

National Science Foundation Announces West Harlem as Wireless Testbed

By Phoebe-Sade Arnold



COSMOS is led by researchers at Rutgers, Columbia, and NYU, and in partnership with New York City, Silicon Harlem, City College of New York, and the University of Arizona.

In April 2018, the National Science Foundation (NSF), under its Platform for Advanced Wireless Research (PAWR) initiative, formally announced the West Harlem area as its wireless testbed for the next wave of mobile technology. The \$22.5 million grant was awarded to a New York City-based university team—consisting of Rutgers University, Columbia University (CU), and New York University—that will partner with New York City, Silicon Harlem, City College of New York, and the University of Arizona to develop the Cloud Enhanced Open Software Defined Mobile Wireless Testbed for City-Scale Deployment (COSMOS) project. The testbed will cover one square mile in the West Harlem area, with City College to the north, Columbia University’s Morningside campus to the south, the Hudson River to the west, and the Apollo Theater to the east.

By 2020, the number of internet-connected devices is expected to grow to 20 billion, creating an urgent need in the U.S. and abroad for infrastructure that can rapidly process all that data. To improve networking speeds, the COSMOS network will tap previously unused radio spectrum bands and integrate optical fibers underground with radio antennas and other equipment on city rooftops and light poles. The high-bandwidth network is expected to allow applications to transmit data faster than one gigabit per second, improving performance tenfold over current wireless networks. To achieve this high level of performance, data processing will be handled by on-site “edge cloud” servers rather than in far-off data centers. “We are excited about the opportunity to develop the next generation of wireless networking here in West Harlem,” said Gil Zussman, professor of electrical engineering, who

leads Columbia’s part of the project, adding, “we will aim to design about 20 next-generation ‘handsets’ for technology demonstrations in schools and the community at large.”

Community partner Silicon Harlem (SH) sees their organization’s mandate to bring technological innovation to all of Harlem. Clayton Banks, cofounder of SH, refers to the COSMOS project as one that will “bridge the digital divide that plagues the Harlem area.” Community support was an important part of the COSMOS grant application. CU’s Office of Government and Community Affairs, along with scientists and other team representatives, visited Community Boards 9 and 10 and area school principals, as well as the superintendent of Community School Districts 3 and 5, to discuss the project. As a result, the COSMOS application included over 60 letters of support from community stakeholders.

In one of these letters, Kevin Young, director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, articulated the sentiments of most constituents by saying, “we believe that participation in the COSMOS project will expose our organization to new wireless technology and service options that can later be reflected in our daily work.” The abundance of support from the West Harlem community will provide a strong foundation as the testbed is strengthened by actual usage and real-life applications of its capabilities.

While there was much enthusiasm about the COSMOS project, some concerns did arise. Many wondered whether it might impact their current wireless network—it won’t. The network will run alongside existing networks and will not interfere with other signal transmissions. Others were

concerned with how the testbed might be impacted by net neutrality, should it become an issue in the future. Residents were relieved to learn that COSMOS’s wireless research traffic will not be throttled by business deals. There will be regular briefings to address questions about the project going forward.

Although it has a five-year life span, the benefits of the COSMOS project will be realized as early as this summer. In phase one of the COSMOS education plan, teachers from Community School District 5 will work with researchers from the team on CU’s Morningside campus to develop web-based laboratories/projects to use in their classrooms in the upcoming school year. The partnership will extend beyond the summer as the researchers visit the respective classrooms, and teachers and students visit CU labs. The teachers will be encouraged and supported in their efforts to present the labs they develop at regional or national meetings and/or publish in science education journals.

This project is extraordinary in its reach. Its multifaceted approach brings together the intellectual resources of the world’s finest academic institutions, the financial resources of the NSF and the wireless industry, and the physical resources of the West Harlem area to prepare for the next wave of mobile technology.

For more information on the COSMOS project, contact Flores Forbes at faf2106@columbia.edu or Victoria Mason-Ailey at vm116@columbia.edu, or visit <https://gca.columbia.edu/cosmos>.

Columbia and Read Ahead: 20 Years and Counting

By Junior Benjamin



Columbia University Read Ahead mentor with their student

Since 1998, Columbia University has been partnering with Read Ahead (formerly Everybody Wins! NY), a nonprofit organization that matches volunteer mentors with elementary school students throughout New York City, for one-on-one lunchtime mentoring sessions of reading and conversation.

Columbia is the largest and an important partner organization, providing volunteers to the high-needs, underresourced public schools P.S. 36 and P.S. 125. The participation of the Columbia volunteers has enabled Read Ahead to serve more than 125 elementary school students in the Columbia area for the 2017–2018 academic year. These mentors have provided the students with whom they work a consistent, positive presence, which boosts the children’s confidence, love of reading, motivation to succeed, and more.

Coordinated through the Office of Government and Community Affairs and managed by Junior Benjamin, assistant director of finance and special projects (himself a former volunteer), the program conducts information/recruitment sessions at the beginning of every academic year, after which volunteers undergo

intensive training and background checks before they are matched with mentees in the various schools. Currently, the program is experiencing one of the most successful years of its Columbia partnership, with 151 new and returning mentors, representing a diverse cross section of the Columbia community.

Of the total number of mentors onboarded by Read Ahead for the 2017–2018 academic year thus far, among the 40+ corporate and community partners in the New York City area, almost 11 percent are Columbia volunteers, serving 37 students at P.S. 125, and 97 at P.S. 36. The volunteer opportunity as a Read Ahead mentor offers Columbia volunteers a meaningful and satisfying way to make a difference in a child’s life, with some mentors describing it as “one of the most rewarding and fulfilling experiences” of their lives.

For more information about the program, or to find out about becoming a mentor, contact Junior Benjamin (jb2058@columbia.edu) at the Office of Government and Community Affairs, or contact Read Ahead at www.readahead.org.

In the Know

By Maggie Barrows

Bashar Makhay



Kecia Hayes

Double Discovery Center Appoints Kecia Hayes as New Executive Director

Columbia College has appointed Kecia Hayes as the new executive director of the Roger Lehecka Double Discovery Center. A Harlem resident and native New Yorker, she comes from her position as the founding director of the Raising Educational Achievement Coalition of Harlem (REACH) at Teachers College. REACH supports programming to expand learning time and access to health resources and to increase family engagement for Harlem youth. Hayes has an M.A. and Ed.M. from Teachers College, as well as

a Ph.D. in urban education from the CUNY Graduate Center and a B.A. from Hamilton College. Before joining Teachers College, she taught educational leadership at Montclair State University in New Jersey. Hayes formally took over her new role on February 19.

Hayes will be working with the Double Discovery Center to improve access to higher education for low-income and first-generation college-bound students. The center serves around 1,000 students per year, 90 percent of whom graduate high school on time and enter college in the fall semester.

Oxford University



Alexander N. Halliday

Alexander N. Halliday Named New Director of Earth Institute

The new director of Columbia's Earth Institute is Alexander N. Halliday. A geochemistry professor, he previously led the science and engineering division of Oxford University and served as vice president of the United Kingdom's Royal Society, providing fellowships and awards to researchers there. Halliday will join the faculty of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences and will have a geochemistry lab at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory to continue his research into isotope geochemistry, which seeks to

understand planetary evolution and Earth's climate regulation.

Halliday has an undergraduate degree in geology and a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He was a postdoctoral scholar at the Scottish Universities Research and Reactor Center and worked at the University of Michigan and ETH Zurich. His professional honors include the American Geophysical Union's Harry H. Hess Medal and the European Association of Geochemistry's Urey Award, as well as his election to foreign associate of the National Academy of Sciences. He also has published around 400 research papers. At the Earth Institute, Halliday will continue work to further sustainable development on campus and help Columbia reach its goal of reducing the University's greenhouse gas emissions 10 percent by 2020.

Palanque & Associates



Pamela Palanque-North

In Memoriam—Pamela Palanque-North

Renowned behavioral scientist, educator, and civic leader Pamela Palanque-North passed away at 66 on January 4, 2018, from heart-related issues.

Born in the South Bronx on March 9, 1951, Palanque-North was deeply involved in the Upper Manhattan community, serving as the chair of Community Board 12 from 2009 to 2013 and before that as president of the West 167th Street Block Association. She also served on the boards of the Morris-Jumel Mansion and the Ambulatory Care Network at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, as well as being president

of the Metropolitan chapter of Jack & Jill of America and a member of the Metro-Manhattan Chapter of The Links.

She received advanced degrees from the New School University for Social Research in New York City and a professional certificate in industrial and organizational psychology from the Yale University School of Medicine. With her agency, Palanque & Associates, she worked around the world as a consultant for many companies and organizations, including the United Nations, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Women's International Leadership Program, and the Manhattan Country School.

Palanque-North is survived by her husband, Robert North, D.D.S., assistant clinical professor of dentistry at Columbia University's College of Dentistry, a loving family, and many friends.

Friends of Island Academy



Staff and advocates from Friends of Island Academy

GCA Partners with Friends of Island Academy for Workforce & Career Development Programs for Youth

After a highly competitive selection process resulting from an RFP for Workforce & Career Development Programs, the Office of Government and Community Affairs (GCA) has awarded a grant of \$75,000 to Friends of Island Academy (Friends) to support capacity building in its youth-centered career readiness programming. Friends was founded in 1990 to address the needs of the youth who attend school on Rikers Island.

Since then, it has built a strong reputation for providing work-readiness support, as well as access to professional coaching and training. With this grant from Columbia, Friends will be able to expand the capacity of its Youth Reentry Network, a comprehensive system that includes intake house activities, case expediting, discharge planning, and reentry support. Through this network of systemic and targeted support for youth who have recently been released from custody, who are on probation or parole, or who have criminal records, Friends of Island Academy promotes positive outcomes. Expanding the program will allow Friends to support the career goals of more youth ages 16–24 in Northern Manhattan who have been involved with the justice system.

Bashar Makhay



Henry Danner

Henry Danner Joins GCA Staff as Senior Program Coordinator

In January, Henry Danner, LMSW, joined GCA as a senior program coordinator focused on engagement of out-of-school and out-of-work youth. He will be coordinating targeted outreach and identifying intervention pathways to support young people ages 16–24 in their efforts to reengage with educational institutions, obtain a high school equivalency degree, and/or seek skills training, career readiness and job placement. Danner will be spending a lot of time with community-based organizations, schools and supportive services networks serving Northern Manhattan.

Prior to joining GCA, Danner was a program director at Partnership with Children, overseeing the provision of school-based mental health and youth development services at five NYC public schools. An experienced restorative justice practitioner with a particular focus on its use in schools, he is committed to helping young people develop. Danner lives in the Bronx and has a B.S. in sociology and an M.S.W., both from Stony Brook University.

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Karen Jewett
Vice President for Government and Community Affairs

Editorial Coordinator:
Bashar Makhay

Contributors:
Phoebe-Sade Arnold, Maggie Barrows, Junior Benjamin,
Harmony Eberhardt, Ebtihal Mubarak

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Please Recycle

Columbia-Harlem SBDC and Columbia Dining Partner to Launch the Uris Incubator Program

By Bashar Makhay

Bashar Makhay



Proprietors Vy Higginsen (left) of Mama's One Sauce and Davie Simmons of Kamuni Creek Beverages at the inaugural URIS Incubator event

The Harlem Local Vendor Program (HLVP)—a partnership between the Columbia-Harlem Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Harlem Park to Park, Hot Bread Kitchen Incubates, Whole Foods Market, and others—is designed to help manufacturers of locally made consumer goods increase their business acumen and capacity so that they may contract with more and larger retailers. Columbia Dining supports these local vendors with its purchasing power, having spent over \$100,000 to date, and is furthering its efforts and solidifying its commitment to local vendors through the launch of the Uris Incubator Program.

The new Uris Incubator Program connects select graduates of the HLVP to Columbia University students by selling their products at Blue Java Cafe at Uris Hall and hosting monthly demonstrations so that students can meet the producers and sample their new products. If successful, products will be expanded to other cafes throughout Columbia University, and in some cases they will be incorporated into student meals in dining halls.

While they are developing their products, HLVP participants have the opportunity to receive advice from Columbia MBA students with expertise in marketing, operations, and finance. In the spring, tables are set up

weekly in Uris Lobby for HLVP business owners to learn about pricing, packaging, positioning, and promotion from their eventual customers, Columbia University students.

Students have continuously expressed a desire to buy local, sustainably sourced food and other products; sourcing from the HLVP is one of many opportunities that Columbia University has developed in response. Current vendors include Hot Bread Kitchen, which hires new Americans to bake breads that are used throughout the University Dining system; Spadét, a Green America-certified business that sells olive oil-based soaps and beauty products, available in restrooms in Faculty House and for sale at the Jerome L. Greene Science Center; Clean Plate Co., which sells the Hot Bread Kitchen Incubator-made (and often sold-out) smoked gouda macaroni and cheese in the Uris Blue Java Cafe; Kamuni Creek Beverages, Caribbean beverages using tropical super fruits; and Vy Higginsen's Mama's One Sauce, which can be found throughout campus dining halls.

To learn more about the HLVP and the Uris Incubator Program, visit the Columbia-Harlem SBDC website at <https://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/sbdc/> and, while visiting campus, be sure to look out for locally made products sold by HLVP graduates.

The Mass Transit Man—Thomas Abdallah

By Harmony Eberhardt

Harmony Eberhardt



Thomas Abdallah

Thomas Abdallah, an adjunct professor in the Sustainability Management Program of Columbia University, loves mass transit. And that's a good thing, because Abdallah is also the deputy vice president and chief environmental engineer of Capital Program Management at MTA New York City Transit, where he gets to inspect and improve transit facilities every day.

Managing existing operations while integrating sustainability initiatives can be a challenge regardless of industry, let alone one that runs 24 hours a day and serves millions of New Yorkers daily. Add to the mix

antiquated infrastructure and century-old signal systems and it is no surprise the MTA has struggled to keep pace with New York City ridership. In a fitting analogy, Abdallah says making upgrades at the MTA is a lot like running down the street and changing your clothes at the same time.

Over the past 30 years, Abdallah has worked to reduce negative environmental impacts of MTA-NYC Transit facilities and construction projects and to expand energy efficiency initiatives. He seeks to educate fellow transit professionals and engineers, as well as policymakers and manufacturers, on the importance of sustainability in transit. Abdallah recently wrote a book entitled *Sustainable Mass Transit: Challenges and Opportunities in Urban Public Transportation (Sustainable Mass Transit)*.

Sustainable Mass Transit examines numerous types of mass transit systems and looks closely at their key functions, including infrastructure design, energy use, and environmental management systems and mitigation. Abdallah wrote the book to explain to the public why mass transit is a sustainable solution. In speaking about his process, he shared the following:

"In order for me to explain sustainability measures, I have to give you an education on the whole transit system: from horse-drawn carriages to coal-burning locomotives. I have to talk about current infrastructure. When you get on the train or the bus, there are countless bus depots and storage yards throughout the city.

"Then there is one of the most important environmental aspects of transit—which is electricity use. We take people out of their cars and into transit, but we still have a carbon footprint to deal with. Even if we're using electricity, 70 percent of electricity in this country is still generated from fossil fuels. So that's our biggest environmental issue.

"The rest of the book looks not only at MTA transit—we're just a small piece of it—but also transit agencies from LA, Chicago, Newark, Boston, Philadelphia, Portland. The transit industry in America over the last 20 years has done a really phenomenal job of reducing their carbon footprint and emissions while still moving many, many people."

Sustainable Mass Transit is published by Elsevier and can be purchased at most major booksellers.

Harmony Eberhardt is a student in the Sustainability Management master's program at Columbia University. The full version of this article was originally published on *State of The Planet* and can be found at <http://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2018/02/16/mass-transit-man/>.

SPS and WHDC Partner to Provide Excellence in Nonprofit Management Series

By Bashar Makhay



Nonprofit grantees of WHDC attend inaugural Excellence in Nonprofit Management Series half-day Board Governance and Strategic Planning Workshop.

The School of Professional Studies (SPS) at Columbia University was founded in 1995 to specialize in career advancement through professional and interdisciplinary education. Under the leadership of Dean Jason Wingard, the SPS Community Relations office was created in fall 2015 to identify and engage individuals and organizations within the community that could serve as potential partners on a variety of initiatives and community service projects. Columbia SPS Community Relations channels the expertise of the school's faculty, staff, students, and alumni—largely from SPS's 16 graduate programs—in community service projects and activities in the Harlem community and Greater New York City. In seeking to create stronger, more resilient and sustainable organizations in the community, the Excellence in Nonprofit Management Series was developed.

The Excellence in Nonprofit Management Series is a collaboration between SPS and the West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC). Through this program, grantees of the WHDC participate in half-day workshops on key subjects and practices for nonprofit organizations such as strategic planning, board governance, and strategic communications. Participants are also invited to special lectures and events offered by the Nonprofit Management Master of Science and other programs.

SPS and the WHDC work together in planning and implementing all aspects for the workshops, including the choice of workshop presenters. The partnership allows for the WHDC to further its efforts to provide technical assistance to its nonprofit grantees and small businesses in the community. Over the last 6 years the WHDC has made grants to 162 nonprofit organizations, which has given them a broad base of outreach into the community. The grantees offer services in education, arts and culture, affordable housing, historical preservation, the environment, community facilities, workforce development, and economic development.

While the Excellence in Nonprofit Management Series is offered exclusively to grantees of the WHDC, SPS has made available numerous programs for community members and organizations. These programs include professional education for youth at the Harlem Children's Zone, workshops for NYC small business services, community-focused graduate program capstone projects, the Girls in STEM Initiative, the Summer High School Scholarship Program, CU Grow—A Leadership Development Program for Vendors, and much more. To learn more about SPS public programs, visit <http://sps.columbia.edu/community-relations>.

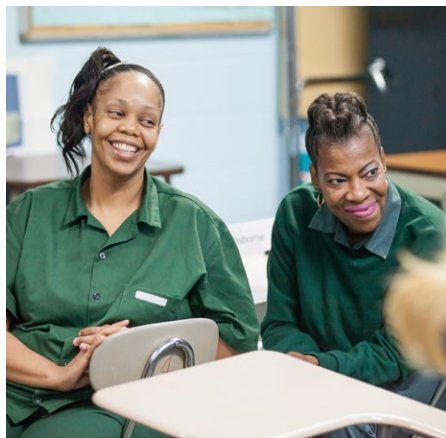
REAP Program Seeks to Provide Careers to 2,000 Formerly Incarcerated People by 2020

By Ebtihal Mubarak

Tamer Center for Social Enterprise



Damon Rodriguez in short documentary *The Outside*



Students at Taconic Correctional Facility

Scott Langley

When Damon Rodriguez stepped out of prison in 2013, he already had a plan. While in jail, he was fortunate to come across stories in local newspapers about an organization that helps formerly incarcerated people (FIPs) start a new chapter of their lives. Many people face immense challenges finding work after they're released from prisons. The latest reports reveal that the American criminal justice system holds more than 2.3 million people.

What sectors of society bear the responsibility for the successful reentry of people returning home from prisons like Rodriguez and others? And what can be done to help them? These questions were discussed in a conference held in the spring of 2016 by the Tamer Center for Social Enterprise at Columbia Business School and the Columbia University Center for Justice.

The conference led to the launch of the Re-Entry Acceleration Program (REAP). REAP aims to facilitate efforts among the educational and business sectors to help improve employment opportunities for FIPs and people with a criminal record.

REAP deploys two initiatives that work conjointly through incarcerated individuals, Columbia MBA students, and potential employers. The first initiative provides much-

needed business training to incarcerated people and people with criminal records. It is jointly offered by Resilience Education, a nonprofit organization; Hour Children, a workforce development agency; and the Tamer Center for Social Enterprise at Columbia Business School.

This business training also gives Columbia MBA and executive MBA students the opportunity in the fall or spring to teach people in prison a three-course curriculum that covers financial empowerment, entrepreneurship, and negotiations.

So far, Taconic Correctional Facility, a medium-security women's prison in Bedford Hills, New York, has been the first site for these courses in this academic year. Last fall, three teams of 21 MBA student instructors taught 22 women at Taconic and another 22 at Hour Children's offices in Long Island City. Two MBA instructor teams are also teaching this spring semester.

The second initiative is the development of a Business Association for employers in the business, public, and nonprofit sectors, as well as workforce development organizations that employers often partner with. The Business Association develops strategies to improve hiring opportunities for FIPs, and it also provides support and resources to businesses.

One reentry organization engaged with the Business Association is Fortune Society, which Rodriguez sought out after he left prison. Rodriguez, who is a Bronx native, grew up in poverty with parents who were substance abusers; he ended up selling drugs from his early teenage years throughout his adulthood. He was charged with drug trafficking and money laundering. "As soon as I got there I said, 'I have to change; I have to change the person I am,'" remarked Rodriguez in a short documentary made by Jack Dodson ('16JRN) for REAP. Rodriguez is now a supervisor at a construction company. He had no prior experience in the construction business, but learned and developed the skills through an apprenticeship program that he found through Fortune Society's employment program.

REAP's goal is "to enlist 200 businesses to provide 2,000 FIPs with career-track jobs that lead to financial independence by 2020," according to its website. Rodriguez's story stands true for many formerly incarcerated people who not only look for a job upon their release from prisons, but also are in dire need of an education and the skills required to secure career pathway opportunities.

To learn more about the REAP program, visit <https://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/socialenterprise/initiatives/reap>.

Columbia Pioneers HBCU Fellowship Initiative

By Phoebe-Sade Arnold

School of Professional Studies



HBCU Fellows at Welcome Luncheon held last August. Fellows with Dean Jason Wingard (*front row, center*), Tatum Thomas, Associate Dean of Student Affairs (*front row, right*) and Nikisha Alcindor, Interim Academic Director, Wealth Management M.S. Program (*second row, right*).

Diversity in the workforce remains a salient issue in the United States. According to Fortune.com, Fortune 500 companies employ 17.5 percent of America's workforce, but only 3 percent of these companies share full diversity data, suggesting that diversity may not always be a priority. Yet the *Harvard Business Review* reports that diverse firms are 35 percent more likely to have financial returns above their national industry median, 45 percent more likely to report market share growth, and 70 percent more likely to report they captured a new market.

With the demonstrated success of diversity in the workplace, and the larger effort by Columbia University (CU) to provide programming for an underserved population, CU—by way of its School of Professional Studies (SPS)—has introduced the Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Fellowship Initiative.

"CEOs and senior executives consistently lament that maintaining a diverse workforce is an increasingly insurmountable challenge," said Jason Wingard Ph.D., dean and professor, School of Professional Studies. "The HBCU Fellowship Initiative identifies and develops a diverse talent pool, creates a direct pipeline of market-ready students for our corporate partners, and establishes a foundation for a successful career trajectory for fellows."

The first cohort of HBCU Fellows included 21 exemplary students from a range of HBCUs including Morehouse College, Howard University, Spelman College, Hampton University, Xavier University, and others. Program participants are in the top academic ranks of their class and are required to submit a letter of recommendation from their alma mater to be considered for the fellowship. The number of applicants has tripled since the program's inception.

When asked about the caliber of student they accept, Dr. Tatum Thomas, associate dean of student affairs at SPS, articulated that fellows are identified through a multifaceted assessment that includes academics, professional promise, and community engagement. This well-rounded individual proves to be a valuable addition to Columbia's academic and social community.

Alongside its mandate to build the pool of highly qualified students from HBCUs seeking professional careers, the HBCU Fellowship Initiative is part of a larger quest to provide programs for underserved populations to access higher education. Fellows receive free tuition and housing for one year (the duration of their master's program). Participants can obtain master's degrees in the areas of applied analytics, bioethics, construction administration, enterprise risk management, nonprofit management, sports management, and strategic communication.

The program's support does not stop at access. HBCU Fellows learn together and experience New York City as a cohort. They receive support from each other and from the CU community. In addition, fellows receive one-on-one career coaching, personalized internship assistance, résumé critique, and mock interviews throughout their tenure at CU. Academic support offered includes mandatory meetings with academic directors, fall luncheons with prominent speakers, and coordinated study breaks.

In the same vein as CU's attempts to change the narrative of the lack of diversity in the workforce, fellows are also encouraged to act as agents of change within their own spheres of influence. The initiative has a community service component in which fellows volunteer with local Harlem nonprofits such as the Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ), Harlem YMCA, and others.

While volunteering at HCZ, HBCU Fellow Thibault Twahirwa found that he was an inspiration to teenagers as he helped them with college applications. After learning of his educational trajectory—graduating from an HBCU, serving as a research assistant at MIT, interning at Goldman Sachs, and then securing a scholarship to an Ivy League graduate program—the teens saw a real-life example of what they too could accomplish, given the proper resources. Thibault, having majored in physics at Morehouse and currently in the Applied Analytics Program at the School of Professional Studies, now wants to use his skill set to become a project manager and advocate for underdeveloped countries.

Including this community service component in the framework of the fellowship speaks directly to its methodical design. The HBCU Fellowship curates an ideal experience for students from diverse backgrounds who are invested in themselves, their community, and thereby the world at large.

For more information on the HBCU Fellowship Initiative, visit <http://sps.columbia.edu/hbcu>.

In the Mix



1 & 2: Beyond the Bars Conference

(1) Grassroots organizers including formerly incarcerated and directly impacted people at the 8th annual Beyond the Bars Conference of the Center for Justice at Columbia University. The conference seeks to contribute to the growing movement to close jails and prisons as a part of the larger struggle to end mass incarceration. Pictured: Beyond The Bars Fellows from Columbia University and UCLA. Photo credit: Anthony J. Williams @anthoknees

(2) First Lady of New York City, Chirlane McCray, provided opening remarks focused on the importance of closing jails and prisons. Photo credit: Center for Justice

3: Arthur Mitchell: Harlem's Ballet Trailblazer

Members of the community gather for the opening of Arthur Mitchell: Harlem's Ballet Trailblazer, the first major exhibition devoted to Arthur Mitchell. The project celebrates the life and accomplishments of the New York City Ballet's first African American star, and the founder and longtime director of the Dance Theater of Harlem. Photo credit: Wallach Gallery

4: Harlem Buyer Fair

The Columbia-Harlem Small Business Development Center hosted a Harlem Buyer Fair to connect local food, body care, and gift vendors with buyers from Whole Foods, FreshDirect, Columbia Dining, and more. Pictured: Charmaine DaCosta, owner, Crude Food/Limation. Photo credit: Jennifer Pellerito (Columbia)

5: WHDC and P2A Pre-Apprenticeship Graduates

Pathways to Apprenticeship (P2A), a West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC) grantee, successfully trained 20 individuals at WHDC's Workforce Skills Training Center. P2A recruits, trains, and mentors people to be accepted into and succeed in construction union apprenticeship programs in New York City. Pictured, the Direct Entry Pre-Apprenticeship graduates alongside Migdalia Rodriguez, manager of the West Harlem Skills Training Center. Photo credit: WHDC

6: Wallach Family Afternoon

A fun and creative afternoon of storytelling, dance, and art-making inspired by the incredible life of dance visionary Arthur Mitchell. Activities included interactive storytelling with Daniel Carlton and a special workshop led by Teens@Graham. The next Wallach Family Afternoon is scheduled for June 23. Photo credit: Cory Lee Schoonover

7: Barnard Bike-A-Thon

On Friday, March 23, 2018, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Barnard College held its annual Bike-A-Thon, an event that supports Columbia Community Service and the agencies that it serves. Faculty, staff, and students from all three campuses participated. This year, TIAA sponsored the Bike-A-Thon with a gift of \$5,000.

8: Gerrard Bushell

Gerrard Bushell is the president and CEO of the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York. A graduate of Columbia University in both the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Bushell received a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in political science. Here he is pictured showing his Columbia pride at the Annual Commission on Independent Colleges & Universities in New York (CICU) Reception in Albany.

Community Services

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to the local community, Columbia has dedicated a portion of the Manhattanville website to communicate some of the University's commitments for project-related programs and services that are currently available. For a comprehensive listing of programs and services, and participant eligibility, please visit manhattanville.columbia.edu/community.

Outreach to Disconnected Youth

Columbia University, in collaboration with community partners, provides resources to out-of-school and out-of-work youth ages 16–24 in the local community to help them reengage with educational institutions, obtain a high school equivalency degree, and/or seek skills training, career readiness, and job placement. Through intervention pathways, local youth and young adults will be referred for skills training, internships, and work-based learning and job placement opportunities with community-based organizations and Columbia University. For more information, please contact 212-854-5916.

Columbia Employment Information Center

The Columbia Employment Information Center (CEIC) (the “Center”) serves as the central community-based resource for local residents to apply for open positions at Columbia University.

The Center provides a wide range of services to the local community including in-person and online job readiness training programs, one-on-one job-search counseling and assistance, and access to online job opportunities at Columbia.

You are welcome to call our 24-hour hotline at 212-851-1551; it provides general information about the Center, information on Columbia University job opportunities, information on construction activities and information on construction-related job opportunities.

Course Auditing

Columbia University funds up to 50 courses per year through Columbia's Professional Studies Auditing Program for residents (25 residents from NYCHA Manhattanville Houses and Grant Houses and 25 residents from the local community). The Auditing Program provides adults not currently enrolled in college with the opportunity to attend up to two selected lectures drawn from Columbia University's offerings in the Arts and Sciences during the academic year.

For more information about the program, please call 212-854-9666.

Dental Health Screenings for Senior Citizens

Columbia University offers free dental health screenings for senior citizens throughout Northern Manhattan via the ElderSmile Program. As part of Columbia University's College of Dental Medicine Community DentCare Network, the ElderSmile Program offers free dental screenings and referrals for further dental treatment at senior centers throughout Washington Heights/Inwood and Harlem, including New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents in Manhattanville Houses and General Grant Houses.

Dental Services for Preschool Children

Columbia University offers free dental care for preschool-age children from the Manhattanville in West Harlem area through the Mobile Dental Center. The Mobile Dental Center is a program of Columbia University's College of Dental Medicine Community DentCare Network, which aims to reduce dental decay and improve the oral health of Northern Manhattan's underserved children, through comprehensive dental treatment and oral health education.

Scholarships for Lifelong Learners

Columbia University provides scholarships for 50 residents of Manhattanville Houses, Grant Houses, and the local community who are 65 years of age and older to audit up to two courses per year. Administered through Columbia's School of Professional Studies, the Lifelong Learners Program is designed for individuals committed to the principles of lifelong education.

For more information about the program, please call 212-854-9666.

Summer Sports Little Lions Camp Scholarships for Children

Columbia University offers 25 need-based scholarships for children ages 6–12 from the Manhattanville area to attend Columbia's Little Lions Camp. One scholarship is equal to one week of camp. All scholarship applications must come to Columbia University through the West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC). For more information, please contact the WHDC at 646-476-3394.

Space Provisions for Non-Columbia-Affiliated Local Artists and Cultural Organizations

Columbia University, consistent with current practice, makes good faith efforts to accommodate requests by local artists and cultural organizations not affiliated with Columbia for access to its indoor or outdoor spaces for programming that may include, but is not limited to, information sessions, performances, special events or presentations. Payment for such space will be in accordance with then current University protocols. Columbia University space is generally awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to Columbia and student activities, followed by local community activities.

Columbia Community Scholars Program

Columbia University offers independent, community-based scholars from Northern Manhattan access to a range of University services and resources not usually afforded to non-affiliated residents. Services and resources shall be provided at no cost to participants and shall include access to all of University libraries — including online access, course auditing privileges, dialogue with scholars in their field of study, and the ability to participate in seminars and social events developed specifically for the group.

For more information, please direct inquiries about the Community Scholars Program to 212-854-5710 or communityaffairs@columbia.edu.

Athletics Clinics

Columbia University's varsity sports programs and coaches of football, volleyball, basketball, soccer, swimming, track and field, and tennis sponsor and participate in seasonal sports clinics for local community children in University facilities and throughout Harlem and Washington Heights.

Housing Legal Assistance

For the period from January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2030, Columbia University provides funding for two attorneys at a legal assistance provider acceptable to NYCHPD serving the Manhattanville area, to provide anti-eviction/anti-harassment legal assistance for residents of the Manhattanville area. Funding will not exceed \$4 million through December 31, 2030.

Contact Legal Services NYC directly and ask a representative if you are eligible for the benefit described above. Phone: (212) 348-7449; Fax: (212) 348-4093. Legal Services NYC can also be found online: www.legalservicesnyc.org.

Shuttle Bus Service for the Elderly and Disabled

Columbia University provides a shuttle bus service free of charge to members of the local community who are disabled or who are senior citizens (including their attendants) via the ADA-accessible Inter-campus Shuttle. The shuttle bus service complies with ADA specifications to connect the Project Site to subway stations at:

- 96th Street and Broadway
- 116th Street and Broadway (Morningside campus)
- 125th Street and Broadway
- Harlem Hospital Center (135th Street and Lenox Avenue)
- Columbia University Medical Center (168th Street and Broadway)

The shuttle bus service runs on a regular schedule throughout the day on every weekday, except on state and federal public holidays.

Senior citizens and disabled passengers must show their Access-A-Ride, Reduced-Fare MetroCards, or Medicare cards, in order to access the service.

Undergraduate Scholarships for Aid-Eligible Students From the Local Community

Columbia University has established the Thompson-Muñoz Scholarship Fund to serve up to 40 aid-eligible undergraduate students per year who are admitted to Columbia College and/or the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, with funding made available to meet their fully demonstrated financial need. Eligible students must undergo Columbia's undergraduate admissions process. For more information, contact Columbia's Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (212) 854-2522.

Our Elected Officials and Community Boards

FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

Sen. Charles E. Schumer
757 Third Ave., Ste. 17-02
New York, NY 10017
Phone: 212-486-4430
TDD: 212-486-7803
Fax: 212-486-7693
<https://schumer.senate.gov>

Sen. Kirsten E. Gillibrand
780 Third Ave., Ste. 2601
New York, New York 10017
Phone: 212-688-6262
Fax: 212-688-7444
<https://gillibrand.senate.gov>

Rep. Jerrold Nadler (District 10)
201 Varick St., Ste. 669
New York, NY 10014
Phone: 212-367-7350
Fax: 212-367-7356
<https://nadler.house.gov>

Rep. Adriano Espaillat (District 13)
Harlem State Office Building
163 West 125th Street
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-663-3900
<https://espaillat.house.gov>

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224
Phone: 518-474-8390
Fax: 518-474-1513
<https://governor.ny.gov>

State Sen. Brian Benjamin (District 30)
163 West 125th Street
Harlem State Office Bldg., Suite 912
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-222-7315
<https://nysenate.gov/senators/brian-benjamin>

State Sen. Marisol Alcantara (District 31)
5030 Broadway
Suites 701 & 702
New York, NY 10034
Phone: 212-544-0173
<https://nysenate.gov/senators/marisol-alcantara>

Assembly Member Daniel J. O'Donnell (District 69)
245 W. 104th St.
New York, NY 10025
Phone: 212-866-3970
<http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Daniel-J-O'Donnell>

Assembly Member Inez E. Dickens (District 70)
163 West 125th Street
Suite 911
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-866-5809
<http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Inez-E-Dickens>

Assembly Member Al Taylor (District 71)
2541-55 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd.
New York, NY 10039
Phone: 212-234-1430
<http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Al-Taylor/>

Assembly Member Carmen De La Rosa (District 72)
210 Sherman Avenue
Ste A&C
New York, NY 10034
Phone: 212-544-2278
<http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Carmen-N-De-La-Rosa>

LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Bill de Blasio
City Hall
New York, NY 10007
Phone: 212-788-3000
Fax: 212-788-2460
<https://nyc.gov/mayor>

Public Advocate Letitia James
1 Centre St., 15th Flr.
New York, NY 10007
Phone: 212-669-7200 (General)
Phone: 212-669-7250 (Ombudsman)
Fax: 212-669-4701
<https://pubadvocate.nyc.gov>

Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer
431 West 125th Street
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-531-1609
<https://mbpo.org>

Comptroller Scott Stringer
1 Centre St.
New York, NY 10007
Phone: (212) 669-3916
TTY: 212-669-3450
Fax: 212-669-2707
<https://comptroller.nyc.gov>

City Council Speaker Corey Johnson (District 3)
224 West 30th St, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212-564-7757
<https://council.nyc.gov/district-3/>

City Council Member Helen Rosenthal (District 6)
563 Columbus Ave.
New York, NY 10024
Phone: 212-873-0282
Fax: 212-873-0279
<https://council.nyc.gov/district-6>

City Council Member Mark Levine (District 7)
500 W. 141st St.
New York, NY 10031
Phone: 212-928-6814
Fax: 646-582-1408
<https://council.nyc.gov/district-7>

City Council Member Diana Ayala (District 8)
105 East 116th Street
New York NY 10029
Phone: 212-828-9800
<https://council.nyc.gov/district-8/>

City Council Member Bill Perkins (District 9)
Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building
163 West 125th Street, Room 729
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-678-4505
Fax: 212-864-4379
<https://council.nyc.gov/district-9>

City Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez (District 10)
618 W. 177th St., Ground Flr.
New York, NY 10033
Phone: 917-521-2616
Fax: 917-521-1293
<https://council.nyc.gov/district-10>

COMMUNITY BOARDS



Community Board 7
Represents the community between the Hudson River and Central Park West from 59th Street to 110th Street.

250 West 87th Street
New York, NY 10024
Phone: 212-362-4008
office@cb7.org
Board Chair: Roberta Semer
District Manager: Penny Ryan
<https://nyc.gov/html/mancb7>

Community Board 9
Represents the community between the Hudson River and Morningside/Edgecombe avenues from 110th Street to 155th Street.

16 Old Broadway
(Between 125th and 126th Streets)
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-864-6200
info@cb9m.org
Board Chair: Padmore John
District Manager: Eutha Prince
<https://cb9m.org>

Community Board 10
Represents the community between Fifth Avenue and Morningside/Edgecombe avenues from 110th Street to 159th Street.

215 W. 125th St., 4th Flr.
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-749-3105
mn10cb@cb.nyc.gov
Board Chair: Cicely Harris
District Manager: Andrew Lassalle
<https://nyc.gov/html/mancb10>

Community Board 11
Represents the community between 96th Street and 142nd Street, Fifth Avenue and the East and Harlem Rivers, and includes Randall's and Ward's Islands.

1664 Park Avenue, Ground Floor
New York, NY 10035
Phone: 212-831-8929
mn11@cb.nyc.gov
Board Chair: Nilsa Orama
District Manager: Angel D. Mescain
www.cb11m.org

Community Board 12
Represents the community between the Hudson River and the Harlem River from 155th Street to 220th Street.

530 W. 166th St., 6th Flr.
New York, NY 10032
Phone: 212-568-8500
ebsmith@cb.nyc.gov
Board Chair: Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq.
District Manager: Ebenezer Smith
<https://nyc.gov/html/mancb12>

He Represents You ...

New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson



Corey Johnson, who represents District 3, was elected as speaker of the New York City Council on January 3, 2018. A Democrat, he is currently serving his second term in the City Council, after time as the chair of Manhattan Community Board 4. District 3 includes Greenwich Village, Chelsea, Hell's Kitchen, the Flatiron District, West SoHo, Hudson Square, the Meatpacking District, Times Square, the Theater District, the Garment District, Columbus Circle, and part of the Upper West Side.

Johnson grew up in Middleton, Massachusetts, where he was raised by a working-class mother and stepfather. He gained national attention when, in high school, he came out as gay while serving as captain of the football team. After high school, he moved to New York City, where he worked his way up through Democratic politics from a job at the Retail Workers Union, while overcoming problems with alcohol and cocaine.

A member of the LGBT Caucus of the City Council, Johnson has worked on issues related to homelessness, mass transit, gentrification, and the rising cost of living. As City Council speaker, he will have significant power to affect the city's land use and budget. He has articulated a policy agenda that includes congestion pricing for hired vehicles, a municipal single-payer healthcare system, and increasing funding for the subway. Johnson has said he hopes to preside over an independent City Council, including the creation of an investigations committee, while still maintaining a productive partnership with Mayor Bill de Blasio.

Johnson is the only openly HIV-positive elected official in New York State and the first openly gay male speaker of the City Council.

Connect with the Office of Government and Community Affairs Online!
[Website: https://gca.columbia.edu/](https://gca.columbia.edu/)
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THE COLUMBIAN NEWSLETTER

NEWS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

SPRING/SUMMER 2018

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