pardo, Cesar Sanchez, and Merna Shohdy. Close to 5,000 participants, including undergraduate and graduate students, researchers, scientists and exhibitors attended.



Litsi Auquilla

Junior, biomedical science; social and behavioral sciences and public health,

"Comparing Environmental and Clinical Characteristics of Lung Cancer Across New York State Counties"



Arfath Chowdhury

Senior, biomedical science; social and behavioral sciences and public health, "Bridging

Gaps in Cancer Care: A Mixed-Methods Approach to Investigating Cancer Care Barriers, Facilitators, and Outcomes for Patients with Emergency Medicaid"



Litsi Auquilla

Sophomore, CUNY B.A. neuroscience; computational biology, "Quantifying Strategy in

Judo: Integrating Pose Estimation and Behavioral Scoring of Match Dynamic"



Litsi Auquilla

Junior, biotechnology; immunology, "Adaptive Evolution Analysis of Immunometabolic

Hexokinase Genes"



Litsi Auquilla

Senior, biomedical science; social and behavioral sciences and public health,

"Evaluating the ICCAN Intervention to Improve Quality of Life and Treatment Adherence in Newly Diagnosed Glioblastoma Patients: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial"

Of the five, Auquilla, Chowdhury, and Shohdy are members of The City College of New York- Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center PURT (Partnership Undergraduate Research Training) program.

Pardo and Sanchez participated in the Undergraduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement (U-RISE) and the City Academy for Professional Preparation (CCAPP) programs.

ABRCMS is one of the largest, professional conferences for underrepresented minority students to pursue advanced professional development skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. At the event, students are given the opportunity to present their research, explore graduate schools, and network with other students and researchers to expand their connections and opportunities.

Harlem View students win College Media Association Pinnacle Awards

The Division of Humanities and the Arts' multimedia online publication *Harlem View* reporters Tevin McKenzie and Jared Hoffman were winners of the College Media Association's 2025 Pinnacle Awards. Competing nationally in the large colleges division, McKenzie, a senior who was an Advertising/Public Relations major and Journalism minor, received first place in the feature story category for his piece on the noisiest neighborhood in New York City. Alumnus Hoffman, MFA '25, Documentary Film, received second place in the podcast category for his exploration of the origins of a controversial AI-assisted video sparked by President Trump's February remarks about redeveloping Gaza under U.S. control.

In addition to the students' awards, *Harlem View* received an honorable mention for Media Website of the Year.



Tevin McKenzie

McKenzie discovered his neighborhood, District 12 in the Bronx encompassing the Baychester, Edenwald, Williamsbridge, Boston Post Road and East Gun Hill Road sections of the

borough, is the noisiest in NYC. In 2024, there were more than 73,000 noise complaints lodged with 311. The uptick in complaints, he found, had its roots in a multitude of factors, among them increased construction and traffic, along with cultural traditions, such as booming stereos from cars and sidewalks, and all-night parties, reflecting the Caribbean, African American, and Latino origins of many residents.

For the story he reached out to neighbors as well as New York City Council Members and community figures. The experience was intimidating but the responses confirmed that his topic had "depth, urgency, and a real impact on residents."



Jared Hoffman

Hoffman first saw the "Trump Gaza" video in February 2025. His interest piqued, he tracked down the filmmakers, Ariel Vroman and Solo Avital, and interviewed them about the genesis of the video.

Vroman, who has a production company with Avital, thought of the idea for the video after President Trump's Feb. 4 comment about taking over the Gaza strip and turning it into the Riviera of the Middle East. The response video was meant as a joke.

The video, which has all the hallmarks of being AI-generated, such as colors and images that seem to be unnatural, as well as strange images of President Trump dancing and of Elon Musk strolling through the territory while eating hummus, raised questions about the implications of this emerging technology, for Hoffman.

"If a politician wants to attack the line between truth and fiction, AI is the perfect weapon," he said, concluding, "political messaging will never be the same."

Trump posted Vroman and Avital's video on his Truth Social platform on Feb. 25. Since then, although Trump's original post garnered hundreds of thousands of views, the reposted version has attracted more than one million views.

Spitzer School Artefactory Lab finds beauty in grotesques, framed by concrete masonry



Artefactory Lab students worked side-by-side with members of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1 NY to create a sculpture garden they designed to frame CCNY's neglected grotesques in an occupiable space.

Ambling through The City College of New York campus, one is bound to encounter hundreds of seemingly abandoned grotesque sculptures strewn throughout the grounds. A team led by Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture students Jennifer Gao and Anastasia Protsak set out to draw attention to that aspect of CCNY's neglected architectural history with "Trilogy" + "Gallery Wall," their projects in this year's Artefactory Lab course co-taught by Associate Professor Christian Volkmann, the project's manager, and Adjunct Professor Steve Preston.

The course, inaugurated last year, educates and exposes young student architects to concrete masonry and the benefits of designing with it. Sponsored by the Concrete Masonry Check-Off program, this year's design-build studio project's theme was to create a sculpture garden that combined two projects to form an occupiable space.

"The topic of this year's program was to design a sculpture garden made of concrete masonry on a 15' by 15' outdoor pad to highlight the beauty of well-designed concrete masonry to frame the grotesques in the most interesting way," said Volkmann, challenging the students to interpret the concept of framing in this particular context.

The 15 students in the studio started the semester by developing a design. After seven weeks, five designs were chosen to advance, from which the top two projects were selected for realization by a jury of foreman masons from Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1 NY, representatives of the

Associated Brick Mason Contractors of Greater New York, and construction industry professionals. Gao's and Protsak's designs were selected, with Gao designing the south end of the pad with the brick and openings, while Protsak designed the trellis frames on the north side of the pad, facing the grotesques' "graveyard" next to the Spitzer School.

These grotesques, many of which are engulfed by weeds and vegetation, were made by architect George B. Post, who designed the College's neo-Gothic Hamilton Heights campus in the early 1900s. They were made of terra cotta, a type of baked clay, then sandblasted to eliminate their original shine before being installed on many campus buildings. The sandblasting made the sculptures vulnerable to the elements, causing their deterioration. Many were then removed from the buildings to preserve them.

"We intended to use the originals, but there were concerns about that, so we ended up producing replicas for this program," said Volkmann.

To achieve faithful replication, the students scanned the grotesques with the 3D scanning and spatial AI application Polycam before uploading them to modelling software. They then printed scaled-down versions of them in 3D, resculpting the missing geometry with clay. From those, the team created silicon molds from which they cast the replicas using Rockite, a fast-setting, hydraulic expansion cement.

Members of Local 1 worked side-by-side with the students to erect the structure, which is just south of the Spitzer School, in a "unique collaboration that brought together industry professionals, skilled labor, the design community, and academia in a semester-long process that provided students with both design development and hands-on construction experience," said Jeff Hansen of Glenwood Mason Supply Co. Inc., a Concrete Masonry Checkoff member.

The result was "something as close as possible to an art gallery," said Protsak. The team utilized the modularity of concrete masonry, combining 8" by 8" by 16" and 8" by 8" by 8" half blocks to create a series of semi-enclosed spaces that rely on naturally cast shadows to act as vertical frames for the sculptures.

The idea of the structure is to "experience the grotesques by procession," said Preston, "highlighting their beauty as well as the modularity of the concrete masonry units."

"The concrete masonry unit frame is constructed with different levels so that the grotesques and brick paintings can be displayed at various heights, inviting the visitor to sit down and contemplate," said Gao. "The block frame contrasts with the brick, creating depth in the walls, casting shadow on the gargoyles and the thinner brick, emphasizing the beauty of the materials."

Protsak found the process to be unlike any of her previous studio classes. "I have gotten to experience what I imagine to be a glimpse of the real-world back-and-forth that occurs when you have to make compromises in order for your ideas to satisfy you and all the parties involved," she said.

Spitzer student Dayanara Rodriguez received a 2025 AIA Bronx Student Empowerment Award



Dayanara Rodriguez

Dayanara Rodriguez, an M Arch '26 student in the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, was a 2025 AIA Bronx Student Empowerment Award winner.

She received a \$1,000 scholarship and was honored at the awards ceremony along with other students for their participation in the Bronx Reimagined Design Challenge, a competition dedicated to transforming abandoned buildings in the Bronx into spaces that positively impact the surrounding community.

"We are incredibly proud of Dayanara Rodriguez," said Spitzer School Dean Marta Gutman. "She exemplifies a strong creative vision combined with a dedication to using architecture to genuinely impact people's lives. This award recognizes her exceptional academic achievements and her passion for the field."

Rodriguez received her bachelor's degree at Fordham University where she studied visual arts with a

concentration in architecture. Her passion further solidified after one of the biggest fires in New York, which caused her family to lose their apartment.

"This experience made me realize that architects don't just draw lines—they create homes, shelters, and spaces that profoundly affect people's lives," Rodriguez said. "This deeper understanding of architecture as a tool for shaping the environments we live in strengthened my commitment to the field and motivated me to pursue my master's degree."

Throughout her master's program, she's had the opportunity to work on diverse design artist residencies, museums and sustainability-focused initiatives. In a recent studio course, she designed an innovative shading mechanism using spider webs to shade the JTI Building in Switzerland with another student.

Alison Holst '26 is a Fulbright Scholar



Alison Holst

After spending the summer in Washington as a Hudson Institute Fellow, Alison Holst, Class of 2026, traveled 5,000 miles east in August to begin her 11-month Fulbright Scholarship.

"Alison is among the finest students I have taught at CCNY, and she ranks in the very top percentile of the hundreds of students I have taught across three continents," said Professor and Chair of Political Science Carlo Invernizzi Accetti. "She represents the very best of what City College can offer—and what it can aspire to cultivate in its students."

The latest CCNY student to earn this coveted scholarship, Holst will serve as an English teaching assistant at Geo Milev English Language School in Ruse, a northeastern Bulgarian city of 121,000 people across the Danube River from Giurgiu, Romania.

"I've never been to eastern Europe," she said. "I think it will be a growth experience."

A 2026 Moynihan Public Service Fellow and Honors Legal Studies Fellow in the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global

Leadership, Holst is graduating with a 3.99 GPA.

"I'm really excited to work with young people," she said. "I've always wanted to be a teacher."

A political theory student whose senior thesis focused on the works of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Holst looks forward to developing her students' civic engagement skills by coaching the school's team in the BEST Foundation's Bulgarian speech and debate tournaments.

Holst also aims to do more than just teach basic English grammar to her Bulgarian students; she plans to introduce them to English literature, as well.

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- Alison Holst
Class of 2026

Six undergrads receive Gilman International scholarships

Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East were the destinations for the latest cohort of Gilman Scholars. Six outstanding undergraduates at CCNY were among the 29 recipients from CUNY of Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships that provide support for overseas travel and research.

Administered by the U.S. Department of State, Gilman Scholarships enable students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad, gaining skills critical to national security and economic competitiveness. Each year, the Gilman Scholarship grants up to \$5,000 to students who are traditionally underrepresented in education abroad.



Zuha Khan

From CCNY's Macaulay Honors College, Khan, a senior, used her Gilman to study Arabic at the Sijal Institute for Arabic Language and Culture. An international studies major in the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, she returned from abroad in May.



Susan Lin

A junior in the Macaulay Honors College, Lin spent the winter session in Morocco completing a medical internship in the north African nation. The biology major spent most of her time in Fes and Marrakesh.

Rachel Olatunji

The Colin Powell School senior used her Gilman Scholarship to fund her spring semester at Sciences Po in Reims, France. Olatunji is a political science and sociology double major who only needs to fulfill the rest of her requirements for the former. Her classes in France were all in English.



Mariela Roa

Majoring in Urban Studies and the Built Environment, Roa visited Costa Rica where she participated in the Tropical Marine Biology Short-Term Field Program at Universidad Veritas in San José. The field-based program entailed extensive travel throughout Costa Rica. This allowed Roa, a junior, to study diverse marine ecosystems and learn about the environmental impacts and conservation efforts around the country.



Heaven Castillo Tejeda

Over the course of two weeks, Tejeda traveled across Costa Rica collecting plankton samples, visiting national parks, and mangrove forests, as well as observing live research tests on different ray species. For the Colin Powell School senior pursuing a B.A./M.A. in psychology, the program helped her to better understand Costa Rican culture and experience one of the most biodiverse regions of the world.

Damante Griffith

Griffith, art major traveled to Japan.

AI innovations dominate first CCNY BYTE hackathon



CCNY participants of the BYTE hackathon

AI-powered products that offer early wildfire smoke and air quality predictions, and track tenant and landlord leases, were among the winners in the inaugural CCNY BYTE Hacks, a 24-hour hackathon, where more than 100 students from schools in the Metropolitan area participated in the event sponsored by Google Labs, Vercel, and Red Bull.

Organized by CCNY student club BYTE (Build Your Technical Experience), the hackathon offered \$5,000 in prizes. BYTE focuses on helping students gain practical experience building programming based projects and fostering a larger CS community on campus.

BYTE Hacks project themes were: planetary protection, transformative learning, strengthening society; and innovation and creative expression. All the winners were computer science majors. Students from New York University, Fordham, Rutgers Honors College, Stony Brook and Hunter College were in attendance.

The top prize went to a four-member team, comprising CCNY, Brooklyn and Hunter students, for its product Respira, which delivers early wildfire smoke and air quality predictions with AI, giving vulnerable groups and communities time to prepare, protect their health, and breathe safer. CCNY juniors Zhoulin Li and Aditya Jha; Hunter's Arun Sisarran (junior) and sophomore Faizan Khan of Brooklyn College were the winners.

RentMinder, an AI platform designed to keep track of tenants and landlords' leases, took second place overall. It parses and updates the information from the leases, and sends out reminders to tenants regarding important dates. A CCNY-Baruch collaboration, its creators were junior

Zach Stybel and senior Ye Moe from the latter, and sophomore Tamim Kabir from the former.

Third place went to Delta, a developer tool aimed at simplifying merge conflicts and version control management when software developers work together on large projects. It was built by the Hunter trio of senior Tahmid Ahmed, Shadman Farhan, a sophomore, and junior Angela Yu; and NYU junior Alfardil Alam.

"BYTE Hacks aimed to give CUNY and SUNY students a platform to show the world what they're capable of," said Jawad Kabir, lead hackathon organizer, and a CCNY senior majoring in computer science. "A massive thank you to our sponsors: Vercel, Red Bull, and especially Google Labs for funding the whole event."

In addition, Google Labs held three tech workshops over the course of the hackathon, allowing students to gain insights on Jules (Asynchronous Coding Agent), Google AI Studio, and Doppl.

Students had global stake in FIFA World Cup

While the FIFA World Cup attracted a global audience of up to five billion people—or six of every 10 people on the planet—what may be less known is the prevalence of City College's connection to this quadrennial tournament.

CCNY students reported ancestral representation on 22 of the 32 national teams in the 2026 knockout round, the College's Office of Institutional Research found. Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership Associate Dean Kevin Foster requested the data.

The country with the most student representation is, unsurprisingly, the United States, with 54 percent of enrolled undergraduate and graduate students self-reporting the USA as the country of ancestry. (Only about 60 percent of those surveyed reported this answer to the U.S. Census, so these data are necessarily limited).

A significant number of CCNY student eyes and ears were attuned to the Mexico-Ecuador Round of 32 match in Mexico City; those two nations were the most represented by the student population after the U.S., 17.1 percent and 11.1 percent, respectively, or almost three of every 10 CCNY students.

The percentages of CCNY students who self-reported plunge after those three nations; fourth is Egypt, at almost five percent, followed by Colombia (3.4 percent), Ghana (2.4 percent), Senegal (1.4 percent) and Morocco (1.2 percent). Fewer than one percent of responders claimed ancestry from such football colossi as Argentina, France and Spain, with none reported from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cape Verde, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Sweden and Switzerland.

Those available numbers do not tell the entire story, however.

"Our staff and faculty include many immigrants and first-gen as well," said Foster. Many, many people in the CCNY community followed the matches. With the defeat of 31 teams by the end of the tournament, Foster acknowledged that there was "ample heartbreak on campus."

Freshman Andres Ortiz wins Jeannette Watson Fellowship

Andres Ortiz, a freshman in the Honors Program, Class of 2028, is CCNY's Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship recipient. The economics and philosophy double major is among 15 promising undergraduates from New York City colleges and universities selected for the highly competitive awards.

This is the 27th Class of Fellows to be honored. Created in 1999 and supported by the Thomas J. Watson Foundation, the program provides fellows with three years of personal, professional and cultural immersions in the U.S. and abroad. Fellows are provided with annual funding of \$7,500, \$9,000 and \$10,000, in addition to a \$2,500 Discovery Fund.

Ortiz, who was born and raised in Washington Heights, will spend his first summer as a Watson Fellow with AFS Intercultural Programs as an intern on its Youth Assembly Team.

"My job will be to help prepare for, plan, and execute the Youth Assembly Event in partnership with the United Nations," he said. The Youth Assembly was held in Geneva, Switzerland, in August. Ortiz attended as part of his internship to help run the event.

In addition to the Watson Fellowship, Ortiz has also been awarded a Moynihan Public Service Fellowship by the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global. The two-year award—totaling \$20,000—supports promising undergraduate students pursuing innovative careers in public service.

A member of CCNY's Class of 2029, Ortiz also has his sights set on the coveted Truman and Fulbright scholarships.

His future plans include law school and a career as an attorney. "I am very interested in international relations and commerce, as well as public service and policy. I want a career in law where I can somehow combine the two and be a well-rounded global citizen helping as many people as I can," he said.

In 1961, the Watson Foundation was created as a charitable trust in the name of Thomas J. Watson Sr., best known for building IBM. Through one-of-a-kind programs, and over 100 global partnerships, the Foundation provides students with opportunities to expand their perspective, develop their potential, and build their confidence.

CCNY sophomore Thayer Grimes wins U.S. State Dept.'s Critical Language Scholarship



Thayer Grimes

Sophomore Thayer J. Grimes's home for this past summer was New Taipei City, Taiwan as the recipient of a Critical Language Scholarship, a competitive national award administered by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. A political science major in the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, Grimes studied intermediate Chinese at Tamkang University during his eight-week stint.

The upstate Utica native is a fellow in the Colin Powell Fellowship for Leadership and Public Service, which he describes as a "truly transformational program." Also a CCNY Honors student, he is active in the Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA).

A member of the Class of 2028, Grimes hopes to continue with community organizing, possibly working on electoral

campaigns, post-graduation.

The CLS Program is an intensive overseas language and cultural immersion program for American students enrolled at U.S. colleges and universities. The program includes intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences designed to promote rapid language gains. CLS is part of a wider government initiative to expand the number of Americans studying and mastering foreign languages that are critical to national security and economic prosperity.

Grove School Ph.D. student Anastasiia Vasylaki wins \$60K PhRMA Foundation Fellowship

Anastasiia Vasylaki, a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Biomedical Engineering is one of 10 recipients nationally of PhRMA Foundation Predoctoral Fellowships in the Drug Delivery category. She will receive \$60,000 over two years from the program that provides stipend support to graduate students engaged in thesis research.

Overall, PhRMA has awarded more than \$4.6 million in grants and fellows to 65 exceptional early-career researchers this year.

Vasylaki is conducting research in the Williams Immune Nanomedicine Lab, located in the Grove School of Engineering, and led by biomedical engineer Ryan Williams.

Her work focuses on developing kidney-targeting nanoparticles for the delivery of gene therapies, with a particular emphasis on treating chronic kidney disease. "My ultimate career goal is to contribute to the development of a drug that would successfully reach the patients and make a positive impact on their outcomes," she said.

Vasylaki holds a bachelor's degree in biotechnology from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv in Ukraine, and a master's in Nanomedicine for Drug Delivery from the University of Paris. Her professional background in the pharmaceutical industry includes a six-month co-op in materials and analytical sciences at Boehringer Ingelheim, one of the world's leading family-owned pharmaceutical companies.

In addition, her scientific training spans institutions across Ukraine, Austria, France, Italy, and the U.S., giving her a broad foundation in biologics, nanoparticle science, and drug delivery.

CCNY duo earns New York City Urban Fellowships

Two students were awarded New York City Urban Fellowships by the city's Department of Citywide Administrative Services.

The students, Victoria Lu and Abram Morris, joined a cohort of 25 Fellows assigned to various mayoral offices and New York City agencies for a nine-month period that began in September 2026, engaging in policy and operational work.

They also participate in learning seminars and are exposed to public sector leaders. A Macaulay Honors student and a triple major (international studies, sociology, and political science) at the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, Lu also earned an Advanced Certificate in Labor Relations from the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies. A former City College Fellow, Colin Powell School Research Fellow, Moynihan Public Service Fellow, and Jeannette K. Watson Fellow, she spent the summer in Malaysia with Whose Knowledge?, a nonprofit organization concerned with sharing marginalized communities' knowledge online. She worked on two initiatives, Decolonizing the Internet, and Liberatory Archives and Memory!

Lu sees the Urban Fellows program as a way to get "a foot in the door" as she starts her career in public service by gaining experience in city government, specifically in labor issues.

Morris is a graduate student in the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture's "5+1" B Arch - MUP Urban Design Accelerated Master's Degree program. As a Colin Powell Fellow in Leadership and Public Service, he interned at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Construction & Development division, and the New York City Public Advocate's Infrastructure and Environmental Justice Unit. Working under Deputy Public Advocate Kashif Hussain, he learned about "people and neighborhoods who are not thoughtfully included in the process of deciding the destiny of their neighborhood." That, he said, was the main driver for his application to Urban Fellows.

Benefactor Seymour Sternberg, theater impresario Voza Rivers, and community leader, the late Lloyd Williams, receive CCNY President's Medals



“

Sy Sternberg has been an energetic and forceful supporter of City College since the founding of the 21st Century Foundation. It was a deep and personal honor to present him with the President's Medal.

”

- Vince Boudreau
CCNY President

Seymour “Sy” Sternberg, BEE ’65, Voza Rivers, and the late Lloyd Williams were The City College of New York’s 2025 President’s Medal recipients.

Sternberg and Rivers received their medals from CCNY President Vince Boudreau at the annual President’s Circle Dinner on Nov. 4 at the University Club of New York. Williams’s son, Lateef Ade Williams, accepted his father’s posthumous honor on the family’s behalf.

Sternberg was the longest-serving chairman of the board of New York Life Insurance Company. He and his wife, Laurie Sternberg, established the Sternberg Lecture in Public Service at the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership in 2014. This gift also established the Sternberg Family Lecture in Public Scholarship, as well as the Sternberg Family Professorship of Leadership at the Colin Powell School, a position now held by former New York City Commissioner of Health and Mental Hygiene Dave A. Chokshi, M.D.

Sternberg has served CCNY and CUNY as a member of the City College 21st Century Foundation Board and the Colin Powell Center for Policy Studies Advisory Council, and as chair of the CUNY Business Leadership Council. As chairman of the New York Life Foundation, he announced the Foundation’s \$10 million grant to establish the New York Life Endowment for Emerging African-American Issues at what was then the Colin Powell Center for Policy Studies. Sternberg received an honorary doctorate in humane letters from his alma mater in 2010.

“Sy Sternberg has been an energetic and forceful supporter of City College since the founding of the 21st Century Foundation,” said Boudreau. “It was a deep and personal honor to present him with the President’s Medal.”

Award-winning music and theater producer Rivers took over Harlem’s New Heritage Repertory Theater in 1983 from its founder, Roger Furman. As executive producer, Rivers reorganized the theater as New Heritage Theatre Group. Now the oldest Black nonprofit theater in New York state, NHTG has spawned productions, workshops, and presentations that reflect the historical, social and political experiences of African and Latino descendants in America and abroad. NHTG counts luminaries such as Ruby Dee, Ossie Davis, Sidney Poitier, and Harry Belafonte among its many alumni.

Rivers and NHTG co-founded the Harlem Arts Alliance in 2001. It has since grown from a founding membership of 12 to more than 400 arts and culture members representing all disciplines and areas of the arts. Last year, to mark the 60th anniversary of its 1964 founding, NHTG donated its extensive archives to CCNY’s Libraries Archives and Special Collections Division.

“Voza Rivers is an icon in Harlem and in the world of theater. We are particularly proud that some of his most remarkable, dramatic endeavors graced our stage in the Aaron Davis Theater,” said Boudreau. “This medal both recognizes Voza’s lifelong achievements in the world of the arts and our mutual commitment to work together as we revitalize the Leonard Davis Center for the Performing Arts at City College.”

Williams chaired the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce for more than half a century. The organization spurred residential and commercial development, tourism, and pride in the neighborhood’s history and potential. He was a founder and architect of Harlem Week, a festival that began in 1974 as Harlem Day, originally conceived as a one-time event. He also served as a chairman of the CCNY President’s Executive Advisory Board.

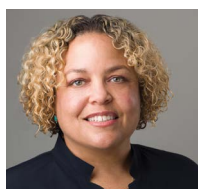
Williams passed away on Aug. 17, during Harlem Week 2025.

“Lloyd was an unwavering friend of CCNY,” said Boudreau. “He served the Harlem community, where he spent his life, tirelessly helping shape it into a beacon of African American culture and a popular destination for tourists from around the world.”

CCNY Assistant Professor of Education Gail Buffalo, who directs the Early Childhood Education program at CCNY’s Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education, served as the evening’s keynote speaker.

The President’s Medal is awarded for distinguished achievement and public service. Past recipients include: Nelson Mandela; Nobel Laureates Robert Aumann and Leon M. Lederman; Gen. Colin L. Powell, US Army (ret.); and Benjamin B. Ferencz, who was 99 and the last surviving former Nuremberg war crimes trials prosecutor when he received the medal in 2019.

Dee Dee Mozeleski: Trailblazer in Higher Education leadership



Dee Dee Mozeleski

Adding to her numerous honors in recent years, City & State New York has named senior City College of New York administrator Dee Dee Mozeleski to

its 2026 Higher Education Trailblazers list. The accolade celebrates influential people and organizations making a difference in New York's higher education.

"These are the individuals and organizations developing groundbreaking platforms, implementing revolutionary programs, advocating for transformative policies, enhancing economic opportunities and leading the charge toward a better higher education system now and for future generations," City & State hailed Mozeleski and her peers.

"The areas of academic endeavor currently under management by Dee Dee Mozeleski represent a roadmap to CCNY's future," City College President Vince Boudreau said. "Spanning philanthropy, workforce development and the cultivation of industrial, government, and community relations, she has been at the forefront to reimagine how we present ourselves to the world. In responding to the headwinds now expanding higher education, her work provides an example to our campuses and campuses around the country."

This latest distinction comes six months after the news organization recognized Mozeleski, CCNY's senior vice president of the Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations (OIACER), who also serves as executive director of the Foundation for City College, Inc., and as senior advisor to President Boudreau, as a 2025 Trailblazer in Economic Development.

Mozeleski's exceptional work in philanthropy, advertising, marketing and public relations has earned her other top honors from various organizations.

A year ago, she was named a 2025 Crain's New York Business Notable

Leader in Philanthropy for her commitment to advancing her industry and community.

Economic mobility visionary Kilsys Payamps- Roure and CCNY President Boudreau discuss the career-to-college pipeline at Rudin Lecture



Kilsys Payamps-Roure

Braven Founding Executive Director Kilsys Payamps-Roure and CCNY President Vince Boudreau lauded the tangible outcomes of their 2022 partnership

in a wide-ranging conversation, "Opportunity by Design: How CCNY and Braven Strengthen the College-to-Career Pipeline," at the Samuel Rudin Distinguished Visiting Scholar Lecture.

The partnership has resulted in "84 percent of CCNY Braven students [being] employed or in graduate school within six months of graduation," said Boudreau, noting that Braven has served almost 3,000 students at CCNY and Lehman College since launching in 2020.

"Twenty-one percent of those graduates had at least one internship during the undergraduate experience, and they were 30 percentage points higher when it came to networking self-efficacy and eight percentage points higher when it came to job search self-efficacy," said Payamps-Roure, the 2026 Samuel Rudin Distinguished Visiting Scholar. "That means that they're going to their employee partners that we're connecting them to more ready with the skills that they're looking for [and] with the soft skills that we're talking about."

The discussion also considered topics such as what today's labor market means for recent graduates, how campuses and employers can strengthen the pathway from college to career, and barriers faced by various groups as they start their careers.

Payamps-Roure, a first-generation Dominican-American, launched Braven New York in 2020. The national organization, founded in Chicago in 2013 with the aim of ensuring that

every young person in the United States could access a clear path from college graduation to a strong first job, currently has more than 75 employer partners nationwide, including eight colleges and universities. In addition to CCNY and Lehman, Braven New York recently expanded its programs to serve 1,475 students at the University of Mount St. Vincent.

Boudreau said that he had first heard of Braven in 2016. "I liked the idea of an organization bridging the gaps between what we learn on campus and what [students] need to know in the workplace," he said.

“

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”

- Vince Boudreau
CCNY President

The Braven experience begins with a three-credit course, the Braven Leadership Accelerator. Housed within the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, the Accelerator also provides opportunities for internships. Students in the program, whom Braven calls Fellows, complete weekly online modules on Braven's online platform, applying that content through weekly virtual learning labs in a cohort of five to eight peers led by a volunteer professional leadership coach. They complete assignments to grow their leadership in five professional competencies and, upon completion, can avail themselves of additional opportunities to develop leadership and career-readiness skills.

To ready these students for their careers, Payamps-Roure defined what Braven considers to be a "a strong first job": one that is full time and that requires a bachelor's degree, and that provides a decent salary and benefits, with pathways to promotion that include opportunities to continue to develop soft skills, such as teamwork, management, self-driven leadership, and communication.

Accolades flow for CCNY President from CASE and PoliticsNY and amNY



President Vince Boudreau

President Vince Boudreau has been honored with the Chief Executive Leadership Award from the Council for Advancement and

Support of Education (CASE)'s District II, which encompasses the mid-Atlantic region and is the Council's largest division. In addition, PoliticsNY and amNY named Boudreau as one of the 2025 Power Players in Education, a list that honors dedicated leaders across New York's vast education system.

The Chief Executive Leadership Award celebrates CASE member institutional chief executive officers, college and university system heads, and trustees for outstanding efforts in promoting the value of education and supporting advancement at their campuses.

Recipients, through their ability to create a vision and inspire others, have established a positive image for their institution while leading it to even higher levels of success.

"I have been actively involved with CCNY for five decades since I graduated in 1974, as a board member of the Alumni Association of the City College of New York, and as a member of The Foundation for City College's advisory board, its development committee and, since 2024, as its chair," said Frank Sciamé, CEO of Sciamé Construction. "In these roles, I have had a front row seat to observe President Boudreau's leadership over the past years. From this unique vantage point, I have had the privilege of witnessing how he has been the driving force behind the institution's current direction, embodying the true spirit of chief executive leadership this award aims to acknowledge. His efforts have not only highlighted the importance of education, but have also fundamentally transformed The City College of New York's advancement culture and achievement with an unmatched ability to develop and implement a visionary strategy."

Boudreau said that he was deeply honored by the recognition from CASE and hailed the support he's received as CCNY President by "a hugely talented

team" led by Dee Dee Mozeleski, CCNY's senior vice president of the Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations and senior advisor to the president.

"Together, we've developed an approach that feels right to me," he said. "We don't have pyramid charts or thermometers in our offices, although we are in the midst of our ["Doing Remarkable Things Together"] campaign. We tell stories of our work, collect data and share information, elaborate a vision for our future, and invite our friends to join us."

President Vince Boudreau inspires Perrotis College's Class of 2026 in Greece



Pres. Vince Boudreau delivers the commencement speech at Perrotis College in Greece on June 4.

President Vince Boudreau was the keynote speaker at the Perrotis College commencement ceremony in Thessaloniki, Greece. CCNY's 13th president emphasized the transformative power of education and the importance of global collaboration.

Boudreau's presence at Ioannis Moschaklaidis Square on the campus of the American Farm School, added significant international prestige to the event. His address was described as "inspiring and thought-provoking." Reflecting on the shared mission of the American Farm School and CCNY, he told the graduates that the educational work carried out by both institutions could be considered both "sacred" and "divine."

"We are all thrilled by your achievement, optimistic about your future, and eager to see you apply what you have learned," he said. "We hope that as you move forward, you will carry the values of this institution with you. If you do so, you will become the finest ambassadors of the College's mission."

Boudreau further noted that Perrotis College does more than educate students—it prepares future leaders

who will drive positive change in their communities and beyond.

The CCNY president received a commemorative plaque from Perrotis College.

Other speakers at the commencement included Jeff Lansdale, president of the American Farm School and Perrotis College, who offered welcoming remarks. He was followed by Ann Marie VanDerZanden, associate provost for Academic Programs at Iowa State University (ISU), whose participation underscored the strong and enduring partnership between Perrotis College and leading American institutions.

Perrotis Dean Kyriaki Zinoviadou congratulated the graduates on their accomplishments and encouraged them as they embark on the next stage of their professional and personal journeys. Distinguished alumni Emmanouil and Sideris Gkavliaroudis, presented heartfelt reflections on their experiences at Perrotis and shared words of encouragement with the graduating class.

Earth Day 2026 tree planting with NYRP



President Boudreau was joined at the event by NYRP Executive Director Lynn Kelly, Board Chair Josh Sirefman, Trustee Sangita Sharma; and Shana Marks, the governmental and community relations director for U.S. Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-N.Y.).

The City College of New York commemorated Earth Day 2026 with the ceremonial planting of a red maple tree on the campus quad. The ceremony also marked the beginning of the CCNY's partnership with the New York Restoration Project (NYRP), an organization dedicated to enhancing urban resilience, education, environmental justice, and providing access to nature. This tree joins a half dozen others that have been planted throughout the CCNY campus grounds since Vince Boudreau became president in 2016.

President Boudreau was joined at the event by NYRP Executive Director Lynn Kelly, Board Chair Josh Sirefman and Trustee Sangita Sharma; and Shana Marks, the governmental and community relations director for U.S. Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-N.Y.).

To experience this and other CCNY events, Follow on Instagram at www.instagram.com/ccnycitycollege.

Much ado about AI at CCNY Summit

The ethical implications of the burgeoning field of artificial intelligence, and its impact on higher education, were confronted by panelists and an audience of students, faculty and administrators at The City College of New York's first AI Summit.

"We felt that the ethical implications of AI was a necessary conversation and, as a body whose mission is to engage the campus in exploring ideas and collaborating, we were well positioned to facilitate this conversation," said Gareth Williams, the special projects coordinator in the office of CCNY Senior Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Assessment Doris Cintron.

The conference was organized by Williams, Educational Theatre Lecturer Sobha Kavanakudiyil, Adjunct Assistant Professor of English Pamela Stemberg, and English Adjunct Lecturer Debra Williams in response to a request by the CUNY Office of Academic Affairs to fund AI projects that support teaching, learning, research, and student success.

The keynote address was given by Princeton University Professor Ruha Benjamin. Her talk was titled, "Not All Speed Is Movement: From Artificial Intelligence to Abundant Imagination," about the evolution of AI. She laid out some of the problems, and offered ways of understanding and correcting prejudices.

The other speakers echoed each other's main complaint about AI: that it cheats the user in various ways.

A forceful warning about the perils of AI was delivered by Distinguished Lecturer Barbara Nevins-Taylor, director of CCNY's Journalism Program, in a subsequent panel on students' and instructors' experiences with the technology.

While acknowledging that she uses AI for making charts or spreadsheets, she rejects "the idea of using AI for any form of writing or organizing any form of writing," said Nevins-Taylor. "It is not original. You check your brain at the door when you do that." She asserted that, if one wants to become a strong writer and reporter, AI is "not your friend," as it collects information that is often wrong. "It's okay to take as a first reference an AI recommendation, but in journalism, we always say, it really must be verified."

CCNY undergraduate Megan Mullenix, an English major who also helps high school students prepare their college admissions essays, implored students to achieve a fundamental background in a skillset before using AI for those skills. In her tutoring capacity, she advises her students not to use AI for their college essays because they don't represent their authentic selves to admissions officers.

Business and Economics Lecturer Hugh Fox of the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, who researches the intersection of social mobility and social justice spoke of an alarming trend of "students [who] are not recognizing that when they use AI, they're using AI largely to actually surrender their way of curriculum thinking," rather than as a tool to help them to think critically. He advocated continuing and expanding conversations about using AI as a way to support, rather than to usurp, students' voices.

TLC responds to the changing needs of higher education



Thomas Peele

Many research universities consider centers for teaching and learning to be central to higher education. They help graduate students learn to teach by providing mentoring and continuing professional development throughout a faculty member's career.

CCNY's Teaching and Learning Center offers multiple forms of faculty development. The TLC offers a series of faculty development courses every year. Self-paced courses include: Designing for All: Digital Accessibility in Practice; Toolkit for Teaching at CCNY; Brightspace Resources; and Strategies for

Teaching Online.

Paid faculty development courses include: Universal Design for Learning; Converting Your Course to an Open Educational Resource (OER); and Adopting an Existing OER.

Focused on student success, the Center supports the development and distribution of open educational resources to help reduce costs to students. It has also taken an active role in helping faculty learn how to make sure all of their course materials are fully accessible. The Center supports the Campus Engagement Network (CEN), which provides faculty with time and resources to create inter-disciplinary, project-based courses. Through the CEN project, it also supports faculty learning communities on a range of subjects including the development of course learning outcomes and holistic program assessment. It hosts a Writing Across the Curriculum seminar that supports faculty in writing interdisciplinary assignments and collaboration across disciplinary lines. It also offers one-on-one support for questions with Brightspace.

In the coming year, the TLC will host the Constructive Dialogue faculty development initiative. It will also offer seminars and workshops on career connected learning.

TLC consultants on staff were recruited and trained by Thomas Peele, the Center's director. A CCNY alumnus (M.A., Creative Writing '96) with a doctorate in English from the University of South Florida, Peele returned to his alma mater in 2014, after nine years at Boise State University as an associate professor and director of the graduate program in Rhetoric and Composition, to direct CCNY's first-year writing program. He assumed the TLC directorship in May 2020.

"One of our goals is to reduce the cost of textbooks and reduce the cost of higher education," said Peele, citing a 2022 study that discovered that 61 percent of Oregon state community college students surveyed likely did not purchase their textbooks due, in part, to the cost. To that end, the Center offers seminars to teach faculty how to generate online material that earn the designation of Zero-Textbook-Cost (ZTC) courses, eliminating or reducing the cost of course materials.

Philanthropy fuels President's Innovation Fund for faculty

Faculty now have a premier incentive to create inventions with the intent of their becoming accessible to the community at large thanks to a philanthropic grant administered by The President's Innovation Fund (PIF). An award of up to \$50,000, or two grants of \$25,000, is meant to encourage invention through CCNY's tradition of fundamental research and development by full-time faculty. What form these innovations take—products, technologies, physical devices or computer applications—remains to be seen.

A group of CCNY and CUNY professors and staff form the President's Innovation Fund Committee (PIFC) and judge all submissions on five criteria: Significance and Societal Impact; Team Expertise and Intellectual Property; Feasibility and Technical Readiness; and Commercial Potential.

Members of the PIFC are: Doug Adams, director of the CUNY Technology Commercialization Office; Grove School of Engineering Dean Alex Couzis; CCNY professors Kevin Gardner, Ranajet Ghose, and David Jeruzalmi; Andoni Mourdoukoutas, director of the CInC; Dee Dee Mozeleski, OIACER senior vice president; Associate Provost of Research Ishita Mukerji; and CUNY Distinguished Professor Yingli Tian.

Once awarded, faculty are encouraged to use the funds to facilitate the development of innovative design for which the scientific and/or technological bases have already been established. For years in which no proposals submitted are deemed sufficiently innovative or impactful, no award will be given.

Awards are at the discretion of the president based on the recommendations of the PIFC. Managed by The Foundation for City College, all PIF monies are completely raised by philanthropic efforts without reliance on government funding.

PIF is the flagship program of City Innovations Collaborative (CInC), The City College of New York's initiative for campus-wide innovation and commercialization. Working across CCNY's schools and divisions, CInC helps faculty move promising research toward real-world impact through startup ventures, industry partnerships, and pathways into the broader New York City innovation ecosystem. CInC connects faculty innovators with funding and mentorship and builds the campus infrastructure CCNY needs to carry research from the lab to the marketplace.





Standard Chartered 2026 Women in Tech Incubator Competition at CCNY awards top honors



Kesia Hudson (left), Managing Director of CCNY's Zahn Center, WIT Incubator Competition grand prize winners My Anh Phan (center) and Madina Monowara from Popped Up! Photo credit: Catherine Hunsburger.

Popped Up!, an app providing live updates and analytics for pop-up events in one integrated platform was the grand prize winner in the 2026 Women in Tech ("WiT") Incubator Competition presented by Standard Chartered Americas and The City College of New York's Zahn Innovation Center. Now in its 12th year, the CUNY-wide program serves as a practical resource for early-stage founders looking to refine their business models and build professional networks.

As part of the program, participants spent several months refining their go-to-market strategies, working with Standard Chartered employee mentors to successfully bridge the gap between the classroom and the marketplace.

"Through our longstanding partnership with the Zahn Innovation Center at The City College of New York, we are proud to support and recognize New York's next generation of young entrepreneurs powered by leadership, vision, initiative, and hard work—the same values that guide us every day at Standard Chartered," said Mandy DeFilippo, CEO, U.S. and Americas, and EMEA at Standard Chartered. "The 2026 cohort has demonstrated incredible ingenuity, and we are delighted to honor this year's winners as they move from the incubator stage to real-world impact."

Comprising My Anh Phan, a Baruch College sophomore majoring in finance, and Madina Monowara, a 2025 Hunter College alumna (B.S. computer science); the Popped Up! team was selected for its disciplined approach to improving operational visibility and data insights

for event organizers, as well as the progress made throughout the incubator's curriculum.

The app received \$15,000 in seed funding to further develop and scale their solution.

"We are honored to be named the winner of this year's Women in Tech Incubator Competition," said Phan, CEO of Popped Up!. "This experience has provided us with invaluable mentorship and resources to refine our vision. With this support, we are excited to accelerate our growth and bring our solution to a broader audience."

The second-place prize of \$5,000 went to PlantPulse, a simple plant care kit that tells indoor plant owners exactly when to water their plants. PlantPulse was founded by Jessica Gomez Parral, who graduates from New York City College of Technology this spring with a degree in emerging media technology.

"The caliber of innovation we've seen this year is truly inspiring," said Kesia Hudson, Managing Director of the Zahn Center. "These entrepreneurs are not just building businesses; they are building the future. Our collaboration with Standard Chartered ensures that talented women have the platform they deserve to lead, disrupt, and succeed."

A new feature this year was the Standard Chartered Youth Impact Competition, recognizing student-led ventures that drive positive impact across education, workforce development and health. Finalists participated in a live pitch competition to receive seed funding.

STANDARD CHARTERED YOUTH IMPACT COMPETITION FINALISTS

FIRST PLACE (\$4,000)

Anew Material, a microplastic-free nail polish to improve youth health while training CUNY students to become the next generation scientists and business leaders in sustainable materials.

Founder: **Jiye Son**, Graduate Center, CUNY alumna (2019)

SECOND PLACE (\$3,500)

TeensittersNYC, trains babysitters and connects them with busy New York City families with full-service childcare needs.

Founder: **Ricky Costas-Hernandez**, Macaulay Honors College senior

THIRD PLACE (\$1,500)

Blueprint4U, a digital support tool that gives foster youth clear next steps for housing, jobs, health, and documents, especially in moments of crisis.

Founders: freshmen **Rimane Tientega** and **Giovannie John**, and sophomores **Leamber Bridges** and **Flor Rosales** (all BMCC).

The WiT Incubator and Standard Chartered Youth Impact Competition are part of Standard Chartered Foundation programs in the Americas. Other initiatives include partnerships with Bossgirls, Village Capital, Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America, and Youth Business International, all of which aim to empower the next generation by promoting greater economic inclusion.

About the Women in Tech Incubator at the Zahn Innovation Center Formed in October 2014, the Standard Chartered Women in Tech Incubator program is an initiative that aims to support greater diversity in gender representation within the technology sector. The incubator program is a

partnership with the Zahn Innovation Center at the City College of New York that provides support, guidance, and resources that early-stage women-led startups need to grow into successful businesses. This partnership has various levels of engagement and supports entrepreneurship among women across campus through:

- A mentorship network, including both Bank employees and local leaders in tech and government
- Women in Entrepreneurship themed speaker series
- A newly renovated space housing the 'Standard Chartered Technology Incubator for Women Entrepreneurs' Resource Center
- Entrepreneurship courses and material to address entrepreneurship challenges

Standard Chartered is a leading international banking group, with a presence in 52 of the world's most dynamic markets. Standard Chartered's history in the U.S. dates back to 1902, and we are currently present in nine locations throughout the Americas. Their Americas franchise focuses on financial institutions and select corporations and plays a key role in facilitating trade and investment flows between the Americas and Asia, Africa, the UK and Europe and the Middle East.

Standard Chartered PLC is listed on the London and Hong Kong stock exchanges. For more stories and expert opinions please visit Insights at [sc.com](https://www.sc.com). The Standard Chartered Foundation is a charitable organization established by Standard Chartered in 2019. It is committed to helping tackle inequality by empowering under-served young people, especially women and people with disabilities. It sets the strategy for—and funds—youth employability and entrepreneurship programs across Standard Chartered's markets, helping young people access the skills, networks and support they need to secure decent work and create jobs. The Standard Chartered Foundation is a registered charity in England and Wales.



PSS Manhattanville Center was one of the CCNY partners that provided free, nutritious meals to the community during the 2025 holiday season.

CCNY community celebrates the holidays

The City College of New York's and the Foundation for City College's ongoing outreach initiatives to provide fresh, nutritious meals to those in need continues to expand, including a massive effort that resulted in hundreds of meals being distributed the week of Thanksgiving and again the last week of 2025.

Every year since 2020, the College and the Foundation have partnered with Black-owned school food management company Red Rabbit to deliver the meals to different community partners, including PSS Manhattanville Center, Wilson Major Morris Community Center, Greater File Chapel Baptist Church, Living Redemption, and Henry Brooks Senior Housing.

Seven hundred fifty meals were offered this year with more than 500 individually wrapped meals prepared by Red Rabbit and 240 supplied by the Migrant Kitchen Initiative, an organization dedicated to ending the hunger crisis in New York City by reducing food insecurity at the community level. The prepared meals were also available to members of our on-campus community.

The meals are provided by CCNY's Benny's Food Pantry, which got its start in a small office in the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership in 2016. Support from the Auxiliary Enterprise Corporation at City College, the Foundation for City College and an additional \$20,000 seed grant from The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation in 2019 enabled a move to the North Academic Center quad. It has since expanded to four additional locations, including The Towers at CCNY (the College's residential hall) and the Division

of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education, CCNY's downtown campus.

Benny's Food Pantry operates full-time, with an all-volunteer team from the Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations and students from the Campus CUNY Edge team, opening its doors to all CUNY groups, including students, staff, and faculty. Migrant Kitchen also partners with Benny's Food Pantry to prepare and deliver fresh meals on the last Thursday of every month for the CCNY community. The volunteer staff serves a range of 25 to 100 visitor families per week. Food purchases are sourced from a variety of collaborative organizations throughout the city.

"We are especially grateful to our partnership with the Food Bank of New York City and donations received from community members, and student and staff groups, including the CCNY Department of Public Safety, The Towers at CCNY, and the CCNY New York Public Interest Research Group team," said OIACER Senior Vice President Dee Dee Mozeleski, who is also the executive director of the Foundation for City College and senior advisor to the president.

"Being able to open the doors to Benny's each day means so much to so many of us," she said. "We never saw the pantry as 'adjacent' to the campus; we see it as a vital part of our community. We have never asked 'why' people visit the pantry; we have asked: 'How can we make sure Benny's feels like a home away from home when it is needed?' We know that anyone can face hunger and we want to be ready with support when someone needs us."

"Billion-Dollar Capital Campaign" ahead of schedule

The Foundation Board

Frank J. Sciame, Jr '74
Chair of the Board

Edward Blank '57

SK Prasad Borra

Jenna Bryan-Krug

Gabriella de Beer '56

Joseph Fleischer '66

Fatemeh Hosseini

Leonard Kleinrock '57

Jay Ko

Hazel-Ann Mayers '96

Maureen Mitchell '73

Nicolas Roc

Emanuel James Stergiou '71

Michael Sutton

Lev Sviridov '05

Kim Wales

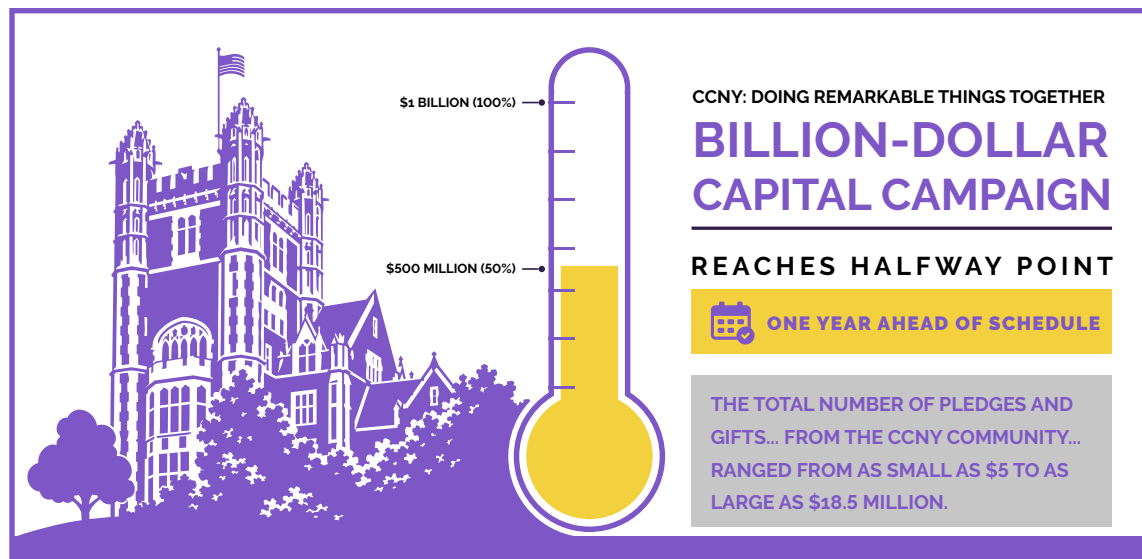
Robert B. Welner '71

Peter Zahn

Richard von Zerneck '66 and '68

Dee Dee Mozeleski
Executive Director

Vince Boudreau
President, CCNY, ex-officio



The City College of New York and the Foundation for City College attained a significant achievement by reaching half of the \$1 billion goal of its "The Campaign for City College: Doing Remarkable Things Together."

The 10-year campaign, announced by President Vince Boudreau in May 2022, coincided with the 175th anniversary of the College's founding as the Free Academy in 1847, and aimed to triple its then-existing endowment by 2032. The milestone was achieved on May 1, which coincided with this year's Day of Giving and Homecoming Weekend, and is in time for the 180th anniversary of the College.

"Expanding and stabilizing the college's financial foundations underpins and enables everything else we're seeking to do in the realms of student success, research impact and community engagement," said Boudreau. "Reaching this milestone demonstrates that we're on the right path, and testifies as well to the great work happening in our advancement operation, among the members of our foundation board, and in collaboration with the many supporters who have stepped forward to invest in CCNY's future."

The total number of pledges and gifts to date reflects the depth and breadth of the response from the CCNY community and beyond. The amount of individual gifts ranged from as small as \$5 to as large as \$18.5 million, highlighting the ways in which City College has worked to connect with alumni and non-alumni, including corporate and foundation supporters across a variety of backgrounds.

"We congratulate the College and President Boudreau on reaching this remarkable milestone in the decade-long effort, and express gratitude to those who made it happen," said CUNY

Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez.

"I am proud of the leadership and vision that brought the City College Fund and the 21st Century Foundation together into a single entity," said Frank J. Sciame '74, chair of the Foundation for City College board. "This unity proves that, with the right leadership and commitment, one plus one can truly equal three. I'm honored to help lead this next chapter and look forward to working with our outstanding board, alumni, and Advancement team as we drive toward our \$1 billion goal."

"While we are proud to celebrate this milestone, our focus remains firmly on the work ahead," said Senior Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations, Executive Director of the Foundation for City College, and Senior Advisor to President Boudreau Dee Dee Mozeleski.

"The next phase of this campaign will be about translating philanthropic investment into transformational outcomes—creating new pathways for student success, expanding research and innovation, strengthening our academic enterprise, and ensuring that City College continues to serve as a model of excellence, access, and social mobility for generations to come."

Increasing the existing endowment will lay the foundation for continuing success by supporting creative scholarships, internships, fellowships, and entrepreneurship initiatives, faculty research, staff initiatives and upgrading physical facilities. These ambitions will also help to expand the College's world-class research profile. An example of this is the President's Innovation Fund, which backs faculty research that develops commercially viable innovations accessible to the broader community.

Foundation for City College counsel Shveta Kakar earns Crain's notable in law recognition



Shveta Kakar, a highly experienced practitioner of nonprofit law and counsel to the Foundation for City College, Inc., is a 2026 Crain's New York Business Notable Women in Law honoree. The recognition is for her influence in New York's business community.

Kakar and Crain's other 2026 honorees were highlighted in a special editorial report online at [CrainsNewYork.com](https://www.craigslist.com) and in a print issue of Crain's New York Business. Since 2017, Crain's Notables has recognized over 5,000 outstanding leaders across industries. Honorees are selected through a peer nomination and editorial review process.

A partner at Fox Rothschild in Manhattan, Kakar counsels clients on the full range of nonprofit matters from incorporation, obtaining and maintaining exempt status, to governance, compliance, transactional matters, and the conduct of internal investigations and litigation on their behalf. She regularly conducts Board training, and advises clients on fiduciary duties, compliance with state and federal laws, lobbying and political activities, fiscal sponsorships, endowment administration and management, to internal controls and conflicts of interest.

Kakar also acts as principal outside counsel for a number of her nonprofit clients. Her duties include reviewing and drafting contracts, pledges, grant agreements and releases. She also coordinates their legal needs, from insurance, privacy, real estate and employment to intellectual property.

"Working with Shveta has been a dream in terms of having a thoughtful, meticulous and generous legal partner," said Dee Dee Mozeleski, executive director of the Foundation for City College. "She has been our guide through consolidations and expansions and continues to work closely with our team and our Foundation Board of Directors to ensure the legacy the Foundation will have on the future of City College."



Keziah Sullivan, who has served in various capacities in the past 20 years at WHCR 90.3 FM, The City College of New York's non-commercial community radio station, is the station's new general manager and program director.

Known on air as Keziah Glow, she has served WHCR 90.3 FM in a wide range of roles,

including host, producer, board operator, news director, and relief production manager. In addition to her longstanding service at WHCR, she also held leadership positions at WBAI 99.5 FM, where she advanced to executive producer and interim program director, all while continuing her commitment to community radio.

Sullivan's experience and expertise span the breadth of the human experience in New York City. Her work has centered on fostering engagement through community awareness programming, and she has often been at the forefront of covering and sharing stories from local communities that have been traditionally marginalized and underrepresented.

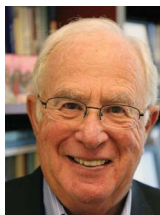
"Keziah possesses exceptional technological and creative expertise," said Senior Vice President of the Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations, Executive Director of the Foundation for City College and Senior Advisor to the President Dee Dee Mozeleski. "Having spent part of her career in senior case management, she also brings a strong understanding of what it means to lead in service to others. In this new role, she will be supported by a team of talented DJs and professionals working alongside her."

"I am so excited to work closely with her in this capacity, and I know she is looking forward to collaborating with all of us and continuing to build strong connections with our greater Harlem community."

As a community radio station broadcasting from the campus of The City College of New York, WHCR 90.3 FM seeks to provide skills in communications and related disciplines to students at the College as well as to community members. The station seeks to empower its listeners by providing informative, educational and cultural programming that speaks to the diverse populations of Harlem, upper Manhattan, and sections of the Bronx, Queens, and New Jersey.

WHCR's music shows are as diverse as the Harlem community. Tune in to hear African, blues, gospel, hip hop, house, jazz, merengue, neo-soul, classic R&B, reggae, rock and roll, and salsa music. Not bound by playlists, WHCR's DJs play the music of their choice and provide much needed exposure for independent artists who are often locked out of commercial radio.

Healthcare Economist Stuart H. Altman (1937-2026)



Stuart H. Altman, a pioneering health policy expert who advised five U.S. presidential administrations, died Jan. 1 in North Carolina after a brief illness. He was 88. Altman graduated from CCNY in 1959 before earning his master's degree and Ph.D. in economics from UCLA. Altman is remembered by colleagues as both a mentor and a scholar who pushed the health policy field forward while staying connected to his roots in the classroom as a beloved teacher, mentor and colleague.

Altman was the Sol C. Chaikin Professor of National Health Policy, Emeritus, at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. Over five decades at Brandeis, he embraced many roles, including as interim president in 1990-91. He was a dean of the Heller School, and was founder and co-director of the Schneider Institutes for Health Policy and Research. He retired in spring 2025, but continued to work on behalf of Heller and Brandeis, hosting a successful health policy conference and lecturing in several courses.

He influenced presidents from Richard M. Nixon through Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Senators and governors regularly sought his advice, and he played a major role in shaping key Medicare funding mechanisms. He served on various state and federal policy boards, and was a deputy assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare from 1971-76. He was chairman of the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission (ProPac) from 1984 to 1996, and was appointed by Gov. Deval Patrick in 2012 as inaugural chair of the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission. He was reappointed by Gov. Charles Baker to the role in 2016, and served on the commission until 2022.

His experience and credentials in the health policy arena were unparalleled, but on campus, he was known as a mentor, collaborative colleague and tireless educator who inspired generations of Brandeis students looking to enter the health policy field.

New York Post legend and Hall of Fame hockey writer Larry Brooks (1950-2026)



"The Post has to be not just a first-read, but the must-read," Larry Brooks often said. "We all do what we can to make it so. And this is my small part of that."

"Brooksie," as he was known, was larger than that, as exemplified by the accolades that poured in after it was announced that he had died on Nov. 16 at 75.

"For the last three decades, no one covered a sports beat in this city better than Larry did on the Rangers," Post Executive Sports Editor Chris Shaw said. "Well before the Hockey Hall of Fame enshrined him [in 2018], Larry had already earned a place among the legends who have graced the pages of The Best Sports in Town."

"I like to think that I was a guy who could change the momentum of a game when I came on the ice," said Sean Avery, who played parts of six seasons for the Rangers. "Brooksie could do that with the swipe of his pen. The guys that really understood playing for the Rangers all had a good relationship with Brooksie because he loves hockey players."

Brooks covered Wayne Gretzky's playing career beginning to end, capped by The Great One's final three seasons with the Rangers.

"As a player, it was unique to see a writer who knew every bit as much about the game and cared about the game as we did," Gretzky said. "Nobody knew more than Larry. Nobody cared more than Larry. He stood alone."

Growing up on Manhattan's Upper West Side as a Rangers fan, Brooks regularly reminded readers that he was one of them, that he'd spent hundreds of nights in the balcony seats at the old Garden and the blue seats at the new one. Brooks graduated from CCNY in 1971.

Brooks was also an advocate for the players and issues he cared most about. He fought in his column for years to push the Rangers to retire Brad Park's

jersey and let it hang in the Garden rafters alongside Brian Leetch, a fellow No. 2. He constantly hammered the NHL on matters of player safety, especially when he felt the league failed to properly punish cheap shots.

In 1982, became the New Jersey Devils' vice president of communications, a job he held for 10 years. Five years later, Lou Lamoriello arrived as general manager and thus began a 38-year friendship.

"One thing you always knew about Larry was that he'd tell it like it is," said Lamoriello, who sat at the Brooks family table in Toronto the night Brooks was honored by the Hall of Fame with its Elmer Ferguson Award, awarded annually by the Hockey Hall of Fame in recognition of distinguished members of the hockey writing profession whose words have brought honor to both journalism and the sport.

"I think that the mainstream media, the mainstream beat writer, provides an invaluable service to the fans. I'm very happy to be here as a mainstream newspaper man," Brooks said in his acceptance speech. "I'm not a member of the media, I'm a member of the press. I think in this era, the importance of the press, the importance of the press knowing how to ask hard questions, being persistent in getting answers, has never been more important."

New York City power broker Sid Davidoff (1939-2025)



Sid Davidoff, B.A. '63, who spent six decades at the heart of the city's political life, passed away on November 16, 2025, at the age of 86.

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Queens, Davidoff graduated from NYU Law School in 1963, then embarked upon a career that would make him a respected and influential figure in New York politics.

By his mid-twenties, he was already a trusted aide to Mayor John V. Lindsay, serving as administrative assistant during one of the most tumultuous periods in the city's history. He was Lindsay's "walking guide to the streets of New York," gleaned, in part, from

driving a truck, selling the insecticide DDT to tenement dwellers, waiting tables, and booking rock and roll bands, according to the *The New York Times*.

Davidoff managed the mayor's schedule whenever he left City Hall and served on the front lines during crises that ranged from racial tensions to anti-war protests to municipal strikes. Elizabeth Holtzman, who worked alongside him, noted that "Sid Davidoff, in essence, helped make it possible for Lindsay to govern the city."

Davidoff's dedication to Lindsay earned him a peculiar badge of honor: He was number 12 on President Richard Nixon's enemies list, a distinction he wore with pride. "I think it should absolutely be carved into my gravestone: 'He was lucky enough to be on Nixon's enemies list,'" he once wrote.

After leaving City Hall, Davidoff founded Davidoff Hatcher & Citron LLP in 1975, building it into one of New York's premier law and lobbying firms. For half a century, he served as an informal adviser to mayors and governors, respected across party lines. He was Mayor David Dinkins's tennis partner and a strong supporter of Bill de Blasio, who officiated at his 2014 wedding to journalist Linda Stasi at City Hall.

Davidoff continued to practice law and advise clients until his death. He was a political consultant to the TV sitcom "Spin City" in the late 1990s and appeared as a divorce lawyer on an episode of "The Sopranos" in 2004.

He remained wistful about his years with Lindsay, whom he met when the then-congressman spoke at NYU.

"It was a moment in time," Davidoff told *The Times* in 2005, "when people still believed they could make a difference."

Legendary English Professor Mark Jay Mirsky (1939-2025)



Professor Emeritus of American Literature Mark Jay Mirsky, a novelist and the founding editor of the influential literary magazine *Fiction*,

whose five decades of teaching at CCNY inspired generations of writers, died on Dec. 5, a few hours after teaching

his graduate class on Bible, Myth and Contemporary Literature. He was 86.

Mirsky was the author of five novels, including *Thou Worm Jacob* (Macmillan, 1967), *The Secret Table* (NY Fiction Collective, 1983) and *The Red Adam* (Sun & Moon Press, 1990). He also wrote *The Absent Shakespeare* (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1994), edited *Diaries: Robert Musil 1899-1942* (Basic Books, 1998), and coedited *Rabbinic Fantasies: Imaginative Narratives from Classical Hebrew Literature* (Yale University Press, 1998).

"Mark was such a prolific writer that his oeuvre defies succinct characterization," said Division of Humanities and the Arts Dean Renata Kobetts Miller. "The author of over a dozen book-length works of fiction, memoir and literary criticism, and dozens of shorter works, he also edited the two-volume *The Jews of Pinsk*. Dante, Shakespeare and classical Hebrew literature were among the subjects of his scholarship, and he engaged with the theater as both an actor and a playwright."

In addition to founding CCNY's graduate program in creative writing and directing it for a number of years, Mirsky directed the Jewish Studies program and served as chair of the English Department. "Mark's career was expansive and influential, and he was a generous and generative colleague," said Miller. "We are better as individuals and as an institution because of the time we had with him."

"Mark was one of the first directors of our program when it was an M.A. in Creative Writing," wrote the program's current director, Assistant Professor of English Michelle Y. Valladares, in an e-mail to Mirsky's students. "He was the strongest advocate for creative writing at CCNY and an inspiration to many faculty and students. Many of his students went on to work on *Fiction*, the journal he founded and edited. He was an incredible support and advocate to our MFA faculty, and especially to me, sharing his insights and wisdom. As a member of the creative writing community at City College, he carried the stories of our history, and for those of you lucky enough to spend a semester or even an hour with Mark; he always had a story about a writer that you loved. He had either met them or visited them on his motorcycle!"

Calling Mirsky's passing "a devastating loss for our program and English department," Valladares concluded her note with an excerpt from an interview Mirsky gave to independent arts publication *Brooklyn Rail* in May 2005, after the publication of his final book, *Dante, Eros, and Kabbalah* (Syracuse University Press, 2004), an academic detective story that finds Dante's clues in medieval philosophy and the secret text of Jewish mysticism.

Brooklyn: Do you have any advice for young writers?

Mark: The most important thing is to believe in yourself and to find a way to get your stuff published. I also think it is important to get to know older writers whom you think are important. I've always admired the way the poets group together, and I wish fiction writers would do the same. I really fell in love with Paley and Barthelme, and I followed them around.

Brooklyn: I thought you were going to say that they should read.

Mark: That's like saying "you should breathe" to a human being. I mean, if they don't know that, then they're not writers.

Former CCNY President Gregory H. Williams (1943-2025)



Gregory H. Williams, scholar, award-winning author and the 11th President of The City College of New York, passed away in August at the age of 81.

Under his leadership, from 2001 to 2009, CCNY gained in national recognition. Williams's many accomplishments included opening the first residence hall built for a CUNY campus, and completing a new home for The Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture. In addition, he led the first capital campaign in CCNY history up to then, raising more than \$310 million during his tenure. Major gifts received during his tenure as president included \$26 million from alumnus and Intel Corp. co-founder Andrew Grove for The Grove School of Engineering, and \$25 million from the Bernard and Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust for the Spitzer School of Architecture.

The son of a mixed-race black father and a white mother, Williams found that race was a defining issue of his childhood and much of his adult life. He recounted his personal story in his autobiographical memoir, *Life on the Color Line*, which received the 1995 Los Angeles Times Prize for Book of the Year.

After earning a B.A. from Ball State University, supporting himself by working full time as a deputy sheriff, he earned an M.A. in government and politics from the University of Maryland and a J.D. and Ph.D. from George Washington University. During law school, he worked as a teacher of government at George Mason Junior-Senior High School. He later worked as a legislative assistant to U.S. Sen. Vance Harkte (D-Ind.) and as a coordinator for the National Law Center at George Washington University.

He moved across the country in the summer of 1977 to become a law professor at the University of Iowa, fulfilling a longtime dream and beginning his academic career. He achieved a full professorship and also served as dean of admissions, increasing minority enrollment from two percent to 18 percent, one of his proudest accomplishments. Williams was named dean of The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in 1993. After setting fund-raising records and leading OSU law to a top ten public school ranking, he was named president of CCNY, where he led the College's renaissance. In 2009, he became president of the University of Cincinnati, leading a \$1 billion giving campaign and serving on the executive committee of the Big East Conference.

Williams spent his semi-retirement years serving on the boards of Urban America, Franklin Templeton Investments, and Mercy University, from which he earned an MBA in 2014. Williams was a sought-after speaker on diversity, leadership and education, delivering more than 100 speeches at universities and corporations and being interviewed on legal, racial and academic issues on network radio and television.

Heartfelt Thanks

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's annual report.

We appreciate your help in making The City College of New York's lively, hardworking narrative come to life.

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We could not do it without you!

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