



2024



# BUILDING ON SUCCESS

2013



**Reimagining the Social Sciences  
Developing Leaders for Social Change**

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 24

# Lifting Leaders

## Shifting Power | Transforming Society

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MESSAGE FROM

# The Chair and The Dean

Colin L. Powell  
1937-2021



## Dear Colin Powell School Community,

This year, we entered the Colin Powell School's second decade with great pride in all that we have accomplished and ambitious to build on our success.

In the Powell School's first annual report, published in Fall 2013, the General articulated our goal "to give every student at the Powell School the chance to connect his or her course of study to a life of service" and to make the school "the place for people interested in a leadership vocation geared towards ensuring a more diverse, representative, and just future for our society."

We are proud to be meeting the challenge of this mission and to be serving more students than ever. In the past five years alone, the Powell School has seen a nearly 40% increase in enrollment, a stark contrast to the overall trends in higher education. We are now the largest student division at CCNY. Particularly notable has been the school's growth in new freshmen — from fewer than 20 in the Fall of 2018 to more than 1,000 in Fall of 2023. The Powell School has become a destination for students interested in a meaningful education with a career-starting job upon graduation.

To support our growing community, we've hired 75 new faculty and staff, including doubling the number of academic advisors from 4 to 8. This past year, we brought in 12 new faculty members — the most in any one year since our founding. We've created 24 new initiatives including a new CUNY institute and

a new center devoted to training the social justice and public service leaders of tomorrow.

Of the 18 cohort-based fellowship opportunities that we currently offer, only one — the Colin Powell Fellowship for Leadership and Public Service — was available when the school was launched. Among our new initiatives are an array of programs under our Office of Student Success (including programs for first year students and for first-generation students); the Career Fellows paid internships program; fellowship programs focusing on issues ranging from climate policy to racial justice to LGBTQ+ rights; corporate partnerships with Santander, JP Morgan Chase, Accenture, EY, and many other companies; the Student Success Guide peer mentoring program; and a vibrant and growing alumni community.

We are increasing our visibility both on campus and in the surrounding community through an array of public events: in the last year alone, we had more than 80 events, a 50% increase from the year before.

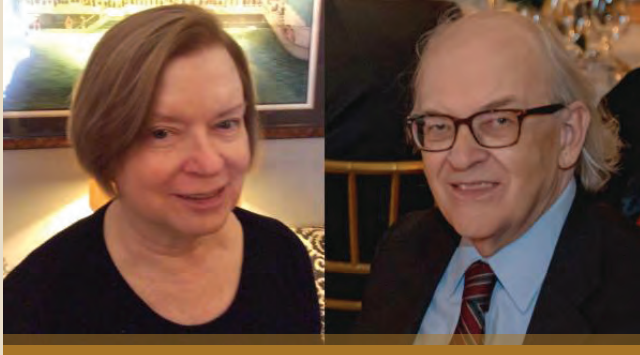
We have only been able to achieve all of this with the support of our partners, alumni, and friends. This support reflects enthusiasm for our unique mission at the intersection of the social sciences, leadership development and civic engagement.

Thank you for all that you do in helping us to achieve our mission of Lifting Leaders, Shifting Power, Transforming Society.

Linda Powell,  
Chair of Board of Visitors

Andrew Rich,  
Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean

## Eugene J. Surowitz *and* Helen M. Teclaw Program *in* Neuroscience



Thanks to a generous gift from Eugene J. Surowitz '68, the Powell School has launched the Eugene J. Surowitz and Helen M. Teclaw Program in Neuroscience, a comprehensive research and training initiative aimed at exploring the brain's fundamental structure and functions. This program will focus on the intricate connections within the brain and the abstract operations of the mind, advancing knowledge across multiple disciplines like analytic intelligence, computer science, psychology, and physics.

Key components of the program include the Eugene J. Surowitz and Helen M. Teclaw Professorship of Neuroscience, two assistant professorships, a postdoctoral fellowship, and a distinguished speaker series featuring renowned researchers discussing brain function.

Additionally, the program provides a faculty research fund for mentoring students, and an internship fund that offers

*"City College provided me with the opportunity to get an excellent education, which has served me well all my life."*

- Eugene J. Surowitz '68

stipends and support for students in neuroscience and related fields such as analytic intelligence.

One of the assistant professor roles was previously funded by Surowitz's earlier contributions and has been held by Professor Edward A. Vessel since 2023. With the new program, Professor Vessel's research will benefit from expanded resources, becoming part of a more extensive initiative.

Surowitz's nearly three decades at IBM, where his work in algebraic computation for general relativity sparked his interest in artificial intelligence (AI), inspired him to collaborate with the Powell School on this neuroscience program. His vision bridges multiple disciplines, including AI, computer science, psychology, and physics, to study the far-reaching implications of brain functions.

This major long-term initiative will be led by a world-class neuroscientist to drive theoretical and empirical research on brain structure and function. The program will also recruit postdoctoral fellows and continue to invite top scholars for its speaker series, expanding opportunities for students and faculty alike.

Professor Robert Melara, Chair of the Department of Psychology, expressed his gratitude, stating, "As a neuroscience researcher, I am excited about the academic opportunities this generous gift brings to the College, and I look forward to welcoming new faculty into our community of scholars."

"Gene Surowitz is a visionary who cares deeply about science and his alma mater. I am grateful that he brings the two together in supporting this major new initiative to understand the brain at CCNY," said Andrew Rich, Dean of the Colin Powell School.

## Remarkable Growth *in Grants and* Sponsored Research

The Colin Powell School has seen exceptional growth in grants and sponsored research from 2018 to 2024, more than doubling the amount of funding secured through proposals. During this period, our faculty submitted 425 proposals, achieving a remarkable 44.5% success rate, up from 30% in earlier years, translating into an impressive \$78 million in awarded grants.

The success in grant acquisition is evident across a number of departments. The Department of Psychology led the way with 45 proposals submitted and 30 successfully funded projects. The Departments of Political Science and Sociology also made significant strides, with

success rates of 40% and 35%, respectively. This growth trajectory is a testament to our faculty's dedication to academic excellence and innovative research across the disciplines.

The diversity of funding sources, including federal agencies and private foundations, underscores the school's growing prominence in the research community. Our commitment to advancing knowledge and providing quality education continues to drive us forward. The number of proposals submitted has increased annually, reflecting the expanding research ambitions within our community.

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## Dr. Dave Chokshi *joins CCNY as* *Inaugural* Sternberg Family Professor of Leadership



In July 2023, Dr. Dave A. Chokshi, former New York City Health Commissioner, joined the Colin Powell School as the inaugural Sternberg Family Professor of Leadership. This role is supported by a generous donation from Seymour (Sy)

Sternberg '65, '10 (hon.) and Laurie Sternberg, in tribute to the late General Colin Powell.

Dr. Chokshi brings a distinguished background to the role, having led New York City's COVID-19 response, and having overseen the vaccination of more than six million NYC residents. He has served in key roles at NYC Health + Hospitals and is a published scholar with degrees from the

University of Pennsylvania, Duke University, and Oxford University.

In addition to his administrative and academic roles, Dr. Chokshi continues to practice as a primary care internist at Bellevue Hospital and holds appointments at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine and the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health.

At the Powell School, he aims to enhance leadership studies and student development initiatives.

*“As an institution, CUNY makes real the notion of ‘being the change one wants to see in the world,’ and the Colin Powell School is particularly focused on shaping the principled and excellent leaders we need for that world”*

— Dave Chokshi



CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF THE

## Honors Program *in* Legal Studies



On April 10, 2024, the Powell School marked the 15th anniversary of its Honors Program in Legal Studies with a celebration at Milbank LLP in Hudson Yards. The event brought together program alumni and partners, highlighting the program's significant impact on the legal profession and the lives of its participants. Initially funded by Skadden, Arps, the program expanded in 2021-22 to welcome additional partners. This year's sponsors included Milbank, Skadden, Fried Frank, McDermott Will & Emery, McGuireWoods, Paul Weiss, and Ropes & Gray.

Hosted by Mike Shah '94, a partner at Milbank and member of the Powell School Board of Visitors, the event featured alumni sharing personal stories of how the program transformed their professional and personal lives. Current students had the opportunity to network with alumni and gain insights from their experiences.

Since its founding, the Honors Program has quadrupled the number of CCNY students attending law school, with many securing

spots at top 50 law schools. Graduates have entered various legal sectors, including 22% in BigLaw, 27% in smaller firms, 22% in public interest law, 16% in government, 10% in-house, 2% as solo practitioners, and 1% in academia.

The program's success has inspired the creation of other cohort-based fellowships at the Powell School, supporting over 200 students annually across topics like climate policy, racial justice, journalism, and international affairs. These programs reinforce the Powell School's commitment to fostering leadership and equity in education.

Dean Andrew Rich emphasized the program's significance, stating, "The Honors Program in Legal Studies exemplifies the Powell School's dedication to excellence and equity in education. Over the past 15 years, it has opened doors for our students and contributed to a more just legal profession. We are deeply grateful to our partners and alumni for their ongoing support."

Special thanks were extended to faculty and staff, including Jen Light, Nildania Perez, Karen Struening, and Natalia Trujillo, for their vital roles. The program also honored the late Richard Bernstein, a mentor to many participants. Jen Light, program director for most of its 15 years, reiterated the program's mission, emphasizing the need for more attorneys from underrepresented backgrounds, ensuring that the legal profession reflects the diversity of society.

*"As we look to the future, we aim to expand our reach and impact, ensuring that more students benefit from this transformative experience. Your continued support is vital to achieving this goal."*

—Dean Andrew Rich





**Robert Sanderman** (Cohort 1) is the Director of Litigation at Legal Services NYC | Staten Island. Previously, as a senior staff attorney at Queens Legal Services, he spent nearly a decade defending tenants and small business owners and advocating for community economic development. Notably, he successfully challenged the NYC Public Nuisance Abatement Law, positively impacting millions. Sanderman also supported low-income co-op owners and small business merchants. He graduated from Northeastern School of Law in 2014, where he was featured in the documentary *The Trouble I Have Seen*, highlighting anti-civil rights violence. Sanderman earned his degree from CCNY in 2011 as a Skadden Arps Honors and Rosenberg Humphrey Fellow.



**Shey Chen** is an Ethics Associate at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, ensuring compliance with the Bank's Personal Trading Program, Code of Conduct, and Federal Conflicts of Interest Statute. She earned her JD from UC Irvine School of Law, where she was the inaugural racial justice fellow. Before her current role, Shey worked at an international trade litigation firm while completing law school. She manages the Compliance department's summer internship program and coordinates the Legal Group's Mentoring Program. She also volunteers with the Asian Professional Networking Alliance and Women of Color Network, mentoring students from underrepresented backgrounds and supporting diversity pipeline programs.



**Joel Sati** is a law professor at the University of Oregon School of Law, where he recently completed his first year of teaching. He holds a PhD in Jurisprudence and Social Policy from UC Berkeley and a JD from Yale Law School. An immigrant rights activist since 2012, Joel has worked on federal and state campaigns and has earned honors and awards including the Penn-Birmingham Transatlantic Migration Fellowship, the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, and the Foundations of Change Thomas I. Yamashita Prize. Born in Nairobi, Kenya, Joel's research has been featured in outlets such as the *Washington Post* and Berkeley Blogs, and has appeared on the Citations Needed podcast.



**Tara Gonsowski** is the Founder and Managing Attorney of Gonsowski Law, P.C., specializing in arts-related legal matters. With over 15 years of experience, she serves as outside general counsel for museums and cultural institutions, providing expert legal guidance. Tara advises clients on commissions, sales, and non-fungible tokens (NFTs). She graduated summa cum laude from The City College of New York and earned her JD from UCLA School of Law. With a deep commitment to the arts, Tara's practice navigates traditional and emerging legal issues, ensuring her clients receive specialized services tailored to the evolving needs of the creative industry.

## Distinguished Leadership Award



Marc Benioff, Chair and CEO of Salesforce, was the recipient of the 2024 Colin L. Powell Distinguished Leadership Award. The award, which celebrates individuals who exemplify the leadership values

embodied by General Powell, was presented to Benioff in recognition of his visionary leadership in both business and philanthropy.

Benioff was presented the award by Linda Powell, chair of the Colin Powell School's Board of Visitors, at an April event in midtown Manhattan. Benioff's commitment to ethical business practices

and advocacy for equality and environmental sustainability were highlighted during the award presentation ceremony.

Benioff's transformative 1-1-1 corporate philanthropy model — in which businesses commit 1% of their equity, 1% of their product, and 1% of employee time to their communities — has been adopted by thousands of companies, generating more than \$2 billion in philanthropy. Benioff and his wife Lynne have donated hundreds of millions of dollars to various causes including children's health, education, and homelessness.

*At the event, Benioff recalled General Powell's mentorship and his imperative that businesses should be forces for good.*



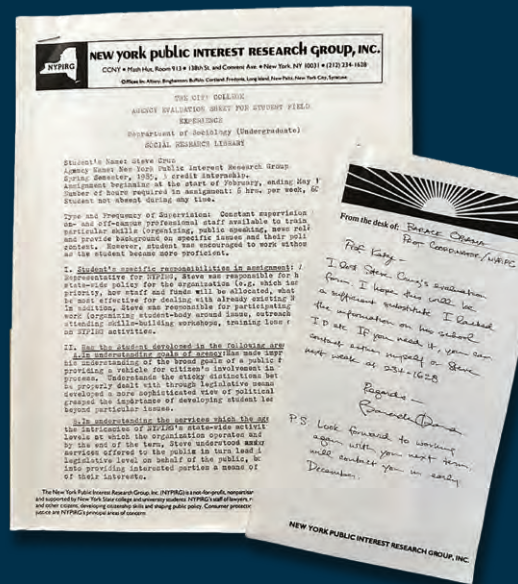


The event was made possible with the support of Santander, and the award was conceived by Marco Antonio Achón, Global Head of Corporate Banking, Santander Corporate & Investment Banking and a member of the Colin Powell School's Board of Visitors.

DISCOVERED IN SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

## 1985 Memo written by Barack Obama

Earlier this year, the Sociology Department at the Colin Powell School unearthed a memorandum bearing the signature of former President Barack Obama, written by him during his tenure as a project coordinator for the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG).



The memo was discovered by Ramatoulaye Diarra, a Sociology student and Research Assistant, while cleaning out departmental archives. “When I saw NYPIRG,” said Diarra, “of course I stopped. As I glanced over the written memo of the site supervisor, I saw a name and signature. It looked like Barack Obama’s signature. At first, I thought, ‘maybe this is a different Barack Obama from the one I know!’ But then I saw the second document filled out and there it was, typed and signed this time: Barack Obama.”

The memo is from 1985. Following his graduation from Columbia University, Obama went to work as a project coordinator for NYPIRG and was assigned to the City College campus. City College has long served as a nurturing ground for burgeoning community organizers, and was the place where the man who would go on to become America’s first Black president spent his formative years mentoring students in community organizing and advocacy for policy reform.

“I feel that the finding of this letter emphasizes the legacy of the Sociology Department, the Colin Powell School, and City College, in educating future champions of service and social justice,” said Ms. Laura Bowman, Sociology Department Office Assistant.

## Our Impact *by the* Numbers



**5** DEPARTMENTS

**3** CENTERS AND  
INSTITUTES

**12** UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

**5** GRADUATE PROGRAMS

**1** PHD PROGRAM

**18** FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

### PAID INTERNSHIPS



**750k** Total spent  
(2023-2024)

**144** Students  
in Internships

**43,377**  
Internship hours

**60** FACULTY RESEARCH  
GRANTS AWARDED



More than

**\$20MILLION**  
GRANTS AND  
SPONSORED RESEARCH

More than

**\$500,000** AWARDED  
IN STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

### STUDENT SUCCESS GUIDE PEER MENTORS

**18** peer mentors  
more than **200** students served

Students in the peer mentorship program have a  
9.3 percentage points lower stopout rate.





## CPS REACHES WIDE AND DIVERSE AUDIENCES

### At a Glance Colin Powell School

Our newsletters offers news from Colin Powell School students, alumni, faculty, and staff, and reaches over

**46,000** subscribers



## COLIN POWELL SCHOOL'S DIGITAL OUTREACH

FACEBOOK



**5.6k** followers

LINKEDIN

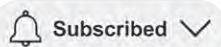


**4,687** followers

X (formerly known as Twitter)

**7024** followers

YOUTUBE



**1.33k** subscribers

*150k+ views in last year  
8.1k hours of watch time*



INSTAGRAM

**2,941**



TIKTOK REACH

**83,316** views

**58,186**  
audience reached



**AUDIENCE (COMBINED REACH): +246,056**  
people/accounts reached through social media over the  
last year



# Centers and Institutes, Initiatives, and Programs



## the Moynihan Center

### THE MOYNIHAN CENTER INAUGURATION

On September 7, the Colin Powell School celebrated the inauguration of the new Moynihan Center at City College. It was a truly memorable evening, with keynotes from New York Governor Kathy Hochul, journalist Lawrence O'Donnell, and Deputy Secretary of Transportation Polly Trottenberg, all of whom began their careers working for the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, in whose honor the Center is named. The mission of the new Center is to forge the “Moynihans of the future,” bold leaders who cross ideological lines and work across the boundaries between critical thinking, public service practice, and popular communication. This mission is inspired by Senator Moynihan’s career and by guidance from his widow, Liz Moynihan, who joined us for the celebration, just a month before her passing at the age of 94.

The Center, based in the Colin Powell School, will achieve its twin goals of public scholarship and public service through two signature fellowship programs, one for mid-career public

service leaders and scholars and one for students. Carlo Invernizzi Accetti, a professor in the political science department, is the center’s Executive Director; and Michael Miller is the Managing Director.

The Center is made possible thanks to a generous leadership grant from the Leon Levy Foundation and the vision and support of Shelby White. Additional program support comes from Bloomberg Philanthropies, and the Achelis & Bodman, Revson, and Teagle Foundations.

*“I’m going to stand here  
and make a prediction that there are  
students sitting in this audience  
that perhaps 10, 20, 30, 40 years  
from now will be spoken about  
with the same reverence that we’re  
talking about Daniel Patrick Moynihan  
because when they get this foundation,  
this education ... there will be no  
stopping them.”*

—NY Governor Kathy Hochul



## DOMINICAN STUDIES INSTITUTE HOSTS PANEL DURING SOMOS NEW YORK CONFERENCE

This past November, the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute, which is based in the Colin Powell School, joined the renowned SOMOS New York Conference in Puerto Rico to host the panel “Mujeres Dominicanas en Puerto Rico: Nuevas Perspectivas” (“Dominican Women in Puerto Rico: New Perspectives”), which featured three distinguished speakers: Dr. Ramona Hernandez, Director, CUNY DSI; The Honorable New York Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia; and Romelinda Grullón Miguel, Executive Director of the Dominican Women Center of Puerto Rico. The panel was moderated by Dr. Pierre Losson, Associate Director of CUNY DSI.

“It is of the utmost importance for us, as social researchers, to share our findings about our Latino/a/x populations with community leaders

and elected officials to inform policy-making in our home state of New York,” commented Dr. Hernandez.

CUNY DSI was also honored, together with the CUNY Mexican Studies Institute and CENTRO — Center for Puerto Rican Studies, during a reception hosted by Lehman College President Professor Fernando Delgado, which was also attended by CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez and CCNY President Vince Boudreau.

SOMOS New York is an annual conference that serves as a forum for New York-based policymakers to learn about and discuss issues affecting Puerto Ricans and the Latino/a/x community at large.



## Leadership for Democracy and Social Justice

### ROCC FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM LAUNCH

This past year, Leadership for Democracy and Social Justice, the CUNY institute based at the Colin Powell School and the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies, added the Regional Organizers for Community Change (ROCC) Fellowship to its roster of programs. This new program aims to invest in the leadership of organizers in the South by providing them with an opportunity to develop new skills and expand their community in movement work.

Created for leaders in labor, advocacy, and community organizing with approximately 7-10 years of experience in social justice work,



the program’s first cohort of 14 fellows had experience on issues such as voter access, immigration, labor, and economic justice.

The 6-month program provides a cohort-based experience, giving fellows the opportunity to connect and build relationships across issues, take space for reflection, and prepare themselves for the next level of leadership.

The second cohort, which kicked off in August 2024, focuses on organizers based in Texas.





## Master's of Public Administration

### EMPOWERING NONPROFIT LEADERS: SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF THE EMERGING LEADERS IN NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

This past fall saw the launch of the Emerging Leaders in Nonprofit Management program, a new initiative by CCNY's Master's of Public Administration (MPA) program in collaboration with the Partnership for After School Education (PASE), a New York City-based nonprofit that promotes and supports quality afterschool programs, particularly those serving young people from underserved communities. This program marks a significant step forward in the MPA program's efforts to anchor itself in the public service and nonprofit landscape of New York City. The program extends its deepest gratitude to Alison Overseth, Executive Director of PASE, for her pivotal role in establishing this partnership with Bobby Derival, the MPA program's Executive Director.

The Emerging Leaders in Nonprofit Management program is a comprehensive three-month course aimed at preparing the next generation of nonprofit leaders. Focused on middle managers from youth-serving nonprofits in New York City, the program targets professionals with 3-5 years of experience in leading and managing programs

and staff. Participants engage in intensive coursework covering strategic planning, talent management through a DEIB lens, program development and evaluation, fundraising, financial management, board management, advocacy, and communications.

**"This innovative relationship provides professionals at youth-serving CBOs opportunities to enhance their leadership and management skills without enrolling in a graduate program. The partnership with PASE exemplifies the MPA's mission to expand the classroom and build capacity in communities driving social change."**

*—Bobby Derival, Executive Director, MPA Program*

Derival explained that PASE previously ran an emerging leaders program with Baruch's School of Public Affairs, paused during the pandemic, and now relaunched with CCNY. "Our program is committed to growing leadership capacity in nonprofit/public service sectors, with a target population similar to our MPA students. About





30% of our alumni work in education/youth development, which aligns with PASE’s focus. Additionally, we receive applications from teachers transitioning to policy or nonprofit roles, making this partnership even more relevant.”

The inaugural cohort of 22 participants came from notable nonprofits such as El Puente de Williamsburg, The Opportunity Network, and Young People’s Chorus of New York City. Sixty-four percent of participants have been in their current role for 1-5 years, and 82% hold supervisory positions. Approximately 61% of participants identify as women, 78.2% identify as BIPOC, and 87% have a bachelor’s degree or higher.

Throughout the course, participants worked in teams on Strategic Challenge Projects, exploring various challenges and opportunities related to nonprofit management and leadership. One team examined offboarding best practices to optimize the employee lifecycle, while another diversified the evaluation toolkit to measure programmatic and communal impact beyond traditional surveys. Other teams delved into the critical relationship between development and programmatic teams, navigated budget communication best practices and impacts for nonprofits, and explored the importance of fostering a healthy workplace climate and culture.

One participant from the pilot class plans to enroll in our MPA program this Fall 2024, exemplifying the program’s potential as a pipeline to graduate study. The next cycle of the Emerging Leaders program will run from January to March 2025.

The graduates, who completed their intensive coursework and final presentations:

Angelique Agudo	Groove With Me, Inc
Edsel Reece Batucan	The Opportunity Network
Alexandra Berndt	Behind the Book
Jashua Calderon	El Puente de Williamsburg
Delisia Campbell	Bronx House
Tony Chong	Chinese-American Planning Council
Rasheeda Edmonds	LMSW, United Activities Unlimited, Inc.
Ashley Falzone	The Opportunity Network
Julissa Figueroa	Children’s Arts and Science Workshops Inc.
Caitlin Henning	Young People’s Chorus of New York City
Kierstin Hettler	YW & YMHA of Washington Heights and Inwood
Matthew Horgan	Teens for Food Justice
Tim Hui	Grand Street Settlement
Sasha-Lee Lewin	Futures and Options
Justin Lokossou	BUILD
Briana Mitchell	Global Kids
Katiana Partis	Planned Parenthood of Greater New York
Jesse Perez Antigua	DCTV
Jovan Ratray	CAMBA
Nathalie Soto	Mercy Center
Melisa Vallovera	America Needs You



See the program overview and the final presentations from the 2024 cohort



## Highlights *of* Major Events

RICK &  
SUSAN  
GOINGS

**Conversations  
in Leadership**

At the Colin Powell School



This year, the Colin Powell School proudly presented the Rick and Susan Goings Conversations in Leadership Series, which features leaders who have faced significant challenges and pursued unconventional paths to make a meaningful impact in their fields. Each speaker shared unique insights from their personal journeys, addressing broader themes of leadership, social justice, and the power of individual actions to drive meaningful change.

### BOB ROTH: INNER CALM AND EQUANIMITY IN LEADERSHIP

In September, Bob Roth, Executive Director of the David Lynch Foundation, was our guest. The Foundation has brought Transcendental Meditation to over 500,000 inner-city youth in underserved schools in 35 countries, veterans with post-traumatic stress, and survivors of domestic violence. Roth shared his experiences promoting meditation for mental health and resilience, emphasizing its transformative power, especially for vulnerable groups. Drawing an analogy to the ocean, Roth described inner calm as the stillness beneath the turbulent waves of life's challenges.

**“Leadership is not just being competent and clear and focused, but it’s equanimity, it’s balance, it’s not losing yourself.” – Bob Roth**

Rick Goings, Chairman Emeritus of Tupperware Brands, joined the event and talked about his own personal journey and how meditation has helped him remain grounded even during the most stressful times. The conversation was moderated by Susan Porcaro Goings.



Watch the full  
conversation [here](#).

### RAY CHAMBERS: FROM BUSINESS TO GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY



In October, Ray Chambers, renowned for his work in business, philanthropy, and public health, recounted his extraordinary journey from the tough streets of Newark, New Jersey, to becoming a successful businessman and a transformative philanthropist.



Watch the full  
conversation [here](#).

Chambers, who has devoted much of his life to supporting youth and combating global health issues, discussed his extensive involvement in mentorship programs and his collaborative efforts with General Colin Powell. Reflecting on

his deep commitment to guiding at-risk youth.

**“If I were constrained to one solution, one intervention, to youth at risk, it would be mentoring.”** — Ray Chambers

## CRISTINA JIMÉNEZ-MORETA: ADVOCATING FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

In November, Cristina Jiménez-Moreta, Co-Founder of United We Dream and Distinguished Lecturer at the Colin Powell School, delivered an inspiring talk on her leadership in the immigrant rights movement. She recounted her role in the historic 2012 implementation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which has protected hundreds of thousands of young immigrants from deportation. Jiménez-Moreta underscored the importance of dignity and self-worth.

**“You are worthy, no matter where you’re from, you’re worthy of a life with dignity and freedom.”** — Cristina Jiménez-Moreta



Her advocacy continues to influence national dialogues on immigration and social justice. Dean Rich moderated the discussion.



Watch the full conversation [here](#).

## ARIAN MOAYED: THE ROLE OF ART IN SOCIAL CHANGE

In April, the Colin Powell School welcomed Arian Moayed, acclaimed actor from HBO’s *Succession* and Co-Founder of Waterwell, a company dedicated to using art for community engagement and education. Moayed, an Iranian immigrant, spoke about his careful selection of roles to counteract stereotypes and prejudice against Middle Eastern communities. Moderated by Linda Powell, Chair of the Colin Powell School Board of Visitors, the discussion highlighted Moayed’s belief that achieving change is a gradual process.



Watch the full conversation [here](#).

**“The change that we want to make is not a light switch that’s going to turn on and off, it’s a fader.”**

—Arian Moayed







## LEONARD LITZ LGBTQ+ FOUNDATION EXECUTIVES VISIT COLIN POWELL SCHOOL

On November 1st, Elliot Leonard, co-founder of the Leonard Litz LGBTQ+ Foundation, and Colin Hosten, Trustee and Executive Director, visited the Colin Powell School for a talk with students on making a difference in LGBTQ+ organizing and activism. Leonard urged students to ensure, above all, that they love the work that they do, and to embrace that being queer and belonging to the LGBTQ community “is a superpower and not a weakness.”

He identified with the students by ensuring them that he, like them, has overcome many obstacles and challenges throughout life.

**“If you don’t have any failures, you’re either a liar or you’ve never done anything. You have to fail to learn.”** – Elliot Leonard

STANLEY FEINGOLD LECTURE SERIES

## on **American Politics**

### GARA LAMARCHE ON “FREE SPEECH, IDENTITY, AND POWER”

On November 8th, the Colin Powell School hosted the Stanley Feingold Lecture on American Politics, featuring Gara LaMarche, Leader-in-Residence at the Powell School and Co-Chair of Leadership for Democracy and Social Justice. LaMarche, with over 40 years of advocacy experience, discussed how free speech debates often reflect deeper conflicts around identity and power, especially amid rising misinformation and state suppression. LaMarche’s remarks were followed by commentary from Shanelle Matthews, Distinguished Lecturer at the

Colin Powell School, and former communications director for the Movement for Black Lives and Emerson Sykes, Staff Attorney with the ACLU. This lecture series was established by a large group of alumni in partnership with City College’s Colin Powell School to honor the memory of Stanley Feingold, a beloved, gifted professor of political science who taught at the college for almost four decades. The event opened with remarks by Anita Altman, a former student of Stanley



Feingold, and concluded with remarks from Feingold’s daughter, Ikeda Feingold.

*Watch the full conversation here.*

## DISCUSSIONS ON ISRAEL-PALESTINE

Throughout the 2023-24 academic year, the Colin Powell School hosted the Discussions on Israel-Palestine series, engaging students, faculty, and staff in dialogue on the conflict’s historical and contemporary issues.

On November 16th, Professor Diana Greenwald and CCNY Psychological Center Director Diana Puñales-Morejon provided insights into the Middle East conflict’s geopolitical, historical, and mental health impacts. Greenwald an expert in Palestinian local politics, discussed recent violence, while Puñales-Morejon offered coping strategies and emphasized psychological resources.

The series featured distinguished speakers from institutions such as Swarthmore College, George Washington University, Stonehill College, NYU, and the Colin Powell School. Student moderators added diverse perspectives to the discussions. Given the ongoing crisis in Gaza, the Colin Powell School plans to continue these critical discussions.





## ROBERT B. CATELL'58 SPEAKS TO STUDENTS ON BECOMING A LEADER IN CLEAN ENERGY

On February 6th, CCNY alumnus Robert B. Catell, Chairman of the Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center (AERTC) at Stony Brook University and a member of the Colin Powell School Board of Visitors, spoke to students about his path to becoming a leader in clean energy. The event attracted students from diverse fields, including science, engineering, and economics.

Brooklyn native Catell began as a liberal arts student at City College before switching to engineering. After a brief stint at AT&T, he joined Brooklyn Union Gas (later Keyspan), where he spent 50 years, eventually becoming CEO. Catell discussed the economic and technological challenges of transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy and highlighted the critical role City College played in his life.

## STERNBERG FAMILY LECTURE in public scholarship

### DR. DAVE CHOKSHI ON "HEALING OUR RIFTS: A VISION FOR HEALTH JUSTICE"

On March 15th, Dr. Dave Chokshi, the inaugural Sternberg Family Professor of Leadership at the Colin Powell School, delivered the 10th Annual Sternberg Family Lecture. Dr. Chokshi outlined his vision for health justice, which he defined as "a world in which every person has what they need to experience well-being." He discussed the need to balance healthcare and public health, health and the economy, and seismic change versus the status quo. Drawing on his experience as NYC Health Commissioner during the pandemic and in clinical

practice, Dr. Chokshi called for bolder leadership to address the most challenging health issues and introduced new initiatives, including the Common Health Coalition, an initiative bringing together leading health care organizations in pursuit of a reimagined health system.



*Watch the full conversation here.*



## SOCIAL MOBILITY LAB LAUNCH WITH KEYNOTE FROM PAUL TOUGH

On April 15th, the Colin Powell School launched the Social Mobility Lab at CCNY, a national initiative dedicated to advancing research and dialogue on higher education's role in promoting social mobility. As college rankings face scrutiny, social mobility has emerged as a key indicator of a university's societal impact. The Lab will explore the mechanisms behind social mobility, particularly at institutions like CCNY and CUNY, which are known for driving upward mobility.

Paul Tough, author of *The Inequality Machine*, delivered the keynote address, examining the policies and societal factors that foster student success. A panel discussion, moderated by Lab co-founder Bob McKinnon, included Cristina Jiménez-Moreta, Elvin Garcia of NYU, and Dee Dee Mozeleski of CCNY, who shared their personal experiences with higher education's transformative power.



*Watch the full conversation here.*

# Timeline of Public Events

We are increasing our visibility both on campus and in the surrounding community through an array of public events: in the last year alone, we had more than 80 public events, a 50% increase from the year before.

28 SEPTEMBER



## RICHARD BERNSTEIN MEMORIAL SERVICE

Organized by Steven Bernstein in collaboration with the Colin Powell School.

01 NOVEMBER



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN LGBTQ+ ADVOCACY: ELLIOT LEONARD & COLIN HOSTEN

A discussion with the co-founder and Executive Director of the Leonard Litz LGBTQ+ Foundation

30 OCTOBER



## WINNIE AND NELSON MANDELA: PORTRAIT OF A MARRIAGE

A book discussion featuring Jonny Steinberg in conversation with Nick Smith

30 OCTOBER



## CAN CONSERVATISM BE SAVED FROM THE FAR RIGHT?

A Public Lecture by Moynihan Leader-in-Residence Klaus Welle

08 NOVEMBER



## STANLEY FEINGOLD LECTURE SERIES ON AMERICAN POLITICS

Free Speech, Identity and Power  
Speaker - Gara LaMarche  
Discussants - Shanelle Matthews, Emerson Sykes

09 NOVEMBER



## CAN THE UN NAVIGATE THE "GREAT FRACTURE" IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS?

Richard Gowan, UN Director, The International Crisis Group  
Discussants - Prof. A. Dirk Moses and Prof. Jean Krasno  
Moderator - Prof. Raphaëlle Khan

14 NOVEMBER



## NEW YORK JOBS CEO COUNCIL - CEO SPEAKER SERIES

Julie Sweet, Chair and CEO of Accenture  
A fireside chat with Dean Andrew Rich

15 NOVEMBER



## CONVERSATIONS IN LEADERSHIP

Finding your Voice In Spite of Fear  
Cristina Jiménez Moreta, Distinguished Lecturer, Co-Chair, LDSJ

07 MAY



## STONEWALL MUSEUM EXHIBIT

Standing on the Shoulders of Heroes  
LGBTQ+ activist Laverne Cox  
Screening of "There are Things to Do" by Mike Syers

15 APRIL



## SPRING GALLERY EXHIBITION, NAC BALLROOM

Student-led exhibition of art organized by CASE Fellow Linda Li

15 APRIL



## SOCIAL MOBILITY LAB LAUNCH

The How and Why of Social Mobility  
Keynote: Paul Tough, author of *The Inequality Machine: How College Divides Us*

01 SEPTEMBER



### JPMC CONFERENCE

Speaker - Keith Henry, Regional Director for the New York Office.

07 SEPTEMBER



### WAR IN UKRAINE

A conversation with Liam Collins on the war in Ukraine and where the conflict stands

07 SEPTEMBER



### MOYNIHAN CENTER INAUGURATION

19 SEPTEMBER



### CONVERSATIONS IN LEADERSHIP

Mindfulness and Meditation: A Conversation with Bob Roth and Rick Goings

30 OCTOBER



### DEMOCRACY AND THE WAR IN UKRAINE

Hosted by : Colin Powell School

14 OCTOBER



### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH EVENT

Student-led Symposium

12 OCTOBER



### LDSJ LECTURE SERIES: KATHLEEN BELEW

Kathleen Belew discusses her groundbreaking research on the history of the white power movement in the U.S.

11 OCTOBER



### CONVERSATIONS IN LEADERSHIP

Ray Chambers on How to Make a Difference in Business, Philanthropy, & Global Public Health

06 FEBRUARY



### BECOMING A LEADER IN CLEAN ENERGY

Robert B. Catell, Chairman of the Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center (AERTC) at Stony Brook University

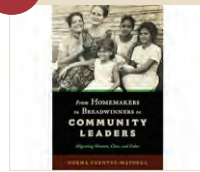
21 FEBRUARY



### CAREERS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Featuring Sayu Bhojwani. Other speakers: Councilmember Amanda Farias, Councilmember Shahana Hanif, Councilmember Nantasha Williams

12 MARCH



### FROM HOMEMAHERS TO BREADWINNERS TO COMMUNITY LEADERS

Professor Norma Mayorga-Fuentes launches her new book

13 MARCH



### MOYNIHAN: POLITICAL MESSAGING AND THE 2024 ELECTION

Speakers : Moynihan Public Scholars Christina Greer and Laurence Pevsner and Walter Shapiro, Staff Writer, The New Republic

10 APRIL



### IMAGINING THE FUTURE(S) OF CITY PLANNING THROUGH SCIENCE FICTION

Lecture with Moynihan Public Scholar Daphne Lundi

04 APRIL



### CONVERSATIONS IN LEADERSHIP

A Journey in the Arts, Activism, and Social Change Arian Moayed in Conversation with Linda Powell

02 APRIL



### COLIN L POWELL DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD

2024 Colin L. Powell Distinguished Leadership Award Receipt Marc Benioff

25 MARCH



### 10TH ANNUAL STERNBERG FAMILY LECTURE

A Conversation about A Vision for Health with Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc



# Empowering Student Success

INSIDE THE OFFICES OF STUDENT SUCCESS AND ACADEMIC ADVISING

## FROM THE COLLEGE CLASSROOM TO A CAREER IN HIGHER EDUCATION: COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT LEADERS FELLOWSHIP

The Colin Powell School and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) joined forces this spring to launch the College Advancement Leaders Fellowship, a program designed to help graduating seniors explore and kickstart a career in higher education advancement through intensive training, mentorship, and practical experiences, including site visits and interactions with successful CASE alumni.

For its inaugural cohort, seven Colin Powell School students interested in pursuing a career in higher education advancement, specifically through roles such as alumni relations, communications, development, and marketing were placed in high-responsibility internships with partner institutions such as Albert Einstein School of Medicine, MIT, NYU, and Cornell University.



**Maya Gutierrez**, Director of the Public Service Career Hub and Program Director for the CASE Fellowship, traveled with the Fellows to the 3-day conference in Washington D.C., which was part of the internship experience.

"Seeing students connect the dots between their career interests and the wide variety of possibilities within the educational advancement field was so hopeful," she said.

With many lessons learned from the pilot year, we look forward to increasing awareness about this great opportunity, scaling the program and helping more Colin Powell School students join the ranks of higher education professionals.



First cohort of College Advancement Leader Fellows

- **Marina Margret Bond** is a senior at CCNY, double majoring in studio arts and psychology. They were placed at NYU.
- **Jahiem Ray Carridice**, a senior at CCNY majoring in economics with a minor in Black studies, aims to leverage his strong economic background for institutional advancement. He was placed at Cornell University.
- **Jordan Cheung** is a senior majoring in economics with a minor in business administration. Coming from a business-focused high school in the heart of Wall Street, Jordan is seeking avenues to blend finance skills with lasting social impact. He was placed at Iona University.
- **Maria Ximena Diaz** is senior majoring in psychology. Born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia, María is a first-generation college student committed to providing equitable educational opportunities to immigrant New York communities. She was placed at MIT.
- **Nafisa Hamim** is a senior at CCNY, majoring in psychology. Her dedication to continuous learning led her to explore the College Advancement Leaders Fellowship, and she has a genuine desire to understand and contribute to the landscape of educational development. She was placed at NYU.

- **Linda Li** is a returning student preparing to graduate this spring with a degree in business administration and management with a minor in public policy. Linda appreciates the value of education as a transformative force and is eager to learn about career options to support higher education institutions. She was placed at Stockton University.
- **Amber Naa-lamle Smith** is a Psychology major in her senior year. Learning about the fellowship opened her mind to a new field, and she found the prospect of making a positive impact on the lives of college students by strengthening their educational infrastructure both exciting and purposeful. She was placed at Albert Einstein School of Medicine.

## SHAPING THE FUTURE OF VENTURE CAPITAL NEW FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM WITH COMMONWEAL VENTURES

Commonweal Ventures partnered with the Colin Powell School to launch the Venture Fellows Program, which aims to diversify the venture capital industry and enhance New York City's venture community by cultivating the next generation of leaders.

This immersive program integrates students into the Commonweal Ventures team, exposing them to the full range of investment activities. Fellows participate in research, deal sourcing, due diligence, and investment decisions. They also get exposure to Commonweal's Advisory Board, which is composed of former White House officials, U.S. cabinet secretaries, mayors, and members of Congress, as well as successful entrepreneurs and industry executives.

"The City College Venture Fellows Program reflects Commonweal's commitment to fostering a diverse pipeline of leaders into the venture capital industry, starting right here in our hometown," said Nate Loewentheil, founder and managing partner of Commonweal Ventures.

**"We are committed to building this program for the long term and fostering the next generation of leaders in the New York City venture community."**

—Nate Loewentheil

"But this is not just about diversity. We see a competitive advantage in tapping into the best and

brightest of an institution such as City College. We are committed to building this program for the long term and fostering the next generation of leaders in the New York City venture community."

The first two fellowship recipients were Amreen Nasir and Shamal Fleming.



**Amreen Nasir** is a senior major in Business Administration. She is excited about the Venture Fellow Internship at Commonweal Ventures, particularly due to its focus on investing in early-

stage clean energy tech startups among other innovative sectors. Her prior internships in clean energy and sustainable sectors have prepared her to contribute effectively to a prestigious firm like Commonweal Ventures and also ignited her passion for venture capital itself.



As a rising senior majoring in Economics and minoring in business administration, **Shamal Fleming** is driven by a commitment to advancing financial literacy and economic development for

underrepresented communities. His focus is particularly on sectors vital to society such as healthcare, financial services, clean energy, and urban planning, which are critical components of modern society's infrastructure and development.

## COLIN POWELL BLOOM ENERGY INNOVATION FELLOWSHIP RECOGNIZED AS “ONE TO WATCH” BY SMART ENERGY DECISIONS’ DEI AWARDS



On September 20, 2023, the Colin Powell Bloom Energy Innovation Fellowship was recognized by Smart Energy Decisions (SED) with a DEI Impact Award as a “One To Watch” initiative. Smart Energy Decisions is a resource dedicated exclusively to addressing the information needs of large power customers from commercial, industrial, institutional (higher education and healthcare), and government

organizations. Its DEI Impact Awards recognize power users driving the energy transition while advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion.

**“The City College of New York is probably the most diversified campus in the country, and so it’s inherent in our bones. Some people talk about DEI as being a separate component, but it’s part of our DNA.”**—Scott Gurba, Chief Operating Officer of CCNY

The Colin Powell Bloom Energy Innovation Fellowship, launched in the Spring of 2023, offers an extraordinary opportunity for talented students from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds to receive mentorship, professional development, and paid summer internships at Bloom Energy’s San Jose, California headquarters. This award serves as recognition of the success of the first cohort of the fellowship.

## COLIN POWELL SCHOOL PARTNERS WITH EY TO LAUNCH NEW MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



The Colin Powell School partnered with EY to create The Colin Powell-EY Mentorship Program, a new opportunity that is open to all CCNY undergraduate students. This past spring, fourteen Colin Powell students interested in consulting, financial services, accounting, and/or various other business fields met their EY mentors at an event held in the EY offices in Hudson Yards, where students had the chance



to network with their peers as well as multiple professionals on the EY teams.

The event featured a talk with Daniel Levites, the former Leader in Banking and Capital Markets at EY and the lead for the Colin Powell-EY Mentorship Program at the time. Students also heard from Marco Antonio Achón, Global Head of Corporate Banking, Santander Corporate &



Investment Banking and a member of the Colin Powell School Board of Visitors.

**“The Colin Powell-EY Mentorship program has given me insight into the world of consulting and the wide range of roles that a consulting firm like EY has to offer.”**—Jordan Cheung, Fellow from first cohort

Jordan also highlights the impact of the program on his career projections “My mentor has given

me valuable tips and insights when it comes to job searching and my professional career. They were able to provide me with the resources that they used to prepare for their post-grad careers and with their nonstop support and guidance, I was able to gain a post-grad internship. The interactions we’ve had were so valuable and I plan to keep in touch with them post-grad and throughout my professional career.”

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## COLIN POWELL SCHOOL’S CLIMATE POLICY FELLOWSHIP EXPANDS TO FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

In 2019, CCNY alumnus Trevor Houser ‘19, a partner in the Rhodium Group’s Energy & Climate practice, and a member of the Colin Powell School Board of Visitors, launched the Climate Policy Fellows program at the Colin Powell School. The program is aimed at expanding pathways into climate change policy-related careers for low-income students, immigrant students, and students of color. Over the past five years we have been refining the program at CCNY, consistently enrolling 25-30 Fellows per year from across the college, including students from the social sciences, physical sciences, architecture, and engineering.

As a testament to its success, the program expanded to Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), a public Historically Black College and University. Thanks to this partnership,



we have doubled the number of students served to 50-60 across the two schools each year.

The program at FAMU is led by Rhodium Group Senior Analyst Eric O’Rear, a FAMU alumnus. As has been the case with Houser, O’Rear’s close ties to FAMU strengthen his relationship with the FAMU

Fellows. Together, Houser and O’Rear develop the seminar curriculum, invite guest speakers, and connect students with internships.

This expansion was made possible thanks to a generous grant support from the Heising-Simons Foundation, one of the founding supporters of the Climate Policy Fellow program at CCNY. It is our plan to expand the model to additional public colleges and universities that serve students that are currently underrepresented in the climate policy field.

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## INTEGRATING MINDFULNESS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS: A NEW INITIATIVE IN THE BRIDGES TO SUCCESS COURSE

Over this past year, the Powell School successfully integrated mindfulness into the Bridges to Success course, the onboarding course for new students

to the Colin Powell School, thanks to generous gift from Larry Yermack, a 1967 alumnus of CCNY. This innovative initiative, created and led by Josh

Wright, Adjunct Lecturer in Psychology and a teacher of Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), is designed to enhance students' overall well-being and success.

Wright, a Harvard-educated economist with extensive experience in both the corporate and academic worlds, brings a unique blend of practical and contemplative knowledge to his teaching. His background includes training from the pioneers of MBSR at the University of Massachusetts and Brown University, along with more than 20 years of engagement in hatha yoga and various mindfulness techniques. This rich experience helps him support resilience in diverse organizational environments and life circumstances.

In the Bridges to Success course, students work on developing a personal wellness plan. They learn and practice a variety of evidence-based techniques from positive psychology, emotional intelligence, and mindfulness traditions. At the end of the course, students write a summary reflection and develop a personalized plan for pursuing mental wellness as part of a larger

strategy for success in college and beyond.

The program has been well-received by students, who appreciate the encouragement to be intentional with their habits in a new environment. The course helps demystify mindfulness practices, making them accessible to a diverse student body. Evaluation data shows that the number of students engaging in contemplative practices for 10 minutes or more each week rose from 49% to 67% over the semester. Additionally, over 40% of regular practitioners reported reduced anxiety and greater clarity of thought. Students have shared positive feedback, highlighting the benefits of mindfulness in their daily lives.

**“I strongly believe that everyone should have access to evidence-based training for emotional intelligence and mental health. Science shows that resilience, kindness, and happiness are trainable skills. Our goal is to make these practices accessible to all students, helping them navigate college and life with greater ease and awareness.”**

— Josh Wright

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## ICHIGO FOUNDATION FUNDS NEW COLIN POWELL SCHOOL EMBEDDED FINANCIAL AID ADVISER POSITION



Recognizing the importance of financial stability for academic success, the Colin Powell School created the role of Financial Aid Advisor & First-Year Experience Coordinator in 2023 with the support of a generous grant from the Ichigo

Foundation. After a national search, Jennifer Lavayen, an economist with a BA from Queens College and an MA from City College, was selected for the position. Lavayen was already a familiar face to Colin Powell School students, having

previously served as an embedded advisor for the Economics and Business department.

Lavayen focuses on helping students navigate financial challenges, particularly first-year and transfer students who may be particularly vulnerable in their first two semesters to academic disruptions caused by financial aid challenges. In her first year, she had a significant impact, assisting 615 students—18.5% of the school's population—with financial aid issues and securing an additional \$150,000 in aid for 202 students whose financial aid was recalculated. She also conducted weekly workshops on financial aid applications, including FAFSA and TAP, and developed tailored scholarship

lists for Colin Powell students, increasing access to crucial funding opportunities aligned

with their respective fields of study and career aspirations.

## NEW STAFF STRENGTHENING STUDENT SUCCESS AND ADVISING

The Offices of Student Success and Academic Advising welcomed four new staff members in 2023-24, each bringing a wealth of experience and a shared commitment to supporting our students. These two offices are key pillars that are central to fulfilling the school's mission of supporting student achievement.



**Ivy Allotey** joined the Office of Student Success as Internships Manager in May 2023, after serving as an Urban Fellow at the NYC Department of Veterans' Services.

Having grown up in the West Bronx and attended high school and university in Harlem, Ivy understands the socio-economic and segregation challenges in NYC schools. She is passionate about helping students develop professionally, offering guidance on resume writing, interview skills, and more. Ivy reflects, "I benefited greatly from caring college staff who supported my success... Now, I have the chance to pay it forward!"



**Veronica Ambrose** joined as an Academic Advisor in June 2024, bringing more than eight years of experience, including her role as Director of the TRIO-SSS program at SUNY Old Westbury.

Veronica's holistic approach to advising and her development of the TRIO student ambassador program highlight her commitment to student success. She looks forward to guiding

Colin Powell School students on their academic and career paths, encouraging them to embrace new opportunities.



**Jaime Olmos** became an Academic Advisor in August 2023, bringing experience as an Academic Program Specialist at the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies. Jaime is excited to support students in achieving their academic goals, emphasizing a collaborative approach with the Colin Powell School team.

**Golazin Safaeimoharad** transitioned from a college assistant role to an Academic Advisor in May 2024. With a Bachelor's in English Literature from Hunter College and a Master's in International Affairs from the Colin Powell



School, Golazin is dedicated to guiding students through their academic journeys. She is particularly passionate about empowering students to reach their full potential, reflecting her commitment to their growth and success.

These new team members bring diverse experiences and a shared commitment to supporting our students, ensuring they receive the guidance and resources needed to thrive both academically and professionally.



## Accomplishments and Insights

### HONORING A LEGACY: ALUMNI ESTABLISH MARINA FERNANDO GUEST LECTURER FUND

On April 11th, alumni who studied under Professor Marina Fernando, the long-time director of the Powell School's Program in International Studies, gathered to celebrate her legacy at City College and to establish an annual guest lecture in her honor. Thirty people attended in person, while more than 70 joined via Zoom, along with President Boudreau, Dean Rich, and current Director of International Studies Sarah Muir, to reminisce and pay homage to a beloved professor, sharing cherished memories from their time under her guidance.

Dr. Fernando, who attended the event via Zoom, served as head of the International Studies program from 1990 to 2012. Alumnus Trevor Houser '07,



a member of the Colin Powell School Board of Visitors and partner at Rhodium Group, organized the event, enabling attendees to participate from across the country and around the world. Dr. Fernando's daughter, Mayanthi Fernando, represented her mother at the in-person gathering.

Alumni testified to the profound impact that Fernando, affectionately known as "Queen Bee," had on their academic journeys and personal growth. Their heartfelt stories were a testament to Dr. Fernando's unwavering dedication and mentorship. As this new initiative takes shape, it will stand as a lasting tribute to a remarkable educator whose legacy continues to inspire and enrich the lives of those she touched.

### CELEBRATING 20 YEARS SINCE THE 2004 DNC

On April 12th, alumni gathered to commemorate the 20th anniversary of their trip to the 2004 Democratic National Convention, a trip organized as part of a course led by Dean Rich, then an assistant professor in his first year in the political science department. Organized by Shawn Chin-Chance '05 and Jameelah Lewis '05, two alumni of the program, the reunion featured a slideshow of moments from their time at the DNC. President Boudreau, who accompanied Dean



Rich and the group in 2004, also attended the celebration.

Reflecting on the significance of the course, Dean Rich expressed gratitude for the opportunity to lead such a meaningful endeavor early in his CCNY career and remarked on the inspiration he drew from his students,

as well as the lasting impression the journey left on all involved. For the alumni, it was a chance to celebrate not only the past but also the paths they've pursued since their days at CCNY.

## Fostering Lifelong Connections

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COLIN POWELL SCHOOL'S ALUMNI RELATIONS EVENTS

Over the past year, the Alumni Relations team at the Colin Powell School has been instrumental in cultivating meaningful connections among alumni, current students, and the broader community. Through a series of high-impact events, the team has created opportunities for professional growth, networking, and community building. Here are highlights from three significant events organized this year:

#### Political Science Alumni Panel – Spring 2024

In February, a dynamic panel featuring distinguished Political Science alumni took place, bringing together Shariful Khan '18, Hannah-Sophie Wahle '12, Saye Joseph '15, and Edward Garcia.

Shariful Khan, a civil rights lawyer at Public Justice, discussed his legal advocacy and upcoming clerkships. Hannah-Sophie Wahle, a Program Analyst at UN Women, highlighted her role in strategic planning and data innovation. Saye Joseph, Chief of Staff to a City Councilmember, emphasized her advocacy efforts, while Edward Garcia, Director of Community Development for the Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition, shared insights from his tenant organizing work. The panelists reflected on their motivations for studying political science, key career milestones, and offered advice for students pursuing careers in civil rights law, international development, local government, and community organizing.



#### Psychology Alumni Panel – Spring 2024

In May, we hosted a Psychology Alumni Panel featured four distinguished alumni: Samira Khan '13, Karina Morales '16, Dalamu Sherpa '19, and Kaitlin Aviles-Castillo '18. The panelists discussed the diverse applications of psychology in their fields, career development, and strategies for maintaining work-life balance, showcasing the broad impact of a psychology degree.

Samira Khan, Assistant Director at the Icahn School of Medicine, discussed her work in public health and research. Karina Morales, a bilingual school psychologist, shared her experiences supporting children with developmental disabilities. Dalamu Sherpa, HR Director at I'RAISE Girls & Boys International, spoke about fostering positive work environments and mentoring youth. Kaitlin Aviles-Castillo, Associate Director at Columbia Business School, highlighted her work in digital marketing and social responsibility.



#### Alumni Networking Social– Summer 2024



## ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Javita Nauth '12 Recognized as Social Worker of the Year by NASW-NYS



Javita Nauth '12, a psychology and anthropology double major, was recently named Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers New York State Chapter (NASW-NYS). The NASW-NYS Social Work Awards celebrate the impactful contributions of social workers while raising awareness of the profession's ethics and values.

The organization praised Nauth for her exceptional leadership and commitment to social justice, women's empowerment, education, mental

health awareness, and youth development. Her work has had a lasting influence on children, young adults, families, incarcerated individuals, and communities within New York State and internationally.

Currently, Nauth serves as Project Manager at Columbia University's School of Social Work. She also received the Hoffman Writing Award for her groundbreaking research, "Understanding the Lived Experiences of Non-Syrian Refugees in Turkey," one of the first studies in the country to explore the psychosocial needs and resources available to this refugee population.

### Nicholas Scoufaras '14 Selected as Hogans Fellow by the Foundation for Public Affairs



Nicholas Scoufaras '14, a Powell School alum with a BA in political science, has been named a 2024 Hogans Fellow by the Foundation for Public Affairs. Currently serving as Deputy Director of Government Relations at the U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association, Scoufaras has also held positions with

the U.S. House of Representatives and Mission: Restore, Inc.

Launched in 2023, the Hogans Fellowship program is designed to support the retention and advancement of emerging leaders in public affairs. The year-long program offers mid-level professionals the opportunity to receive skills training, mentorship, and valuable networking connections.

### Elvin Garcia, MPA '20, Recognized on City & State New York List of 100 Influential Latinos



Elvin Garcia, MPA '20, a former Colin Powell Graduate Fellow was named to City & State New York's list of 100 Influential Latinos for his work as Director of NYC Affairs at Tonio Burgos & Associates, a top public affairs firm. A first-generation Dominican-American raised in Manhattan, Garcia is now Director of

Government Affairs at NYU.

During his MPA program, Garcia championed immigration policy reform, driving his passion for public service. Before joining Tonio Burgos & Associates, he was a Presidential Fellow at the Open Society Foundations and Bronx Borough Director for Mayor Bill de Blasio. In 2016, City & State New York recognized him as a 40 Under 40 Rising Star.



### Nonya Khedr '21 Awarded Charles B. Rangel Fellowship



Nonya Khedr '21, an Egyptian immigrant who studied international studies and human rights at the Colin Powell School, has been awarded the prestigious

Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program Fellowship. Administered by Howard University on behalf of the U.S. State Department, the Rangel Fellowship prepares exceptional young leaders for careers as diplomats in the U.S. Foreign Service. Named after former Congressman Charles B. Rangel, who represented Harlem and Upper Manhattan,

including CCNY, for over four decades, the fellowship aims to support individuals committed to shaping a more free, secure, and prosperous world through U.S. foreign policy.

During her time at CCNY, Khedr was a passionate advocate for women's rights and the global eradication of Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting (FGM/C). She founded SheFFA, an organization dedicated to this cause, with support from the Zahn startup incubator, re-established the United Nations campus chapter, and was both a Colin Powell Fellow and a fellow in the Honors Program in Legal Studies.

### Kira Charles '22 Recognized by City & State "Power 100" List



Kira Charles '22, an alumna of the Colin Powell School, has been recognized by City & State on its prestigious Power 100 List, which highlights top consultants involved in local, state, and federal elections across

New York. The list is based on both objective factors, such as a firm's client roster and win-loss

record, and subjective ones, like the significance of the campaigns and the consultant's contribution to the outcomes.

Charles' work with Paragon Strategies was commended for advancing Black representation at all levels of government. Paragon Strategies was also noted for its close collaboration with the state Democratic Party and efforts to help Democratic organizations reclaim the majority in Congress.

### Anson Chung '22 Named a 2024-2025 APSA Diversity Fellow



Anson Cheuk-Hin Chung '22, a City College graduate with a double major in political science and history, has been selected as a 2024-2025 Diversity Fellow by the American Political Science Association

(APSA). While at CCNY, Chung was also a Kaye Scholar. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in political science at the University of Toronto.

Chung's research examines the impact of factors such as race, economic selection, and foreign policy on immigration policy, with a particular focus on Canada and the UK. As an immigrant from Hong Kong, Chung aims to use his PhD research to explore the challenges migrants face in Western countries, from migration policies to integration processes, and the role courts play in shaping these experiences.

# Deepening Support for Students

## THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK AND COLIN POWELL SCHOOL LAUNCH WELCOME INITIATIVE FOR NEW STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM WITH \$7.3M GRANT

The City College of New York has been awarded a \$7.3M grant from the U.S. Department of Education to support WELCOME (Welcoming Experiences and Learning Communities to Maximize Early Success), a research study aimed at identifying initiatives that enhance student success with a focus on new student onboarding at the Colin Powell School.

The grant will serve 2,600 students over the course of four years and will enable us to assess how key interventions during the first semester of college such as cohort-based learning, intensive academic advising, peer mentorship, and financial support impact long-term graduation and retention outcomes.

Meike Faber joined the Colin Powell School to oversee the program and has been working closely with advisors to ensure that incoming freshmen enroll in the study. Faber, who has a background in international education and grant management, sees the program as a way to instill a sense of belonging.

## WELCOME *program*

Welcoming Experiences and Learning  
Communities to Maximize Early Success

“I am thrilled to be working on a program that underscores the Colin Powell School’s commitment to continuously enhancing student support and making a profound difference in our students’ educational journeys at CCNY.”

—Meike Faber

This four-year grant is rooted in the Powell School’s experience with “Bridges to Success,” a student onboarding course that, since its launch in 2020, has demonstrated success at keeping a higher percentage of students in school and positioning them for both academic and professional success. Alongside the Colin Powell School, the initiative is led by the Provost’s Office and the College’s new Office of Experiential Learning.

## \$3 MILLION GRANT TO SUPPORT CAREER READINESS AT THE COLIN POWELL SCHOOL AND TWO OTHER CCNY DIVISIONS



The City  
College of New  
York’s newly  
established  
Office for

Experiential Learning (OEL) has received a five-year grant of \$2,999,599 from the U.S. Department of Education’s Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program to support the Career Awareness and Pathways at City College (CAPACity) initiative and its associated activities.

The grant will support work in three CCNY divisions: the Colin Powell School, the Spitzer School of Architecture, and the Division of Humanities and the Arts.

As part of this grant, CCNY will increase investments in career advisors across the three schools and divisions so that, upon graduation, students can attain opportunities often missed by first generation students and people of color. In the case of the Colin Powell School, this program

will expand and amplify the efforts being led by the school's Office of Student Success in all matters related to professional development and career preparation.

As a direct result of the grant, the Powell School has tapped two current professors, **Hawai Kwok** and **Paul Clifford**, to expand their roles beyond the classroom and take the lead on career readiness programs for the College's two largest majors: Psychology and Economics & Business, respectively.

“Around 60% of CCNY students are first-generation college attendees, and there is a clear need to strengthen the connection between the classroom and the workplace for students who may not be fully aware of how to successfully navigate the transition from CCNY into



sustainable career pathways. This program aims to highlight career support services and provide access to career activities and professional mentorship to bridge this gap and improve post-graduation career outcomes for our students.”

— Paul Clifford, Lecturer, Economics and Business.

“In engaging students in this role and partnering with them in learning new skills, they develop agency, which is key for their academic and professional growth. As a faculty advisor, I lay the framework to bridge the gap between what students think they can achieve and what they are truly capable of, reinforcing their goals.

Many do not believe they qualify to work in their field, and it's like a moment of epiphany and hope for them —it's wonderful to witness.”



— Hawai Kwok, Director of Academic Programs, Faculty Advisor, Psychology

## COLIN POWELL SCHOOL AND HEBREW FREE LOAN SOCIETY PARTNER TO PROVIDE INTEREST-FREE EMERGENCY LOANS TO STUDENTS

The Colin Powell School launched a partnership with the Hebrew Free Loan Society to extend interest-free loans of up to \$2,000 to Powell School students in order to support their immediate emergency financial needs. The precarity of personal finances is one of the biggest challenges our students face; a short-term loss of income for students or members of their families can knock them out of school for a semester, significantly lowering their chance of finishing their degrees. For many years, the Colin Powell School has had an emergency grant program to mitigate the effects of student financial challenges.

Thanks to this new partnership with the HFLS, students now have access to more emergency



funding and financial resources in order to help them stay in school.

The interest-

free emergency loans will be available to low- and moderate-income students currently enrolled in the Colin Powell School and referred to the HFLS by the school's administration.

The Hebrew Free Loan Society advances economic stability and opportunity for lower income New Yorkers within and beyond the Jewish community by making safe, affordable interest-free loans. HFLS is a non-sectarian lender that has been serving the New York City area since 1892.



# Faculty Highlights

## POWELL SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



As the Colin Powell School continues to grow its enrollment and programs, we are pleased to welcome the new faculty members who joined us in fall 2023

### MEGAN C. FINSAAS Assistant Professor of Psychology



Megan Finsaas brings her expertise in clinical psychology to the Colin Powell School, focusing on the complex dynamics of separation anxiety and developmental psychopathology. With a background in statistics and psychoanalysis, her work adds valuable depth to CCNY's faculty. Finsaas has co-authored several noteworthy papers, including "Sex-specific depressive symptom trajectories among adolescents" in *JAACAP Open*, and "Examining the relationship between genetic risk for depression and youth episodic stress exposure," forthcoming in the *Journal of Affective*

*Disorders*. Her tutorial on power analyses for interaction effects in cross-sectional regressions was published in *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science* in 2023.

**"My first year at City College has been rich with connection and excitement. I am grateful to have joined this wonderful community."** —Megan Finsaas

Finsaas received her MA and PhD in Clinical Psychology from SUNY Stony Brook, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at Columbia University. Her research, grounded in developmental psychopathology, explores the role of self and consciousness states like dissociation in separation anxiety. Currently, her lab is developing a survey study to further examine these constructs. Finsaas also contributes to the fields of statistics and psychoanalysis, and teaches courses such as "Statistics I," "Statistics II," and "Psychometrics,"

imparting her deep understanding of research methodology to her students.

### HUGH FOX

Lecturer, Economics and Business



Hugh Fox joins the Powell School with a transformative approach, focusing on Vertical Integrated Projects (VIPs) that combine education, civic engagement, and professional development.

These projects help bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world application, enhancing social and economic mobility. Since joining CCNY, Fox has been named a Faculty Development Fellow and co-facilitates Sustained Dialogue Workshops. He also co-chairs the Scholarship Committee and serves as faculty advisor for the Albanian Culture Club and the Association of Latino Professionals for America. Reflecting on his first year, Fox shares,

**“The Colin Powell School has provided me with a pivotal role in shaping students’ educational experiences and empowering them to achieve their academic and career goals.”** —Hugh Fox

Fox teaches courses like “Financial Management,” “Principles of Microeconomics,” and “Economics of Investment.” With a background in the private sector, nonprofits, and higher education, Fox emphasizes experiential learning and real-world application, simplifying complex economic principles into actionable steps. He is committed to advancing equitable economic systems and social justice through research, advocacy, and community engagement. He collaborates with private, governmental, and nonprofit organizations to address global economic inequities and frequently shares his expertise at conferences, inspiring educators and practitioners alike.

### KAI GILCHRIST

Lecturer, Psychology



Kai Gilchrist joins the Powell School faculty, bringing her passion for psychology and a strong focus on mental health. Her research interests span depression, anxiety, selective attention, and EEG, motivating her to seek innovative approaches to

mental health challenges. Since joining, Gilchrist has been awarded a Social Mobility Lab grant from the Powell School, underscoring her dedication to advancing research and supporting student success.

**“This has been a year full of collaboration, innovation, and dedication. It has been beautiful to see a division truly dedicated to the betterment of its students.”** —Kai Gilchrist

Gilchrist earned her BS in Psychology from City College and an MS in Neuroscience and Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. Since 2019, she has served as a lecturer and academic advisor at City College. Her research includes nontraditional treatments for depression and anxiety, as well as numerical cognition and language processing. In the classroom, Gilchrist brings her extensive knowledge to courses such as “Human Neuroanatomy,” “Experimental Psychology,” and “Psychology of Fashion.” Her dedication to student development, coupled with her research, makes her a valuable asset to the Powell School.

**DR. PRASH NAIDU, Assistant Professor,  
Anthropology and Interdisciplinary Programs**

Dr. Prash Naidu, an Assistant Professor of Environmental and Medical Anthropology at The City College of New York, brings a multidisciplinary approach to his research,





which focuses on the socio-environmental impacts of resource extraction, environmental health, and justice. His work spans field locations in Southeast Asia, Oceania, and the northeastern United States, where he explores how pollution

and environmental burdens, particularly air pollution, disproportionately affect marginalized communities of color. Central to his research is understanding the intersection of environmental racism and health disparities, with the goal of driving societal transformations toward more equitable and resilient futures.

At CCNY, Naidu is spearheading the development of the Health, Environment, and AnThropology (HEAT) lab. This lab specializes in environmental health and justice and aims to work with Harlem and South Bronx communities to address environmental racism. The lab will also provide mentorship for students at the Colin Powell School, preparing them for careers that bridge social science and environmental health science. Additionally, Naidu is collaborating with the CCNYMSK partnership on a National Cancer Institute-funded project examining the impact of air quality on cancer patients' well-being, with his "Freedom to Breathe" study assessing the use of air quality monitors in encouraging smoke-free homes.

Naidu's research programs are rooted in mixed methods, including geospatial health analysis, ethnography, and community-based participatory action. His projects include studies on coastal transformations in Oceania, the human health impacts of sand mining, and the chronic respiratory diseases caused by environmental racism in North America.

In the classroom, Naidu teaches a variety of courses, including Anthropology of Health and

Healing and Environmental and Climate Justice. He finds deep fulfillment in connecting with students.

**"For the first time ever I feel a strong sense that I am making a difference in the classroom, particularly when core concepts in medical anthropology resonate with students' life experiences."** —Prash Naidu

**LIORA SCHULMAN,**  
Doctoral Lecturer, Economics and Business



Dr. Liora Schulman, is an expert in corporate tax avoidance and earnings management. Since joining CCNY, Schulman has taken on leadership roles, serving as Deputy Chair of the department since 2023. She teaches a

variety of accounting and business courses, including Principles of Management, Principles of Statistics, Principles of Accounting, and Principles of Marketing.

In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Schulman is deeply involved in faculty development and student success initiatives. She is participating in the Faculty Development Fellowship Program (2023-2024), serves on the CPS Fellowships Selection Committee (Spring 2024), and is a Macaulay Honors College application reader (Winter 2024). Schulman will also contribute to the 2024 Accounting Information Systems Bootcamp (Summer 2024).

**"I have thoroughly enjoyed returning to CUNY, engaging with our amazing students, and taking advantage of the programming the Powell School offers while meeting so many colleagues and students along the way."** —Liora Schulman

Schulman's research and teaching continue to



shape future business leaders while advancing the understanding of financial practices in corporate tax and accounting.

**EDWARD A VESSEL, Eugene Surowitz Assistant Professor of Psychology**



Edward A. Vessel joined the Department of Psychology as the Eugene Surowitz Assistant Professor of Computational Cognitive Neuroscience. His research group, the Visual Neuroaesthetics Lab, explores the neural

and psychological foundations of aesthetic experiences, creative insight, and curiosity using a combination of behavior, brain imaging, and computational methods. Vessel holds a BA from Johns Hopkins University and a PhD in neuroscience from the University of Southern California. Before joining CCNY, he was a Senior Research Scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics in Frankfurt and co-directed NYU's Artlab.

Since arriving at CCNY, Vessel has published significant work, including "Genetic effects on variability in visual aesthetic evaluations" in *Communications Biology*. He has received grants such as the Division 10 Early Career Research Micro Grant and the PSC-CUNY Research Award, and earned a CUNY Academy Faculty Travel Award for his contributions to the field.

**"It's been a busy but fulfilling year getting to know the amazing students at CCNY! I'm especially excited to be getting my lab up and running again."** —Edward Vessel

He brings his cutting-edge research into the classroom, teaching courses like "Mind, Brain and Experience" and "The Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts."

**LINDSAY M ZAFIR, Distinguished Lecturer, Anthropology and Interdisciplinary Programs**



Lindsay Zafir joins the Powell School as a Distinguished Lecturer in Anthropology and Interdisciplinary Programs, and serves as the Academic Director of Leadership for Democracy and Social Justice. Zafir holds a PhD in History from

Yale University, with research focused on social movements, science, and sexuality. She is the co-founder and co-director of the ACORN Oral History Project, documenting the experiences of staff, members, and leaders of ACORN, a renowned community organizing group. Zafir is also the co-editor of *Power Lines: Building a Labor-Climate Justice Movement*, a widely acclaimed anthology. Her dissertation earned the George Washington Egelston Prize at Yale, and she continues to make significant academic contributions.

**"I had a fantastic first year at CPS! My students were all so enthusiastic and eager to learn."**

—Lindsay Zafir

Zafir teaches courses such as "LGBTQ+ Activism in U.S. History," "Social Change in U.S. History," and "Power and Strategy." Beyond teaching and research, she has served as the editor of *The Forge: Organizing Strategy and Practice*, an online platform for progressive organizers. Currently, she is working on a book titled *State of Denial*, which examines the global rise in science denialism, including HIV/AIDS denialism.

**LEO CANCELMO, Clinical Professor Assistant Director, The Psychological Center**

Dr. Leo Cancelmo serves as the Assistant Director of The Psychological Center, the



Community Mental Health Clinic and Training Clinic for the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program at The City College of New York, where he is also a Clinical Professor. At The Psychological Center, Dr.

Cancelmo helps guide the next generation of clinical psychologists through hands-on training, supervision, and mentorship, playing a pivotal role in shaping their clinical skills and professional development.

Dr. Cancelmo's combined expertise in clinical practice and academic instruction makes him an invaluable asset to the CCNY community. His

work in clinical supervision and consultation, as well as his passion for mentoring PhD students, has had a lasting impact on both his students and the broader field of mental health.

**"Getting to help PhD students as they do their clinical work is something I look forward to each and every day."** —*Leo Cancelmo*

Dr. Cancelmo earned his PhD in Clinical Psychology from The City University of New York and completed a Post-doctoral Fellowship in Serious Mental Illness at Lenox Hill Hospital. He currently teaches courses such as Child Psychopathology, while continuing to make significant contributions to mental health and psychology education at CCNY.

## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF DEDICATION: HONORING ASSOCIATE DEAN KEVIN FOSTER



In September 2023, Colin Powell School honored Associate Dean Kevin Foster's 25 years of service as a professor at CCNY with a special dinner and reception.

Dean Foster has been an invaluable asset not only to the Colin Powell School but to the entire college. Nearly 100 former students, faculty, and staff gathered, along with CCNY President Vince Boudreau and Dean Andrew Rich, to celebrate this milestone. The event was made even more memorable by surprise video messages from

Foster's daughters, adding a personal and heartfelt touch to the evening.

**"It's a joy to be part of the mission here, and that's what has kept me. I love working with passionate students and seeing the amazing things they go on to do. I've also seen significant improvements in the Powell School's ability to help students achieve their goals. I'm looking forward to the future!"** —*Kevin Foster*



Foster's 25-year journey at CCNY has been defined by his dedication to education and his profound impact on countless students and colleagues. His unwavering commitment continues to shape the future of the Powell School and inspire generations to come.

## In Memoriam

### RICHARD BERNSTEIN



Professor Richard B. Bernstein, a cherished member of the Department of Political Science since 2011, passed away on the twenty-fifth of June of last year, leaving a significant void at the Colin Powell School. Known for his dedication as a teacher and mentor, Bernstein guided many students into careers in law and was instrumental in shaping the Honors Program in Legal Studies.

A distinguished constitutional historian, Bernstein was deeply passionate about the U.S. Constitution and the founding era, which infused both his teaching and scholarship. He authored over a dozen books and numerous articles, aiming to make complex legal ideas accessible to wider audiences. His influence extended far beyond City College, as he actively participated in forums like the NYU Legal History Colloquium and the American Society for Legal History.

On the twenty-eighth of September, the Colin Powell School held a memorial celebrating Bernstein's life, attended by friends, family, colleagues, and students. Tributes from President Boudreau, Dean Rich, and others highlighted Bernstein's profound impact on generations of students and

the College. His brother Steven reflected, "My brother's legacy is in his books, his affiliations, and the countless students whose lives he changed."

Though his passing is deeply mourned, Bernstein's influence on legal scholarship and education will continue to inspire and endure.

### MARGARITA ASHA SAMAD-MATIAS



Professor Margarita Asha Samad-Matias, a dedicated member of CCNY's Anthropology Department for fifty years, passed away on September 8, 2023. Joining the faculty in 1973, her influence extended across Black Studies and Women's Studies, where she served as Director. She was committed to enhancing CCNY's curriculum and advocating for student diversity.

Fluent in five languages, Professor Samad-Matias brought rich personal and professional experiences to her teaching. Her rigorous standards encouraged students to engage deeply with global and local issues, particularly in her courses on medical anthropology and human rights. A dedicated advocate for immigrant and refugee rights, she embodied public scholarship through years of human rights activism.

Professor Samad-Matias's legacy is cherished by her daughter, Laala Matias, her family, and the countless students she inspired. Her passing is a profound loss to the CCNY community.

### GABRIEL HASLIP-VIERA



Professor Emeritus Gabriel Haslip-Viera, a distinguished faculty member, passed away on January 3, 2024. He made significant contributions to the Latin American and Latino Studies Program and served as Chair of the Department of Sociology. His academic career included leadership roles at Hunter College and CCNY, where he specialized in the social history of colonial Mexico and the evolution of Latino communities in New York City. Known for his compelling lectures, he offered critical insights into racial identities in scholarly discourse.

Professor Ramona Hernandez of the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute reflected on his impact, describing him as a beacon of wisdom and support, deeply committed to education and community enrichment. His advocacy for diversity and inclusion in academia highlighted his dedication to social justice, earning him profound respect at CCNY and beyond.



# Research, Grants, Publications and Awards

## HISTORIC NSF \$1.5M GRANT TO THE CUNY DOMINICAN STUDIES INSTITUTE: ADVANCING EQUITY IN STEM FOR LATINO/A/X STUDENTS

The Dominican Studies Institute (DSI) has been awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). This grant, part of the NSF's Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Program, aims to enhance the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of Latino/a/x students in STEM programs.

This funding is part of a \$3 million initiative shared equally between DSI and the University of New Mexico (UNM). The grant will support the creation of resource hubs at both institutions to serve HSIs nationwide.

**“Over the next five years, DSI will work to advance equity and student success in STEM by creating a hub that centers intersectionality as inquiry and praxis. This hub will serve as a connector and a resource for all who are interested in advancing equity and student success in STEM.”** —Dr. Ramona



*Hernandez, CUNY DSI Director*

The diversification of STEM is recognized as an essential endeavor for fostering a more inclusive scientific community. The intersectional approach championed by this grant holds great promise for identifying and lowering the barriers faced by Latino/a/x students interested in STEM fields. The

support from NSF is instrumental in addressing these issues and ensuring broader participation in STEM education and careers.

The project, titled “Collaborative Research: HSI-Hubs: Intersectionality as Inquiry & Praxis: Race, Class, Gender & Ethnicity for Student Success in STEM,” will:

- Examine institutional data to assess equity in admissions, enrollment, retention, degrees awarded, and post-degree outcomes.

- Develop and convene communities of practice, consisting of faculty fellows and other stakeholders, to share and learn about successful equity initiatives and develop action plans for their institutions.

- Center intersectionality as equity through narrative change, communication strategies, and publications.

Dr. Hernandez will collaborate with Yoel Rodriguez from Hostos Community College and Maria-Isabel Roldos-Prosser from Lehman College. Together, they will address and dismantle the barriers preventing Latino/a/x students from succeeding in STEM.

This NSF grant underscores DSI's pivotal role in fostering an inclusive and equitable educational environment, promising a brighter future for Latino/a/x students in STEM.

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## INNOVATIVE PTSD TREATMENT FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER: DR. TERESA LÓPEZ-CASTRO SECURES \$7 MILLION NIH GRANT

Dr. Teresa López-Castro, Associate Professor of Psychology, has been awarded a prestigious \$7 million grant from the National Institute on Drug

Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This significant grant will fund a six-year study aimed at addressing the trauma-related

mental health needs of individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD).

Dr. López-Castro's groundbreaking research will adapt and test a post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) treatment for telehealth delivery at syringe services programs (SSPs) across New York State. SSPs are community-based prevention programs that provide harm reduction services, including access to and disposal of sterile syringes, treatment of infectious diseases, and low-barrier treatment of substance use disorders. By integrating high-quality PTSD treatment into SSPs, this project aims to reach highly marginalized populations for whom traditional healthcare systems are often inaccessible.

In collaboration with Dr. Aaron Fox, Associate Professor of Medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center, Dr. López-Castro will use the award to broaden the scope of SSP services to include cognitive processing therapy, an evidence-based PTSD treatment tailored to the needs of highly marginalized individuals with opioid use disorders. This population often faces stigma related to injection drug use, trauma histories, or housing instability, which causes them to be inadequately served by traditional healthcare systems and to rely mainly on emergency services when seeking mental health care. The investigative team supporting Dr. López-

Castro includes Nancy Sohler, Associate Professor of Epidemiology at CUNY School of Medicine; Aimee Campbell, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatric Social Work at Columbia University Irving Medical Center; and Debra Lee Kaysen, Chief of the Division of Public Mental Health & Population Sciences at Stanford University's Department of Psychiatry.

**“Low barrier, harm reduction care is about meeting the individual where they are — a kind of defiant hospitality for folks who have often been let down by the medical system. Ending the opioid crisis will require equitable and sustainable collaborations with organizations like SSPs — nontraditional places of contact that provide non-judgmental, person-centered interventions.”**



- Dr. Teresa López-Castro

This remarkable achievement underscores the commitment to addressing critical public health challenges through innovative research and collaboration. The project promises to have a significant positive impact on the lives of individuals struggling with PTSD and opioid use disorder.

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## **ADDRESSING LUNG CANCER DISPARITIES: PROFESSORS ADRIANA ESPINOSA AND LESIA RUGLASS SECURE \$200K NIH/NCI GRANT**

Associate Professors of Psychology Adriana Espinosa and Lesia Ruglass have been awarded a \$200,000 Supplemental Grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute (NIH/NCI) for their innovative project aimed at addressing lung cancer disparities among non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic adults, particularly men.

Their research will explore the impact of social determinants of health (SDOH) on lung cancer risk within these minority populations. By utilizing data from the All of Us epidemiological study, the project will analyze how SDOH intersect with sex and race/ethnicity among non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic adults in the United States.



The primary objectives include identifying which SDOH significantly influence lung cancer risk concerning sociodemographic characteristics and examining how these patterns affect lung cancer risk across different populations. This study aims to provide valuable insights into the sex and race/ethnicity differences in lung cancer risk, ultimately contributing to more effective public health strategies and interventions.

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## DEIDRE ANGLIN'S RESEARCH ON PSYCHOSIS AND ETHNORACIAL INEQUITIES RECEIVES FUNDING FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH



Deidre Anglin, an Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology in the Department of Psychology and in the Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology, played a key role in securing a grant from the National Institute of Mental

Health (NIMH). This grant funds the operations of the Optimizing and Personalizing Interventions for Schizophrenia Across the Lifespan (OPAL) Center at Columbia University for the next five years. Dr. Anglin co-leads the EthnoRacial Inequities and Social Determinants Unit (ERISDU) at the OPAL Center and serves as a co-investigator on the overall grant.

In addition to her role at the OPAL Center, Dr. Anglin directs the Clinical and Social Epidemiology

(CASE) lab at CCNY, where her research focuses on identifying social determinants of psychosis risk in racial and minority populations. As the principal investigator of an OPAL pilot project, she will use innovative mixed-methods to explore how understanding racism and neighborhood factors among Black youth with a first episode of psychosis can inform the development of targeted interventions. The OPAL ALACRITY Center aims to “develop, adapt, and examine interventions that address important issues in the treatment and delivery of services for schizophrenia using a multi-disciplinary approach.”

Dr. Anglin's research is critical in addressing mental health disparities faced by ethnoracial minorities and aims to improve mental health outcomes for these underserved populations. Her work exemplifies CCNY's commitment to impactful research that promotes equity and social justice.

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## PROFESSOR IRINA CARLOTA SILBER'S AFTER STORIES GARNERS AWARDS AND PRAISE

Professor Irina Carlota Silber's book, *After Stories: Transnational Intimacies of Postwar El Salvador* (2022), has received significant accolades, highlighting its contribution to the field of anthropology. The book was awarded a Bronze Medal in the Current Events category at the Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPYs) and

won the 2023 APLA (Association for Political and Legal Anthropology) Book Prize in Critical Anthropology. This recognition underscores the book's exploration of Salvadoran families' experiences with migration, violence, and social care in the postwar period.





*After Stories* builds on nearly 25 years of Professor Silber's ethnographic research in Chalatenango, El Salvador. The narrative traverses geographic and temporal boundaries, focusing on

the everyday lives of Salvadoran families. The book delves into their acts of labor, love, and the ongoing calls for memory, truth, and accountability in the long postwar period. Professor Silber examines the lives of young Salvadorans raised in an environment of radical politics who later migrated to the United States.

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## PROFESSOR LARRY AU AWARDED 2023 STAR-NELKIN AWARD AND EARNS LUCE/ACLS EARLY CAREER FELLOWSHIP



Sociology Professor Larry Au has been awarded the 2023 Star-Nelkin Paper Award by the American Sociological Association's Science, Knowledge, and Technology Section, recognizing his outstanding scholarship in the sociology of science, knowledge, and technology.

His award-winning paper explores the experiences of Long-COVID patients in the U.S., focusing on "medical gaslighting" and emphasizing the additional challenges posed by gender, class, and racial disparities.

Au's passion for sociology developed during his undergraduate studies, at Brown University prompting him to pursue a PhD at Columbia University. He joined the Powell School as

an Assistant Professor in 2022. His research interests include inclusive science and medicine, globalization, and the politics surrounding Long COVID. He is currently working on his first book, *Dreams of Global Science: The Transnational Politics of Chinese Biomedical Innovation*.

In addition to this accolade, Professor Au has received an Early Career Fellowship from the Luce/ACLS Program in China Studies, awarded by the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). This fellowship, which includes a \$15,000 grant, supports emerging scholars focusing on China's societies, history, culture, geopolitics, art, and global impact. It will aid his research project, "Science in the Chinese Periphery," which examines how scientists in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macau serve as intermediaries between scientific institutions in Mainland China and global scientific networks.

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## CUNY HONORS MARGARET ROSARIO AS DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR



Dr. Margaret Rosario has been awarded the prestigious title of Distinguished Professor by The City University of New York (CUNY), the highest academic honor conferred by CUNY in recognition of exceptional

scholarly achievement.

Renowned for her pioneering research on identity development and its health implications, particularly among lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth, Dr. Rosario's work has significantly advanced the understanding of sexual identity, stress, and the intersectionality of multiple identities.

Dr. Rosario's career is marked by numerous honors, including:

The Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (SSSS)

The Distinguished Scientific Contributions Award from the American Psychological Association's Division 44 (The Society for the Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity)

The Distinguished Contribution to Ethnic Minority Issues Award from APA's Division 44

In addition to her research, Dr. Rosario serves as an associate editor of *The Journal of Sex Research* and the quarterly *Annals of LGBTQ Public and Population Health*. She is also on the editorial boards of *Archives of Sexual Behavior* and the *American Journal of Community Psychology*. Her leadership extends to having been a past president of APA's Division 44.

Her Distinguished Professorship is a testament to her extraordinary contributions to psychology and her dedication to advancing knowledge on critical issues affecting diverse communities.

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## PROFESSOR NICHOLAS SMITH AWARDED DAVID COLLIER MID-CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Dr. Nicholas Rush Smith, director of the Master's Program in International Relations, has been awarded the David Collier Mid-Career Achievement Award by the American Political Science Association.

The award honors David Collier's contributions — through his research,

graduate teaching, and institution-building — as a founder of the qualitative and multi-method research movement in contemporary political science. The award is presented to a mid-career political scientist to recognize distinction in methodological publications, innovative application of qualitative and multi-method approaches in substantive research, and/or institutional contributions to this area of methodology.

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## PROFESSOR ADEYINKA AKINSULURE-SMITH SELECTED INAUGURAL MABEL SHELBY FACULTY FELLOW



Professor Adeyinka Akinsulure-Smith, a tenured faculty member in the Department of Psychology, has been appointed as the inaugural Mabel Shelby Faculty Fellow. This fellowship honors and supports CCNY faculty making significant contributions to

women's and gender studies, either directly or through intersectionality. It includes a \$10,000 stipend and an additional \$2,500 for research expenses.

Dr. Akinsulure-Smith's research focuses on the experiences of female migrants from sub-Saharan Africa who have recently arrived in New York City via Latin America— a route that has become increasingly common yet perilous. Her study examines their migratory paths, motivations for their journeys, and the physical and psychological repercussions they face pre-departure, at borders, and post-arrival. The research methodology involves interviews with service providers and migrants, including both women and men, from faith-based organizations, medical services, and legal aid.

This research aims to illuminate the challenges faced by these women, such as housing insecurity, food scarcity, language barriers, discrimination, and legal complexities. It also addresses the traumas encountered during their journeys, particularly through the Darien Gap, and their adjustment to life in New York City. Dr. Akinsulure-Smith emphasizes, “These individuals’ experiences remain underrepresented in psychological literature.” She began her fellowship research in January 2024 and expects to complete it by the end of the 2024-25 academic year.

With over three decades of dedication to New York City’s African immigrant community, Dr. Akinsulure-Smith co-founded Nah We Yone, a nonprofit assisting war victims from the African diaspora. As a mental health clinician with the Bellevue Program for Survivors of Torture, she has supported survivors of human rights abuses, especially those from sub-Saharan Africa. Her advocacy, clinical practice, research, and teaching focus on forced migrants, mental health interventions in low-resource settings, and the mental health consequences of service provision.

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### **PROFESSOR MATTHEW REILLY NAMED WINNER OF 2024 MARK E. MACK COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD**



Professor Matthew Reilly’s project, “Back-to-Africa: Archaeology and Heritage in Liberia,” has been awarded the inaugural Mark E. Mack Community Engagement Award by the Society for Historical Archaeology. This prestigious

award recognizes researchers or research teams that exemplify best practices in community collaboration, engagement, and outreach in historical archaeology and heritage preservation.

It honors the legacy of Mark E. Mack, a renowned professor of anthropology at Howard University known for his contributions to the New York African Burial Ground Project.

Upon receiving this recognition, Professor Reilly expressed his gratitude, stating, “It’s truly wonderful to receive this honor after several years of community-engaged work.” His project explores Liberia’s unique Atlantic-era history, focusing on its significance for the Back-to-Africa movement— a topic that had previously gone unexplored.

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### **PROFESSOR ELLIOT JURIST RECEIVES LEADERSHIP AWARD FROM THE SOCIETY FOR PSYCHOANALYSIS AND PSYCHOANALYTIC PSYCHOLOGY**



Professor Elliot Jurist has been recognized by the Society for Psychoanalysis and Psychoanalytic Psychology (Division 39) with the prestigious Leadership Award for his outstanding work in service of the Division and

his contributions to advancing psychoanalytic psychology and psychoanalysis. This award is granted to individuals who have made significant contributions to the field as a discipline and practice.

The Society for Psychoanalysis and Psychoanalytic Psychology represents professionals with a major commitment to the study, practice,



and development of psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic psychotherapy. Professor Jurist's recognition by this esteemed society underscores his exceptional dedication and influence in these areas.

Jurist, a professor of Psychology and Philosophy at the CUNY Graduate Center and CCNY, has had a distinguished career. From 2004 to 2013, he directed the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program at CUNY, and from 2008 to 2018, he was the editor of the journal *Psychoanalytic Psychology*.

He currently edits the book series *Psychoanalysis and Psychological Science* from Guilford Publications. One of his notable books in the series, *Minding Emotions: Cultivating Mentalization in Psychotherapy*, was named the best theoretical book in 2019 by the American Board and Academy of Psychoanalysis.

His recent works include co-authoring *Working with Parents Across the Lifespan: A Mentalization-Informed Approach* and a forthcoming book titled *Indulgences: Memoir & Therapy*.

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## COLIN POWELL SCHOOL STAFF AND FACULTY SERVICE AWARDS

Every year, the Powell School selects outstanding faculty and staff to be recognized with Faculty and Staff Awards. This year's recipients were honored at a luncheon for the Powell School community on May 16, 2024. Here are the remarkable individuals recognized this year.

These individuals were celebrated for their exceptional dedication and impact within the Powell School community, embodying excellence in teaching, mentoring, community service, and staff support.

### Community Service Award

#### BOBBY DERIVAL

##### Executive Director of the MPA Program



Bobby Derival, with over a decade of experience in both the public and private sectors, is a passionate leader dedicated to driving positive social change through education, mentorship, and collaboration. As Executive

Director of the MPA Graduate Program at the Colin Powell School, Bobby oversees the academic and administrative functions of a dynamic and diverse program designed to prepare students for impactful careers in public service and non-profit management. He is deeply committed to fostering a culture of excellence, innovation, and inclusion,

in alignment with the values and mission of both the school and the university.

In his role, Bobby manages essential program operations, including student recruitment and admissions, curriculum development and evaluation, faculty and staff supervision, alumni engagement, partnership building, and event planning. Drawing on his background as a public health practitioner and entrepreneur, he enhances the program's educational impact and provides mentorship to both students and faculty. His leadership extends beyond administration, as he actively nurtures connections within the civic leadership landscape of New York City. A proud alumnus of the Coro Leadership New York fellowship, Bobby continues to contribute to the multi-sector civic community, bringing his expertise and vision to the next generation of public leaders.

**DIANA PUÑALES MOREJON**  
Director of The Psychological Center



Dr. Diana Puñales Morejon is a licensed psychologist in New York, specializing in multicultural psychology. Her areas of interest include immigration and Latino psychology, domestic violence, childhood trauma, health psychology, and acculturative

stress. She has extensive experience working with Latino, bilingual, and monolingual Spanish-speaking populations, as well as other diverse high-risk groups.

As Director of the Psychological Center at The City College of New York (CCNY), the Training Clinic for the Clinical Psychology PhD Program, Dr. Puñales oversees clinical teams of doctoral students, reviews patient treatments, and provides psychotherapy and psychological evaluations, primarily to Latino patients. She also serves on the program's Leadership Team and the Graduate Faculty of Arts and Sciences at CUNY.

Previously, she worked as a Senior Genetic Counselor at Beth Israel Medical Center for over 15 years. Dr. Puñales has served on advisory boards for the NIH, AMA, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, and March of Dimes. She is a member of several professional associations and a trained site visitor for the APA Commission on Accreditation.

**LOTTI SILBER**, Chair, Department of Anthropology and Interdisciplinary Programs  
Director of Strategic Initiatives, Colin Powell School



Dr. Irina Carlota (Lotti) Silber is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology and Interdisciplinary Programs at the Colin Powell School, and serves on the Doctoral Faculty in Anthropology at the CUNY Graduate Center. She earned her

PhD from New York University and has received numerous fellowships, including a Fulbright-Hays and a CUNY Mellon Mid-Career Fellowship. Silber is the author of *Everyday Revolutionaries: Gender, Violence, and Disillusionment in Postwar El Salvador* (Rutgers, 2011), with a Spanish edition published in 2018. Her recent works include *After Stories: Transnational Intimacies of Postwar El Salvador* (Stanford, 2022) and a co-edited volume, *Higher Education, State Repression, and Neoliberal Reform in Nicaragua* (Routledge, 2023).

Her research interests span ethnographic genres, gender, violence, and postwar transitions. Silber is Co-PI on an NSF ADVANCE award focused on diversity and equity in STEM. Currently, she is working on an ethnography of childhood genetic difference, *Luminous: Children in Chronic Times*. She co-chairs the University Seminar in Disability, Culture, and Society at Columbia University and serves on the Board of the Anthropology Section of the New York Academy of Sciences.

## Full-Time Teaching Award

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**DIANA GREENWALD**  
Assistant Professor of Political Science

Diana B. Greenwald's research focuses on the politics of the Middle East, nationalism, conflict, and state-building. She earned her PhD in political science from the University of Michigan in 2017.

From 2017 to 2018, she was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Middle East Initiative at the Harvard Kennedy School. Her upcoming book, *Mayors in the Middle: Indirect Rule and Local Government in Occupied Palestine* (Columbia University Press, 2024), explores Palestinian local politics under Israeli occupation, drawing on

interviews with municipal leaders and local data collected in the West Bank between 2014 and 2019.



Greenwald's work has been published in *PS: Political Science & Politics*, *Middle East Law and Governance*, and *Civil Wars*. She has also contributed to *The National Interest*, *The Washington Post's Monkey Cage*, *+972 Magazine*, and *Foreign Policy*. Her research has been supported by RFCUNY, the United States Institute of Peace, the Rackham Graduate School at the University of Michigan, and the Project on Middle East Political Science.

### Adjunct Teaching Award

#### JACQUES FOMERAND

**Instructor in the Master's in International Affairs Program**



Dr. Jacques Fomerand is an adjunct professor at the Colin Powell School. A native of France, Dr. Fomerand studied law and political science at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Aix-en-Provence. He completed his graduate studies at the City

University of New York, earning a PhD in political science with a specialization in comparative government and international organization.

Joining the United Nations in 1977, Dr. Fomerand focused on economic and social issues within the Office of the Under-Secretary-General of the Department for International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA). He later became Chief of the Inter-Organizational Cooperation Section of

DIESA, before being reassigned to the United Nations University in 1992. He served as Director of the United Nations University's North American office until his retirement in 2003. Dr. Fomerand has published extensively on topics such as North-South issues, multilateralism, human rights, and the United Nations.

### Faculty & Staff Mentoring Award

#### CYNTHIA GUTIERREZ

**Director of Mentoring and Alumni Relations**



Cynthia Gutierrez is the Director of Mentoring and Alumni Relations at the Colin Powell School. She has developed and managed peer, alumni, and professional mentoring programs, with a focus on supporting first-generation college students.

Cynthia also manages the first-year onboarding course, Bridges to Success.

Prior to joining the Colin Powell School, she worked at LaGuardia Community College, where she developed and led mentoring and leadership programs for six years. Before LaGuardia, Cynthia worked for more than a decade at the Greater New York Hospital Association, focusing on healthcare quality improvement initiatives. A proud NYC native, Cynthia is a first-generation American and the first in her family to graduate from college.

### Staff Service Award

#### JENIFER ROMAN

**Political Science Department Administrative Assistant**

Jenifer Roman has served as the Administrator of the Political Science Department at City College of





New York for five years. Born and raised in the Bronx to Puerto Rican parents, Jenifer is a proud first-generation graduate of CCNY, where she earned her degree in Interdisciplinary Arts and Science through the CWE program. To her, City

College feels like home, and she enjoys connecting with students, drawing on her own experiences to relate to their journeys. Passionate about mentorship and student success, Jenifer is deeply committed to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment within the department. Her own path as a first-generation student inspires her to encourage others to persevere and embrace the opportunities available at CCNY.

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## DEAN ANDREW RICH CELEBRATED FOR FIVE YEARS OF TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP



Dean Andrew Rich recently marked his five-year anniversary as dean of the Colin Powell School with two significant recognitions for his outstanding contributions to higher education and public service. *City & State* included him on their inaugural Trailblazers in Higher Education list, noting his innovative leadership that has driven a nearly 40% increase in enrollments and a \$72 million-and-counting capital campaign.

During his tenure, Dean Rich has spearheaded pivotal initiatives such as the Office of Student Success, the Moynihan Center at CCNY, Leadership for Democracy and Social Justice, and the Social Mobility Lab, while also expanding staff and faculty to support the school's mission of accessible and high-quality education.

Further highlighting his commitment to public service, Dean Rich was honored with the Daily Point of Light Award by the Points of Light Foundation. This award recognizes his impactful leadership as board chair for Friends of the Truman Foundation and his contributions to the Colin Powell School. Nominated by Dr. Terry Babcock-Lumish, his successor at the Truman Scholarship Foundation, Dean Rich's dedication to civic engagement and volunteer service has been a beacon of inspiration.

As Dean Rich continues to lead the Powell School, his vision and dedication ensure the continuation of CCNY's legacy of transformative education and public service excellence.





*“Get off the beaten path, discover new communities. Respect and engage with people whose passions and opinions differ from your own. Speak your mind with courage and clarity, but also stand up for the right of your opponents to do the same. Become part of institutions that will magnify your voice and drive change.”* —Anthony Romero, Executive Director, ACLU



## 2024 Commencement



On May 30th, the Colin Powell School proudly celebrated a record-breaking graduation, honoring over 1,000 graduates in a spectacular ceremony at the historic United Palace Theater in Washington Heights. This marked the first time the school held its commencement at this iconic venue, which provided a fitting backdrop for the momentous occasion. More than 2,900 guests attended in person, with an additional 3,000 tuning in via livestream to celebrate the achievements of the graduating class.

Anthony Romero, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), delivered a powerful keynote address, which *Inside Higher Education* hailed as one of the most relevant of

the graduation season. Romero's leadership at the ACLU, where he has championed civil liberties since 2001, made his message particularly meaningful. Under his guidance, the ACLU has led groundbreaking litigation on issues such as the war on terror, Guantánamo, and same-sex marriage rights. A New York native and the first Latino and openly gay executive director of the ACLU, Romero's personal and professional journey was an inspiring message for the Class of 2024.

Linda Powell, Chair of our Board of Visitors, cheered on every graduate from the front row, alongside Marco Antonio Achón and Shahara Ahmad-Llewellyn, members of our Board of Visitors.



*“Our time at the Colin Powell School has equipped us with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make a difference. Let us pursue greater tomorrows with passion and purpose, knowing we have the power to effect change.”*

—Alivya Barry  
2024 Valedictorian Address

## CLASS OF 2024 VALEDICTORIAN

### ALIVYA BARRY,



Alivya Barry, a biracial, first-generation graduate, earned her BA/MA in research psychology with a minor in anthropology at the Colin Powell School. During her time at CCNY, Barry made significant contributions to a range of research projects, presenting her work at conferences and earning numerous awards and certifications for her academic excellence. Inspired by her mission-driven parents, Barry is determined to pursue a PhD in Clinical Developmental Psychology, with aspirations to become a university professor, researcher, and clinician. Her passion for studying sexual abuse and resilience stems from her personal experiences working with foster children: “When I was 7, we started fostering kids, which exposed me to many levels of trauma. I saw firsthand the impacts of poverty, cognitive disabilities, and physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.”

Barry’s dedication to integrating evidence-based practices into program development and her commitment to finding innovative solutions for poverty alleviation drive her work. In her valedictorian address, she reflected on the struggles many of her peers faced, from balancing work and family responsibilities to enduring homelessness and food insecurity. Barry celebrated how, despite these obstacles, they demonstrated resilience and a determination to create brighter futures.

## CLASS OF 2024 SALUTATORIANS

### ZINÉ EBERSOHN



Ziné Ebersohn, a South African-born international student, pursued dual majors in psychology and philosophy during her time at the Colin Powell School.

Ebersohn made significant contributions to the school community, serving as a Colin Powell Fellow and a mentor in the Student Success Guide program, while also interning at I’RAISE Girls & Boys International, where she focused on youth mental health. Looking ahead, she plans to apply to graduate programs that blend her interests in the

philosophy of psychology and clinical psychology. For Ebersohn, the most valuable aspect of her experience at The City College of New York has been the vibrant, intellectually curious community of students and faculty that has profoundly impacted her personal and academic growth. She envisions using her passion for healing and education to expand access to mental health services.

### STEVEN FERNANDEZ

Steven Fernandez, a financial economics graduate originally from the Dominican Republic, embodies resilience and determination. After immigrating



to the United States in 2007, he grew up in Washington Heights, where his family faced considerable financial hardships, including housing instability and the high cost of living. These challenges fueled his determination to pursue a career in finance, where he aims to help others facing similar struggles. While at CCNY, Fernandez was highly involved in campus life, serving as a Teaching Assistant in the Department of Finance and founding the Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA) chapter at the college. He also completed internships with notable organizations such as BNY Mellon, Bloom Energy, and Catholic Charities, gaining valuable experience in finance. Fernandez plans to continue his academic journey by pursuing a master's degree in applied analytics, with the goal of working in finance or data analytics to make meaningful contributions to the industry and support those in need.

### SUMAIYA RASHID



Sumaiya Rashid, a Queens native and first-generation Bangladeshi-American, graduated with a major in psychology and double minors in international studies and anthropology.

Throughout her time at the Colin Powell School, Rashid has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to social justice, particularly in the areas of mental health accessibility and educational equity. She participated in the prestigious Colin Powell Fellowship in Leadership and Public Service, as well as the S Jay Levy Fellowship for Future Leaders, both of which provided her with opportunities to intern at organizations such as

the International Rescue Committee and I'RAISE Girls & Boys International. As a Student Success Guide and Peer Mentor, Rashid helped her peers navigate academic and personal challenges. After graduation, she plans to pursue a career in human resources, focusing on talent acquisition and recruitment, with the ultimate goal of fostering inclusive and equitable workspaces. Rashid hopes to serve as a catalyst for change by creating pathways for underrepresented groups to achieve visibility and equal opportunities in the workforce.

### KAZI TEJWAR



Kazi Tejwar, a double major in political science and sociology with a minor in legal studies, has made significant contributions to civic engagement efforts on campus and beyond. As the son of Bengali immigrants

from Flatbush, Brooklyn, Tejwar's dedication to public service is deeply personal. His passion for civic participation led him to play a pivotal role in the John Lewis Initiative, which transformed CCNY into an early voting site, expanding voting access for the Harlem community in response to nationwide attacks on voting rights. Additionally, he worked to revitalize the Democracy Corps Fellowship at the Colin Powell School, forging stronger connections with the NYC Civic Engagement Commission and creating internship opportunities to encourage student involvement in civic life. Tejwar's commitment to equity and fairness will continue as he joins the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) congressional fellowship in Washington, D.C., where he will work on Capitol Hill to advocate for policies that promote greater fairness in the distribution of opportunities in the United States.



# Graduate Programs

## GRADUATES OF THE CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PHD PROGRAM



This year, we proudly celebrate a record number record number of 20 PhD graduates from the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program. This milestone underscores the hard work, dedication, and passion of our students and faculty, showcasing the program's commitment to excellence in both psychological research and clinical practice. Each graduate has significantly contributed to the field by addressing diverse and impactful research topics and securing prestigious post-doctoral positions. Their success exemplifies the quality of our training and promises continued advancements in mental health care, scientific knowledge, and social justice. We are immensely proud of their achievements and look forward to the positive impact they will continue to make.



## MICHAEL PEREZ SOSA

Dr. Michael Perez Sosa is a clinical psychologist, contemplative psychotherapist, musician, husband, and father. He is currently completing a postdoctoral fellowship at Columbia University's Counseling and Psychological Services, where he provides psychotherapy, teaches Compassion-Based Resilience Training (CBRT), and serves on the Trauma Support Team. Prior to this, he completed his predoctoral internship at NYC Health + Hospitals | North Central Bronx and earned his PhD from the City University of New York (CUNY), where his dissertation focused on CBRT as an intervention for frontline healthcare workers during COVID-19. Perez Sosa holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and religion, with a focus on Indo-Tibetan Buddhism, from Columbia University, graduating summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. He is also a graduate of Nalanda Institute's Four-Year Program in Sustainable Happiness and a Certified Teacher of CBRT. Before transitioning to mental health, Perez Sosa was a musician, composing and performing music.

In September 2024, Perez Sosa will launch his own private psychotherapy practice and teach as a core faculty member at the Nalanda Institute for Contemplative Science. He recently passed the EPPP licensing exam in New York. Reflecting on his time in the Clinical Psychology PhD program, Perez Sosa describes it as a rare gem, rooted in psychoanalytic/psychodynamic theory while integrating modern trends in psychological science and manualized treatment approaches. He credits the program with offering fantastic mentorship, guidance, and lifelong friendships.

### Compassion-Based Resilience Training (CBRT) for Frontline Healthcare Workers

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a heavy toll on frontline healthcare workers, leading to elevated levels of anxiety, depression, and stress. To address these challenges, Perez Sosa's pilot study explored the efficacy of remotely delivered CBRT for healthcare workers in contact with COVID-19

patients. Over nine weeks, participants engaged in CBRT sessions via Zoom, with assessments at baseline, post-intervention, and four weeks post-intervention. Results showed significant reductions in symptoms of depression, anxiety, burnout, and trauma, alongside improvements in self-compassion, emotion regulation, and resilience. These findings underscore the potential of CBRT to enhance the psychological resilience of frontline healthcare workers, advocating for broader implementation of such interventions.

## BRIAN THOMAS NEFF

Dr. Brian Neff has an extensive background in clinical psychology, having served as a therapist-in-residence for five years at The City College of New York's Psychological Center, a low-cost clinic in West Harlem. He completed his predoctoral internship at Mount Sinai Beth Israel Medical Center and received clinical training at institutions such as the William Alanson White Institute, the Yale Child Study Center, and the Psychoanalytic Association of New York. Brian's dissertation on therapist self-disclosure in LGBTQ+ therapy won CUNY's 2024 Kenneth and Mamie Clark Award for social justice contributions. His research has been published in the *Journal of Health Psychology* and the volume *Global Mental Health: Training and Practice*.

Neff earned his BA in history from Yale University and initially worked as a television news producer for Barbara Walters at ABC News. He later completed a master's degree in international relations at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, focusing on conflict resolution. Neff's career also includes mental health fieldwork in Sudan for the United Nations and leadership roles in nonprofits, such as Sing for Hope and Peace Direct. Starting fall 2024, Neff will begin a postdoctoral fellowship at Bryant West Psychology in Manhattan, where he will continue to develop his clinical skills, provide psychotherapy, and conduct research.

**Therapist Self-Disclosure in LGBTQ+ Therapy**  
Neff's research explores the role of identity-focused therapist self-disclosure (TSD-I) in therapy dyads where both the therapist and patient share an LGBTQ+ identity. His longitudinal study of 198 participants demonstrated that optimal TSD-I significantly improved patient psychological functioning by enhancing the therapeutic alliance and reducing minority stress. These findings highlight the potential benefits of TSD-I in improving the mental health of LGBTQ+ patients while emphasizing the importance of carefully balancing therapeutic risks.

#### **ANI FREDMAN**

Dr. Ani Fredman, PhD (they/them), is an Instructor in Medical Psychology at Columbia University Irving Medical Center's Gender & Sexuality Program. Their clinical and research interests center on identity development, gender expression, attachment, and psychosocial factors. Committed to anti-racist practices and LGBTQIA+ affirming care, Fredman provides therapy to youth, families,

and couples. Fredman reflects on their time at CCNY as pivotal, expressing gratitude for the mentorship, community, and clinical training that helped them realize they were exactly where they needed to be.

#### **The Makings of Creativity and Empathy: Maternal Representations**

Fredman's study examines the relationship between maternal fantasies about their children and the children's unconscious processes, including ego functioning and object relations. Using the Parent Development Interview-Revised Short (PDI-RS) and Rorschach assessments, the study found significant links between maternal representations and children's mental health. Children in the Mixed-Complex maternal representation group demonstrated better psychological functioning than those in the Positive or Contradictory groups. These findings suggest that understanding maternal representations can enhance treatment approaches for children in clinical settings.

### **OTHER GRADUATES OF THE CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PHD PROGRAM**

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#### **TAMZIN MARY BAKER**

Dissertation Topic: *Motherhood in Crisis: A Qualitative Study of First-Time Mothers Diagnosed with Breast Cancer*

Post-Doctoral Fellowship: Therapists of New York

#### **DEVIKA DUGGAL**

Dissertation Topic: *Social Exclusion in Borderline Personality Disorder: Behavioral, Affective, and Neural Consequences*

Post-Doctoral Work: Staff Psychologist at Montefiore Medical Center

#### **ANNA DARIA WARREN EGLESON**

Dissertation Topic: *Divorce as a Growth Process: The Marital Separation and Separation-Individuation in Adulthood*

Post-Doctoral Fellowship: Therapists of New York

#### **MICHAEL FERRARA**

Dissertation Topic: *Teach Them How to Say Goodbye: Student Therapist Termination at a Psychodynamic Training Clinic*

Post-Doctoral Fellowship: Soho Psychoanalytic

#### **CHARLOTTE BREENE GENDRON**

Dissertation Topic: *Adult Play and Its Relations to the Working Alliance and Psychosocial Dysfunction in Short-Term Psychotherapy*

Post-Doctoral Work: North Central Bronx Hospital Outpatient Psychiatry Department

#### **WILLIAM FREDERICK MOSES HOLLAND**

Dissertation Topic: *Mentalized Affectivity Among*

*Adolescents in Wilderness Therapy: An Initial Exploration*  
Post-Doctoral Fellowship: Madison Park Psychological Services

#### **EVA LEIGHTON**

Dissertation Topic: *Loneliness, Interpersonal Sensitivity, and the Mechanisms Through Which the Dimensions of Trait Emotional Intelligence May Protect Against Clinical Depression*  
Completed Post-Doctoral Work: Pleasantville Psychology Group

#### **LIAN MALKI-SCHUBERT**

Dissertation Topic: *Immigrant Therapists' Perceptions of Transference, Countertransference, and Racial Experiences in the United States*  
Post-Doctoral Fellowship: Mount Sinai's Center for Intensive Treatment of Personality Disorders

#### **SHANNIQUE RICHARDS**

Dissertation Topic: *The Moderating Roles of Racial Discrimination and COVID-19 Stress on the Association Between College Students' Cannabis Use and Psychosocial Functioning*  
Post-Doctoral Fellowship: Northwell Health/ Lenox Hill Hospital

#### **EMMA ROUTHIER**

Dissertation Topic: *An Exploration of the Relation Between Psychological Functioning and Reactions to Global Climate Change for Late Adolescents in New York City*  
Post-Doctoral Fellowship: The William Alanson White Institute of Psychiatry, Psychoanalysis & Psychology and in private practice

#### **MARIE-CLAIR SIEGMAN**

Dissertation Topic: *A Qualitative Exploration of Psychodynamic Therapists' Experiences When Working with Parents in Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy*  
Post-Doctoral Fellowship: Scarsdale Psychology Associates

#### **KAREN TOCATLY**

Dissertation Topic: *Interventions That Move: Characterizing the Language of Therapist Responses to High Patient Arousal*  
Post-Doctoral Work: Supervised Private Practice

#### **LEILA TALHOUK**

Dissertation Topic: *Immigrant Risk, Self-Discontinuity, and the Role of Nostalgia*  
Post-Doctoral Fellowship: Addiction Institute at Mount Sinai West

#### **MOLLY RAPPAPORT**

Dissertation Topic: *Joint Laughter Between Patient and Therapist: Exploring the Function of These Moments and Their Relationship to the Working Alliance in Short-Term Psychotherapy*  
Post-Doctoral Fellowship: The Greene Clinic

#### **VICTORIA SCHILDER**

Dissertation Topic: *Early Adversity, Emotion Regulation, Object Relational Functioning & the Moderating Effect of Gender; A Community Sample Study*  
Post-Doctoral Work: Northern Arizona VA Healthcare System

#### **I WANG**

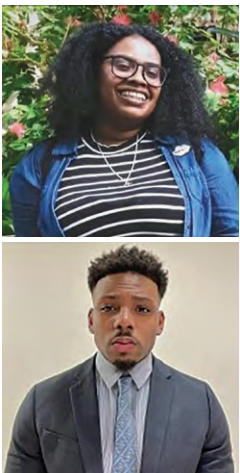
Dissertation Topic: *Holistic Treatment: A Qualitative Study of the Integration of Chinese Medicine with Psychoanalysis in China*  
Post-Doctoral Fellowship: NYU Langone Psychiatry Associates

#### **CHERISE WHITE**

Dissertation Topic: *Examining the Effect of Object Relations and Defense Mechanisms on Interpersonal Relations in Adults with ADHD Symptoms*  
Completed Post-Doctoral Fellowship: Greenwich Psychology Group and Soho Psychology



MPA PROGRAM ANNOUNCES ITS 2024 HOUSING POLICY FELLOWS



structures and policymaking processes.

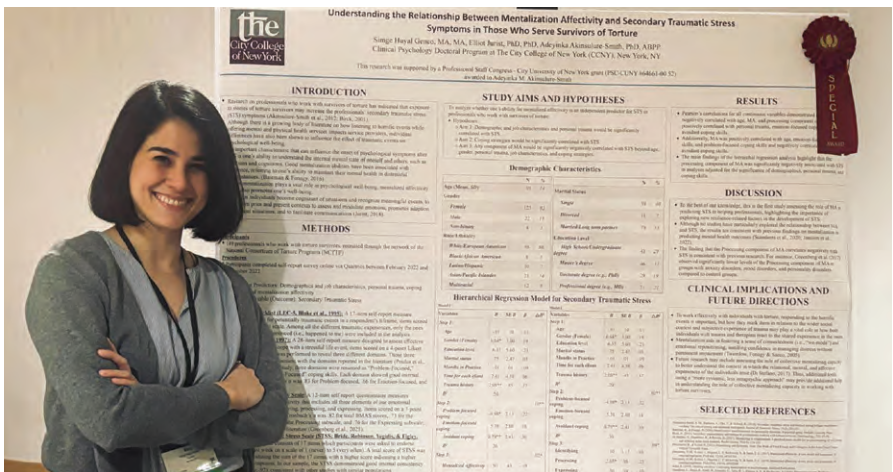
Ambar Angeles, currently a Housing Navigator at Riseboro Community Partnership in Brooklyn, and Joseph Rochez, an ENL Teacher at Family Life Academy Charter School, were selected as fellows. They will benefit from professional mentoring by HPD professionals, collaborate with HPD analysts to organize

The Master’s in Public Administration (MPA) Program recently launched its Housing Policy Fellowship in collaboration with the NYC Housing and Preservation Department (HPD), introducing its 2024 Fellows, Ambar Angeles and Joseph Rochez. The fellowship aims to enhance their expertise in housing issues and policy while providing insights into city government

a housing policy workshop, and undertake paid internships within HPD’s Office of Policy during Summer 2024.

In February, MPA Executive Director Bobby Derival joined Angeles and Rochez at HPD offices to mark the program’s launch and celebrate this impactful partnership.

SIMGE HUYAL RECEIVES DIVISION 39 SCHOLARS PROGRAM AWARD



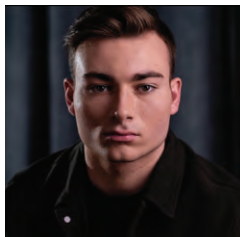
award’s research committee annually selects two finalists, with the first winner being offered the opportunity to join the Division’s Scholars Program. Huyal was honored by the Division during the annual conference’s Scholars Reception Ceremony in Washington D.C., and her award-winning poster was featured prominently throughout the conference.

Simge Huyal, a PhD candidate in the Clinical Psychology Program, was awarded the Division 39 Scholars Program Award for 2024-25. The

As part of the recognition, Huyal will also be connected with a mentor with whom she will meet monthly during the program.

# Student Accomplishments

## NBCU ACADEMY FELLOW JOINS THE TONIGHT SHOW AS A PRODUCTION ASSISTANT



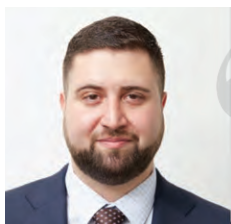
Kyle Cristello, a 2022-23 NBCU Academy Fellow, has begun his role as a Production Assistant at NBC's *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*. Hailing from Ossining, NY, Cristello joined City College in 2021, pursuing a BFA in journalism, cinematography, and video production. During his time at CCNY, Cristello took advantage of multiple prestigious opportunities, including

a research fellowship from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and the NBCU Academy Fellowship. It was through the NBCU Fellowship that Cristello found his passion for the television and entertainment industry, integrating journalism into his career goals. The fellowship provided invaluable networking opportunities, intensive mentoring, and advanced journalism courses. Cristello is now prepared to excel in his new role at *The Tonight Show*, drawing on his storytelling and production skills honed during his time at CCNY.

## TWO POWELL SCHOOL STUDENTS AMONG THIS YEAR'S GAINGELS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Nicholas Giglio '24 and Miguel Johnson '24 have been awarded this year's Gaingels Scholarship, which supports LGBTQIA+ and minority students by providing need-based financial assistance.

Nicholas Giglio is pursuing a BA/MA in research and experimental psychology at the Colin Powell School. Giglio is a dedicated LGBTQ+ advocate.



**"This scholarship is a testament to my journey of self-discovery, resilience, and advocacy."** —Nicholas Giglio

Miguel Johnson, a political science major, has participated in several fellowships, including the NBCU Academy and the NYC Leaders Fellowships.



**"My story's a lot like Damon from *Pose*, but instead of joining a house, I went straight to Community College. I didn't let my circumstances define me."** —Miguel Johnson

Johnson credits Gaingels with entering his life at a crucial time and looks forward to leveraging the network for his career and personal growth.



## COLIN POWELL SCHOOL STUDENTS REPRESENT CCNY IN WOMEN'S STOCK PITCH COMPETITION AT WILLIAM AND MARY COLLEGE

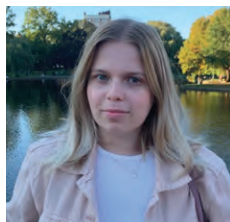
This past April, finance students from the Colin Powell School's Financial Literacy and Stock Market Club competed in the Women's Stock Pitch Competition at The Boehly Center at William & Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia. The team, consisting of Dea Abzhandadze '24, Wendy Tlamanalco '24, and Aysha Asif '24, marked CCNY's first appearance in this prestigious competition.



The event is highly selective, with only 28 teams, including CCNY, making it to the finals out of 56 universities. Competing alongside schools such as Wharton, the team had a valuable opportunity to develop their leadership skills and network with professionals and peers from the financial services industry. They were mentored by Professors Paul Clifford, Marianne Wolk, Richard Horwitz, and Jeffrey Lapin.

## JANE EKHTMAN AND FAYE ARBAB, AWARDED THE 2023 HENRY J. STERN SCHOLARSHIP

Psychology major Jane Ekhtman and political science major Faye Arbab were awarded the prestigious 2023 Henry J. Stern Scholarship



for their academic excellence and commitment to city government.

Jane Ekhtman is interning at the Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health, contributing to the B-HEARD initiative, which dispatches mental health clinicians as first responders to non-violent mental health crises.

Faye Arbab, through her volunteer work at Elmhurst Hospital and research on the Arab-Israeli conflict, exemplifies her dedication to public service. Both recipients maintain a minimum GPA of 3.5, a key requirement of the scholarship.

## BARBARA RICH AWARD FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Ryan Day and Bouampoundi Thiombiano were honored with the Barbara Rich Award for Social Justice, which is given to graduating seniors committed to advancing social justice.



Ryan Day, a political science major with a minor in community change studies, worked with multiple activist organizations on housing rights. He plans to attend law school to further his impact in public interest law.

Bouampoundi Thiombiano, originally from Burkina Faso, overcame the challenges of being a non-traditional student to earn a degree in international



relations. She witnessed the suffering of women and children while serving with the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and is

committed to advocating for their well-being. She plans to pursue an MA in humanitarian action and peacebuilding.

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## TWO POWELL SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVE CCNY'S 2026 JEANNETTE K. WATSON FELLOWSHIP



Victoria Lu and Fuhad Khan have been awarded the 2026 Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship, which offers three years of professional, cultural, and personal development experiences. Lu and Khan were selected from among New York City's top undergraduates.



Victoria Lu, a sophomore majoring in sociology and political science, is a Dean's List scholar and

a Social Change Fellow with Leadership for Democracy and Social Justice. In the coming year, she will be a Moynihan Public Service Fellow. Lu's goal is to become a human rights attorney focusing on global social justice.

Fuhad Khan, a political science freshman and 2016 immigrant from Bangladesh, is passionate about public service and advocating for marginalized communities. He has received several fellowships, including the Colin Powell Fellowship in Leadership and Public Service. Khan is particularly interested in shaping public policy to foster social change.

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## COLIN POWELL SCHOOL'S YASSINE SAKHI NAMED CUNYAC/HSS SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Yassine Sakhi, a graduating senior, was named The City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) and Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) Scholar-Athlete of the Month for December 2023.

A psychology major with a minor in sociology, Sakhi has made a name for himself both academically and athletically. On the basketball court, he surpassed 1,500 career points, moving up in the CUNYAC's all-time scoring ranks. Off the court, Sakhi has been on the Dean's List and is active in the African Student Union Club, demonstrating his leadership and dedication to both academics and community engagement.



# The Board of Visitors

## J.P. MORGAN WEALTH MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE LIZ WEIKES JOINS COLIN POWELL SCHOOL BOARD OF VISITORS



*“The students at the Colin Powell School inspire me with the energy they bring to the classroom and workplace. I look forward to working with my fellow board members to enhance programming, fundraising, and awareness of the School’s essential work in higher education here in New York City.” —Liz Weikes*

The Powell School is honored to welcome Liz Weikes to its Board of Visitors. Liz, Managing Director and Wealth Partner at J.P. Morgan Wealth Management, brings 17 years of experience in family office wealth management and high-level executional services. She joins 24 other distinguished Board members. Over the past three years, she has actively mentored and supported our students through J.P. Morgan Chase’s Advancing Black Pathways Initiative.

Liz is an alumna of Indiana University, Bloomington, where she earned a BA in political science and finance. She began her career with the UK Department of International Trade at the British Embassy in Washington before joining J.P. Morgan in 2006.

A committed advocate for financial literacy and educational opportunities, Liz established the Liz Weikes Scholarship for Women in Finance at Indiana University’s Kelley School of Business. She also supports 100 Women in Finance as a Global Angel.

In her first year as a board member, Liz Weikes has already made a significant contribution with a generous donation towards the establishment of a Bloomberg Lab at CCNY. This state-of-the-art facility, featuring twelve Bloomberg Terminals®, will support experiential learning and provide students with essential skills in financial and data analysis, facilitating the launch of a new Bachelor’s in Business Administration (BBA) degree in 2025.

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## LINDA POWELL NAMED EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT SAG-AFTRA: ADVOCATES FOR CREATIVITY AND LABOR RIGHTS

We celebrate Board Chair Linda Powell, who was named Executive Vice President of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) and served on the negotiating committee representing the

interests of the striking SAG-AFTRA members with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers. Thanks to the board’s negotiating efforts, the strike came to an end and a new agreement that guarantees fair compensation,



improved health and pension benefits, and unprecedented provisions for consent and compensation that will protect artists from the threat of AI was reached.

Her contributions were acknowledged by Representative

Jimmy Gomez (D-CA), who represents 16,000 SAG-AFTRA members, when he invited her as his guest to the State of the Union.

Powell's continued efforts to advocate for

creativity and labor rights have also seen her speak in several panels and public engagements on the topic of art, AI, artists' compensation, and copyrights. She has emphasized the continued importance of human-powered creativity in an increasingly digital world.

**"The essence of art lies in its ability to convey the human experience. While AI can generate impressive pieces, it lacks the emotional resonance and personal touch that only human creators can provide."**—Linda Powell

Powell's leadership is an embodiment of the Powell School's mission, and serves as an inspiring example for our community.

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## REMEMBERING HENRY KISSINGER: A DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE COLIN POWELL SCHOOL'S BOARD OF VISITORS



The Colin Powell School mourns the passing of Dr. Henry Kissinger, who died on November 29, 2023, at the age of 100. A titan of American foreign policy, Dr. Kissinger's impact on global affairs was profound

and enduring, and his contributions as a member of the Colin Powell School's Board of Visitors were invaluable. Dr. Kissinger, a former U.S. Secretary of State and National Security Advisor, was renowned for his pivotal role in shaping American diplomacy during the Cold War. Beyond his government service, Dr. Kissinger was a prolific author, a scholar, and a strategist, whose insights into international relations influenced generations of policymakers and students alike.

As a member of the Colin Powell School's Board of Visitors, Dr. Kissinger provided sage guidance

and support, helping to shape the school's mission of fostering civic engagement and leadership. His dedication to public service and global understanding was a beacon for the school's students, inspiring them to pursue careers in public policy and diplomacy. Dr. Kissinger's association with the Colin Powell School honored the spirit of the late General Colin Powell, whom he respected deeply. Both men shared a commitment to advancing global peace and security, and Dr. Kissinger's involvement with the school was a testament to his belief in nurturing the next generation of leaders.

In remembering Dr. Kissinger, we honor his legacy of service, intellect, and unwavering commitment to international diplomacy. His passing is a profound loss, but his influence and contributions to both the world stage and the Colin Powell School will continue to resonate for years to come.



# Fundraising and Development

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors for their unwavering support. Your generosity empowers the Colin Powell School to continue its mission, offering stability and creating vital opportunities for our students, especially during challenging times.

As we continue to advance our mission and introduce transformative programs, we rely on the generosity of donors to enhance the careful management of public funds. Your contributions directly impact initiatives that foster leadership, social justice, and opportunities for upward mobility.

By supporting the Colin Powell School, you play a crucial role in shaping the next generation of changemakers, equipping our students with the tools to create lasting impact in their communities and beyond.

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