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I am delighted to present the CUNY School of Professional Studies Annual Report reflecting the 2014-15 academic year. As we celebrate a year in the life of our School, I can’t help but think about how it all began.

In 2003, the CUNY School of Professional Studies offered only one certificate program in literacy studies, sponsored by the UFT and developed specifically for New York City teachers. Now, only 13 years later, the School offers 15 certificates, 10 undergraduate degrees and 8 graduate degrees, and consists of over 200 faculty members, approximately 25% of whom are full-time at CUNY SPS, another CUNY college, or elsewhere, and over 250 staff.

Since 2013 we have occupied our own dedicated facility at 119 W. 31st St., and this past fall we enrolled our largest number of students ever – over 2,700 in our credit-bearing programs (and as many as 15,000 in our non-credit-bearing professional development programs).

Our Office of Professional Development and Workplace Learning maintains a long tradition of assisting city agencies and labor unions, including documenting the City’s homeless with the NYC Department of Homeless Services, and producing training and relocation logistics for all of New York City with the Office of Emergency Management during recent super-storms. The Office has generated over $45 million in grants since its inception, and we continue to support other City and State agencies, with programs such as Build it Back, and our work with the Human Resources Administration and the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

Also, in just four short years, we have provided over $400,000 in scholarships to our undergraduate and graduate students since the inception of the CUNY SPS Foundation. Our first six-figure gift led to the first class of 14 ACE Scholars, who receive full tuition through graduation, and we also awarded the first cohort of six full-tuition Joseph S. Murphy Scholarships for Diversity in Labor.

With every passing year, CUNY SPS is able to do more for its students academically, professionally, and financially.

I believe our constant growth and quick adaptation defines us as a School. We serve our students with unrivaled dedication and commitment, and receive such high marks in this area that our online degree programs were named #3 in New York State and #27 in the nation by U.S. News & World Report in 2015.

I am so pleased and proud of the accomplishments featured in this Annual Report, and I hope that you will also enjoy learning about our School.

Sincerely,

John Mogulescu
Dean, CUNY School of Professional Studies
2014 – CUNY SPS launched the first online RN-BSN in CUNY.
Our Programs: Online BS in Nursing

Providing a spirit of inquiry and professional development

The RN to BS in Nursing online degree program launched in Spring 2014 with an initial class of 24 nursing cohort students. The program, now in its fourth semester, has grown to more than 250 students and earned national accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

The creation of the CUNY SPS online nursing program was a response to the growing need for registered nurses to obtain bachelor’s degrees. Further, the Institute of Medicine’s 2011 report, The Future of Nursing, advocates that 80% of registered nurses have a BS by 2020 in order to meet the demands for inter-professional care delivery, while the quest for Magnet status by healthcare institutions as a metric for quality nursing care and the changing mode of health-care delivery prompted by the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (2010) have also been influential in the rising demand for BS-prepared RNs.

Research indicated that RNs seeking a BS in Nursing wanted a flexible, affordable, and reputable option, and our program meets all three of these key factors. CUNY’s reputation is a deciding factor for many students, and the fully online format allows RNs the flexibility to meet their professional and family obligations while earning the academic credential necessary to enhance their positions and advance in the field.

The program offers unique learning opportunities, including assistance with clinical placements in community nursing practice experiences, a component required by the NYS Education Department and CCNE. Most new AAS nursing graduates do not have the clinical connections or expertise to navigate initiation of a clinical preceptorship. CUNY SPS capitalizes on its robust network of community and clinical partners and the support of skilled clinical faculty and preceptors to guide the RNs in meaningful clinical experiences.

Through a partnership between CUNY and the NYU Medical Center, CUNY SPS BSN students are also afforded the opportunity to enhance their health assessment skills by working with standardized patient actors at the NYSIM Center, a $22 million dollar simulation center at Bellevue Hospital. While a common practice in medical education, use of standardized patient actors is groundbreaking in nursing education.

In another learning opportunity, CUNY SPS has partnered with Queensborough Community College to offer a dual/joint scholar program for AAS students to progress seamlessly and in an accelerated manner to the BS in Nursing degree.
Our Students
Diverse, creative, and hard-working

“I remember sitting in class for the first time and being certain that I knew it all — why the world is the way it is; why people act the way they do. And I remember the lecturer saying that she is not here to change our minds or put ideas in our heads; she’s there to give another point of view. Again, I thought I knew everything. But in the end, and I’m not kidding you, she didn’t change me, but she opened my eyes to more than I could have imagined. I look at things differently now, I understand things, and the true reason behind them.”

Raquel Barnes
Program: MA in Urban Studies
“There was never going to be a good time to go back to school; I’m not sure where I would be without my education now. It’s wild to recount this story and be on the ‘semester’s eve’ of graduation, 10 years after my first foray into higher education and to think of how fortunate I am to have been surrounded by such wonderful people in life, at work, and in school. I forged real relationships at CUNY SPS, and everyone is truly invested in providing or receiving the best academic experience possible. I’m forever grateful to have been a part of that the last few years.”

Alexandra Schonholz
Program: BA in Communication and Media
Our Alumni
A vibrant and growing network of over 2,400

“I needed a program that would really invest in me, and I wanted a school that understood that life happens, with advisors that could address these things for their students.”

Crispin Goytia ’09
Program: BA in Communication and Culture
“What I enjoyed about CUNY SPS were the small class sizes. I had a lot of contact with my professors and received help in areas that I needed to work on or wasn’t so sure about. I was given a great deal of attention that helped me feel more confident, and that reflected in my work”

Stephanie Perez ’15
Program: BA in Sociology
Our Faculty
Valued experts in their academic fields

“You have the transit worker talking to the property owner talking to the small businessperson talking to the mother talking to the voter all together in the classroom conversing about what makes a good city. It’s an awesome discussion.”

Kafui Attoh
Assistant Professor of Urban Studies, JSMI
“What students are doing in the classroom is very similar to what they’ll be doing in the workplace. Students recognize that immediately upon starting the program and that gets them very excited.”

Andrew Hernandez
Adjunct Faculty,
MS in Data Analytics
Our Programs:
MA in Applied Theatre

Drama and Theatre Education for Reconciliation and Development: Project Rwanda

The MA in Applied Theatre degree program, the first program of its kind in the United States, uses theatre as a medium for education, social development, and the pursuit of social justice. It involves the use of theatre and drama in a wide variety of non-traditional contexts and venues: in teaching, the justice system, healthcare, politics, community development, museums, social service agencies, businesses, and industry.

Graduates of the program are prepared for careers as teaching artists with theatres, museums, hospitals, and other community-based organizations; education directors for cultural organizations; facilitators of youth programs; creative aging artists; health and wellness theatre program specialists; conflict resolution; and activities specialists with development programs, aid agencies, and refugee support programs.

In 2010, Project Rwanda: Drama and Theatre Education for Reconciliation and Development, a multi-year program where faculty and students from the program travel to Rwanda and work with The Kigali Institute of Education (KIE) to deliver ongoing student education in applied theatre, was conceived and piloted. The project team, composed of our faculty and students and led by professors Helen White and Chris Vine, have visited Rwanda several times since 2010, and continue to work together to facilitate this unique collaboration.

The twin goals driving the Project are 1) to develop the use of theatre and drama strategies as educational tools to help promote unity and reconciliation among Rwandans, and 2) to create job opportunities by building applied theatre troupes; first in schools and colleges, and later in the professional, cultural milieu.

In 2014, KIE became part of the University of Rwanda as its designated College of Education, with prime responsibility for training the country’s teachers.

In 2015, Phase Five of the project, focused on pre-service drama teacher training. The CUNY SPS faculty and students worked with 79 Rwandan students from across all four-year levels, designing and implementing an interventionist model of theatre for development, and continued to support the efforts of the multi-cultural collaboration between the Rwandan drama program and the CUNY SPS MA in Applied Theatre program.
2010—CUNY SPS
Applied Theatre program established the first Project Rwanda trip.
Our Students
Our students are the heart of our School

“I chose the BA in Human Relations degree at CUNY SPS because I believe it is a degree that STANDS OUT. The course structure challenged, motivated, and inspired me to not just be a better professional, but also to be a better person.”

Krystyna Audain
Program: BA in Human Relations
“I love the flexibility that CUNY SPS offers. While I mostly take online courses, I insisted that my “in person” course be close to Penn Station for my convenience. CUNY SPS rose to the challenge. Additionally, my professors have all shown themselves to be top-of-the-line educators dedicated to expanding knowledge, encouraging freedom of expression, and supporting exploration.”

Harris Kline
Program: BA in Sociology
Our Alumni

Putting their degrees to work

“What did surprise me about the program were the other students and their backgrounds — there are a lot of executives and a lot of people in notable companies that were going to get their master’s degrees online. I didn’t actually expect that, because at the time I felt as though there was a stigma attached to an online degree, in the sense of you’re not getting the same thing that you may be getting in a brick and mortar situation, which I don’t believe to be true anymore. I think having the ability to do a master’s in a timeframe that’s more conducive to your lifestyle is vital, and I don’t think that you miss anything by doing it online. I think you’re getting the same rich, robust information that you’d get had you been sitting down in class.”

Yomi Desalu ’15
Program: MS Business Management and Leadership
“Along with the strong knowledge base and theoretical grounding that CUNY SPS gave me, the School also helped me to forge strong professional and personal relationships with classmates and instructors that helped lead to my current position. Another element, not as tangible but every bit as important, was the confidence that this program and School instilled in me.”

Daniel Chan ’15
Program: MA in Disability Studies
“CUNY SPS students are amazingly varied, from the kinds of jobs they have to their national, ethnic, and racial makeup to their ages and geographic location. I learn an enormous amount from them. In my work, I especially enjoy showing critics of online classes that, when well-done, the online environment can provide a learning experience that is actually superior in many ways to the live, large lecture class, and even in some ways to the small seminar.”

David Halle
Adjunct Faculty,
BA in Sociology
“Our students want an opportunity to look at disability and understand it on a deeper level, so we offer a different perspective on disability. After they graduate, our students, either because they know more about disability or are confident in the skills they gained in the program, move up in the agency in which they work or sometimes move to another agency at a higher level.”

Mariette Bates
Academic Director, Disability Studies
Our Programs: Child Development Associate Certificate

Educating early childhood workers in New York City

In 2012, CUNY SPS partnered with the New York Early Childhood Professional Development Institute (PDI) to launch the Child Development Associate certificate program (CDA), the only credit-bearing CDA program of its kind in New York City. Designed for preschool teachers, childcare workers, and other individuals looking to work in the field of early childhood education, the certificate gives our students the opportunity to earn 12 undergraduate credits, which may also be applied to degree programs, thus establishing the foundation for career advancement.

The structure and curriculum of the CDA certificate is designed to complement the Child Development Associate national credentialing program’s competency standards. Students who complete the requirements of these credit-bearing courses, with faculty advisement, can go on to submit a portfolio to the Council for Professional Recognition to earn the Child Development Associate Credential™, the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education and a requirement for working in many early childhood centers across the United States.

The program includes 120 hours of required fieldwork and two-hour observations. Students are observed in their place of employment or an assigned fieldwork location as they work with children in family childcare environments, the infant-toddler age group, or in preschool. The fieldwork and observations are vital indicators of a student’s practical teaching skills, and provide opportunities for students to learn through experience.

Support for our CDA students has come in many forms, including generous financial support from the Stella and Charles Guttman Foundation, for a cohort of 12 family childcare providers in the Cypress Hills Family Day Care Network, and the launch of the Patti Lieberman Scholarship for Early Childhood Education.
More than 500 graduates were recognized for their academic achievements at our 2015 Commencement Exercises, held at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

From the Class of 2015, the oldest student was born in 1932 (during the Hoover administration) and received a master of arts degree, while the oldest bachelor’s degree recipient was born in 1950. Women comprised 72% of the graduating class, seven international students represented six countries, and graduates attended from 25 states beyond New York.

A record 2,500 family, faculty, and graduates were addressed by a number of speakers, including Dean John Mogulescu, CUNY Trustee Joseph K. Awadjie, CUNY SPS Foundation Board of Directors member Horace Barker, and CUNY General Counsel and Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs Frederick P. Schaffer.

Andrew Sparberg, adjunct instructor, Murphy Institute, gave uplifting remarks on behalf of our faculty while Reesa Graham, a graduate of the MA in Applied Theatre program, offered poignant and personal remarks to her fellow graduates.

Dr. Regina Peruggi, President Emerita of Kingsborough Community College and the Commencement’s keynote speaker, addressed the graduates with a heartfelt speech and warm wishes.

We ranked in the top 15% of U.S. News & World Report’s list of the 2015 Best Online Bachelor’s Degree Programs. Of the 214 institutions listed, we ranked 3rd in New York State and 27th in the nation.

Additionally, we ranked in the top 12% of U.S. News & World Report’s list of 2015’s Best Online Bachelor’s Programs for Veterans.
Faculty Accomplishments

Murphy Institute faculty members Ruth Milkman and Ed Ott, and labor studies alumni Lynne Turner (MA ’11), Mischa Gaus (MA ’13), and Ben Shapiro (MA ’12) published their book New Labor in New York.

Murphy Institute professor, transit historian, and retired Long Island Rail Road manager Andrew J. Sparberg published his new book, From a Nickel to a Token, which chronicles the history of New York’s transit system between 1940 and 1968, the subway unification, and the creation of the MTA.

Roberta Reardon, labor studies faculty member at the Murphy Institute and AFL-CIO economic liaison, was selected as Governor Cuomo’s newest Commissioner of Labor.

Mimi Abramovitz, consortial faculty member at the Murphy Institute, was selected by the National Association of Social Workers Foundation to become a member of the Social Work Pioneers.

Professor Linda Ridley, who teaches in the online MS in Business Management and Leadership degree program, received a Case Writing Scholarship from the Case Centre in Europe for her work, Sympathetic Leadership: The Impact of Changing Demographics on Global Business.

Steve Fraser, research associate at the Murphy Institute, published his latest book, The Age of Acquiescence: The Life and Death of American Resistance to Organized Wealth and Power, a comparison between the economy, ideology, and politics of the eighteenth century to present day.

Professor Anthony Sterns, who teaches in our online business programs, received a $100,000 grant from the Ohio Third Frontier Program for his Technology Validation and Start-up Program.

Ruth Milkman, research director at the Murphy Institute, was appointed distinguished professor of sociology at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Kafui Attoh, assistant professor of urban studies at the Murphy Institute, was awarded a grant of $56,548 from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. His project, titled Economic Inequality in the Driver’s Seat: Household Budgets in the On-Demand Mobile Services Sector, examines contingent and part-time on-demand work in mobile transportation, hospitality, home services, delivery and logistics services, such as Uber, Seamless, Taskrabbit, and AirBnB.

For up-to-date news and events visit our website at sps.cuny.edu.
Kristal Reyes, BA in Communication and Media student, and Yolanda Ransom, a BA in Sociology student, received the CUNY Vice Chancellor’s Excellence in Leadership Award. Eligibility requirements for this award include having earned a grade point average of 3.0 or better, and having demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities in both academic and co-curricular activities.

Daniel Dittenhafer, MS in Data Analytics student, won first prize in the Math & Science Division at The City College of New York’s (CCNY) 8th Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium. Daniel’s project uses statistical and visual analysis to investigate the relationship between births and the unemployment rate in the United States between the years of 2007 and 2012. The CCNY Graduate Student Symposium is a platform for graduate students to gain recognition for their work by faculty, students, and potential employers.

Nooria Nodrat, ’14 MA Disability Studies alumna, recently contributed her story to the Visible Lives: Oral Histories of the Disability Experience project, which collects testimonials from people living with a disability. Visible Lives is a project of the Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library in Manhattan.

Nodrat is also the founder and chairperson of the Afghanistan Blind Women and Children Foundation, a nonprofit organization that offers essential educational programs and medical support to blind Afghani women and children for improved health and well being.

Ruchoma Kagonoff, BS in Nursing student, received an award for dedication to perioperative nursing from Gertrude Dittiger, board member from the NYC chapter of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses in December of 2014.

Maggie Keenan-Bolger, ’10 MA in Applied Theatre alumna, self-published Queering History, a play written with the LBGTQIA youth at Green Chimneys New York City division. The multi-character play focuses on Emma, a young queer woman who meets her Fairy Queen Godmother through a high school history class and explores LBGTQIA history.

Maggie has also self-published a version of the play adapted for high school audiences, with a percentage of the proceeds from each sale donated to LBGTQIA homeless youth.

First Lady Chirlane McCray attends Murphy event

First Lady of New York City Chirlane McCray attended and introduced the keynote speaker, Barbara Smith, at the Identity Politics: A Foundation for Coalition Building forum. The event was held at the Murphy Institute, in collaboration with 1199SEIU and Cornell University’s Worker Institute. Drawing on forty years of work with civil rights, feminist, LGBTQ and other movements, Smith’s new book, Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around, addresses many of these related questions relating to “identity politics.”

Emergent Trends panel

The Emergent Trends and Employer Needs series invited alumni and students to hear from employers about current and developing trends, challenges, and opportunities in the workforce. One panel centered on the nonprofit sector with an emphasis on youth development agencies. Executives from The Door, JobsFirstNYC, and Harlem Children’s Zone served as guest panelists. A second featured chief Development Officers from Fortune 500 companies.
Murphy Institute Diversity Scholarship
The Murphy Institute launched a national scholarship competition dedicated to fostering diverse leadership in the labor movement and in the academic field of labor studies. The Murphy Institute embarked on a campaign to raise scholarship funds to address the lack of racial and gender diversity in union leadership and labor scholarship. It now awards significant scholarships to deserving students: up to $30,000 for graduate students and up to $20,000 for undergraduate students. The scholarships result from a University challenge grant during the leadership of former City University of New York Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, and are named in honor of former CUNY Chancellor Joseph S. Murphy, a tireless advocate for working people. If the challenge is met, $1 million in scholarship funds will be raised over the next five years.

ACE Scholarship
The newly instituted scholarship Achieve College Education (ACE) supports high-achieving undergraduate CUNY SPS students with awards that underwrite 100% of their tuition. The scholarship is open to undergraduate students who reside in New York State, are within 6 to 21 credits of graduation, maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, are enrolled for a minimum of 6 credits, and demonstrate financial need. As part of their award requirements, ACE Scholars mentor newly admitted undergraduate students.

Build it Back project
The Mayor’s Office of Housing Recovery Operations announced that they would manage the federally-funded Build it Back program to help more than 20,000 homeowners affected by Superstorm Sandy. The New York City Human Resources Administration partnered with CUNY SPS in order to provide a project team to support the program. The $1.3 million, 18-month project serves homeowners, landlords, and tenants in New York City who seek to repair, rebuild, or obtain reimbursements for storm-related damage. The CUNY SPS team will help to resolve application issues, analyze program data, and provide training and tools for program staff to better serve applicants.

Dean John Mogulescu appointed to Citywide Task Force
Dean Mogulescu was appointed by Mayor Bill de Blasio to the 11-member leadership team of “Jobs for New Yorkers,” a specially created task force charged with “changing the way the City approaches workforce development and build[ing] a high-quality talent pipeline that is equipped with today’s most in-demand skills.” The task force will work to help shift the City’s approach to focus on employment for New Yorkers in skill-building, higher-wage jobs that offer opportunities for advancement, as opposed to job placement in low-paying sectors.

Notable events/highlights

2012 – Moved to our new campus at 119 W. 31st Street.

Victor Calise makes campus visit
New York City Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities Commissioner Victor Calise, ’12, alumnus of the MA in Urban Studies program, hosted an online Google Hangout with students, faculty, and staff. Following the online event, Commissioner Calise held a discussion about the Mayor’s Office’s current initiatives to heighten awareness about and improve the lives of the disability community.
Grants and Contracts Summary

The CUNY School of Professional Studies designs custom learning and professional development programs to help organizations achieve their goals. We work with government agencies, labor unions, and nonprofit organizations in a range of areas such as leadership development, human services, emergency management, and energy services. To our partnerships, we bring knowledge of research-based practices in learning assessment, instructional design, delivery, learning technology, and evaluation to explore frontiers in workplace learning.

Management, Leadership, and Governance

CEO Program Management Forum - $148,000
To offer an intensive leadership development course for program managers in nonprofit organizations that pilot innovative, anti-poverty strategies for low-income New Yorkers.
*Partner: NYC Mayor’s Office, Center for Economic Opportunity*

Principles of Supervision Learning Program - $45,000
To prepare newly appointed supervisors to better perform their management roles in NYC’s transportation and manufacturing industries.
*Partner: NYC Department of Small Business Services*

Board Member Corporate Governance Training – $35,000 from Metropolitan Transit Authority and $35,000 from NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation
To prepare public authority board members to take active roles in overseeing their institutions and in fulfilling their responsibilities under the Public Authorities Reform Act.
*Partner: Metropolitan Transit Authority and NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation*

Energy Management

Energy Services Program - $1,794,000
To support the city’s efforts to reduce energy consumption - includes the delivery of blended (part online and part classroom-based) Building Operator Certification courses, trades-specific training courses, and the management of an Energy Management Institute.
*Partner: NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services*

Emergency Management

Build It Back Issue Resolution and Staff Development - $170,000
To develop staff and to resolve applicant issues in order to accelerate the processing of applications from homeowners affected by Hurricane Sandy.
*Partner: NYC Mayor’s Office of Housing Recovery Operations*

Coastal Storm Plan Training Program - $472,000
To facilitate the delivery of just-in-time training to thousands of city staff to prepare them to operate emergency shelters, including how to serve individuals with special needs. To make online courses available to city staff who use the City Incident Management System as well as to staff who use the emergency sheltering registration system.
*Partner: NYC Office of Emergency Management*

Emergency Management Catastrophic Exercise Program - $136,000
To provide the region’s emergency managers with the opportunity to participate in complex exercises to enhance their capacity to manage large-scale emergencies.
*Partner: NY-NJ-CT-PA Regional Catastrophic Planning Team and TetraTech, Inc.*
Public Health Community Toolkit - $85,000
To develop a toolkit for community-based organizations to use for supporting their constituents in the event of a major public health emergency.
*Partner: NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Public Health Solutions*

**Human Services**

**Strengthening Child Welfare Practice through Workforce Development - $90,000**
To conduct analysis and plan for the creation of an ACS Workforce Institute to enhance the capabilities of frontline employees in children and family services in New York City.
*Partner: NYC Administration for Children’s Services*

**Family Development Credential - $30,000**
To provide instruction and portfolio advising to frontline family support workers to help them earn a nationally-recognized human services credential.
*Partner: NYC Department of Youth and Community Development and CUNY Office of Academic Affairs*

**Office of Child Support Enforcement – CUNY Training Program - $2,800,000**
To define procedures and train the agency’s 800+ employees so that they are equipped with knowledge and skills needed to carry out their operational responsibilities effectively.
*Partner: NYC Human Resources Administration*

**Distance Education, Training Management Systems, Needs Assessment, and Evaluation $1,241,000**
To support the agency’s distance education platform, media production, and training systems that serve thousands of state and local district employees in the children and families service field.
*Partner: NYS Office of Children and Family Services*

**Information Technology**

**Auxiliary Staff - $545,000**
To provide training and support to the downstate welfare information system user communities—staff who provide financial assistance and support to low-income residents of New York State.
*Partner: NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance*

**Education**

**Advancing the Field of Labor Relations in China - $472,000**
To further develop the academic field of labor relations in China through partnerships with Chinese higher education institutions.
*Partner: US Department of State*

**Online Financial Literacy Course - $385,000**
To develop and offer an online college credit course in consumer and personal finance for New York City high school students. The course uses innovative pedagogical techniques including the use of simulations.
*Partner: NYS Higher Education Services Corporation*
Recognizing Our Generous Supporters

The ACE (Achieve College Education) Scholarship program was seeded by a generous $100,000 matching gift from Alan Fishman. Full-tuition ACE Scholarships support high-achieving undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need and are within 6-21 credits of graduation.

As part of their awards, ACE Scholars serve as mentors to newly-admitted CUNY SPS students. ACE Scholars have firsthand experience and offer unique insight to incoming students as they navigate the challenges of returning as an adult to complete an undergraduate degree.

“I am deeply grateful for Alan Fishman’s visionary support,” said John Mogulescu, dean of the School. “Most scholarships support traditional-aged undergraduate students. The ACE Scholarship program is unique in that it acknowledges the effort and achievement of high-performing adult undergraduate students who have returned to complete their degrees. The scholarship provides a financial incentive to help recipients get across the finish line to graduation, in order to pursue their goals and advance their careers.”

Mr. Fishman’s $100,000 matching gift represents the School’s largest gift to date and kicks off the CUNY SPS Foundation’s Help Put New York to Work campaign, a five-year effort aimed at raising more than $2 million in scholarship funds.

Mr. Fishman is the chairman of Ladder Capital, a leading commercial real estate finance company with offices in New York, Los Angeles, Boca Raton, and San Francisco. He has been an active philanthropist and leader in many nonprofit activities in Brooklyn. He serves as chair of the Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn Academy of Music and chair of the Brooklyn Community Foundation. Mr. Fishman serves on the Boards of several private companies and other not-for-profit and civic organizations.

2015 – Foundation awarded our students $225,000 in scholarships.

“I am deeply grateful for Alan Fishman’s visionary support.”
– John Mogulescu, Dean, CUNY SPS
Help Put New York To Work

The first dedicated campaign in the history of CUNY SPS, Help Put New York to Work is an ambitious, five-year effort to raise $2.5 million to help support the School’s students. The campaign will raise spend-down funds to provide immediate support to current students, and endowed funds to support CUNY SPS students in perpetuity. The targeted campaign will focus on three specific areas for support: scholarship aid, academic enrichment, and emergent technologies.

Blake Foote, a member of the CUNY SPS Foundation Board, generously contributed $25,000 in support of the Help Put New York to Work Campaign. Foote has been engaged in the workforce development field since 1995 in several capacities at the local and national level. She is currently chair of the Board of Directors of Workforce Professionals Training Institute (WPTI) and also serves on the Board of Directors of the Center for an Urban Future.

Robert Kissane, founding chair of the CUNY SPS Foundation Board, made a $25,000 gift and pledged $100,000 over four years in support of the Help Put New York to Work Campaign. A graduate of CUNY SPS, Kissane is the president of Community Counselling Service LLC and its international operations in Canada and the United Kingdom. He is a recognized leader in strategic consulting for major non-profit organizations worldwide. He also serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of Human Rights Watch – the largest human rights organization based in the United States serves as vice president of the Board of Directors of Poets House - the literary center and poetry archive in Battery Park City, and sits on the Board of Directors of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Patti Lieberman generously contributed over $30,000 to establish and endow the Patti Lieberman Scholarship for Early Childhood Education, which provides tuition support to students enrolled in either the Children’s Program Administrator Credential or the Child Development Associate Certificate at CUNY SPS. An early childhood expert and tireless advocate, Lieberman is a trustee of the A.L. Mailman Family Foundation, Inc., a private national foundation focused on early care and education since its inception in 1981. She is a founding member of the Child Care and Early Education Fund in NYC (CCEEF) a multi-year funders collaborative that partners with NYC and NYS agencies to improve the quality of the early care and education system. In 2005, the Fund established the NYC Early Childhood Professional Development Institute (PDI) at City University of New York. She is a member of the New York State Governor’s Early Childhood Advisory Council and served on the Mayor’s Zero to Three Task force. Ms. Lieberman serves as a founding board member of the CUNY SPS Foundation.

The A.L. Mailman Family Foundation contributed $25,000 in support of the Children’s Program Administrator Credential and the Child Development Associate Certificate programs at CUNY SPS.

Ann Peterson contributed more than $20,000 and her family raised more than $5,000 from generous supporters to establish and endow the Russ Peterson Technology Scholars program at the CUNY School of Professional Studies in memory of Russ’s life and work. Russ dedicated much of his professional career to the intersection between technology and healthcare. The scholarship will benefit promising students with financial need who are pursuing technology-related degrees at CUNY SPS.
Scholarships

Made possible through the generosity of friends of the School, including members of the CUNY SPS Foundation Board of Directors, scholarship award amounts vary from partial to full tuition.

ACE Scholarship
ACE Scholarships support high-achieving undergraduate CUNY SPS students. Awards underwrite 100% of tuition and follow recipients through degree completion. The scholarship is open to undergraduate students who reside in New York State, are within 6-21 credits of graduation, maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, are enrolled for a minimum of 6 credits, and demonstrate financial need.

CAT/MAAT Graduate Apprenticeship Program for Diversity in Applied Theatre
Subject to the availability of funding, the CUNY Creative Arts Team (CAT) and the CUNY SPS MA in Applied Theatre program (MAAT) award graduate apprenticeships on an annual basis, to run from September 1 to June 30th in any academic year.

Founding Dean’s Scholarship
The CUNY School of Professional Studies Founding Dean’s Scholarship is open to all applicants enrolled in a CUNY SPS degree program on a part- or full-time basis. Scholarships of $500 for part-time students and $1,500 for full-time students are awarded on the basis of financial need and academic merit.

Patti Lieberman Scholarship for Early Childhood Education
The Patti Lieberman Scholarship for Early Childhood Education provides tuition support to students enrolled in one of two certificate programs offered by CUNY SPS: the Children’s Program Administrator Credential or the Child Development Associate Certificate.

Bob Martin Memorial Scholarship
The Bob Martin Memorial Scholarship is open to any student with a 2.5 GPA or higher who is enrolled in a CUNY SPS online bachelor’s degree program on a part- or full-time basis, and who is within 30 credits of completing the online degree. Scholarships of $1,500 are awarded on the basis of financial need and academic merit.

Timothy Meade Memorial Scholarship
The Timothy Meade Memorial Scholarship is open to undergraduate students enrolled in the CUNY SPS Disability Studies program with a 2.0 GPA or higher. Applicants can be enrolled on a full-time or part-time basis. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of financial need and priority will be given to eligible applicants with a disabled family member.

The Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship
The Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship for Diversity in Labor awards two-year scholarships of up to $30,000 (graduate students) and up to $20,000 (undergraduate students), and is open to students applying to the M.A. in Labor Studies program or to students currently enrolled in, or applying to, the B.A. in Urban and Community Studies program with a concentration in labor studies.
Scholarships: Supporting Student Success

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the CUNY SPS Foundation has awarded named scholarships totaling more than $400,000 to 56 students since 2012. Awards have supported students across 11 different degree programs. On average, scholarship recipients are 36 years old with a cumulative GPA of 3.78; two thirds are women, and the majority of our scholarship recipients are from underrepresented groups. In 2015, the CUNY SPS Foundation awarded 31 scholarships totaling $225,000.

Stephen M. Rossen Memorial Scholarship

The Stephen M. Rossen Memorial Scholarship is open to any student who is enrolled in a CUNY SPS online degree program on a part- or full-time basis, and who is within 30 credits of completion. A scholarship of $1,500 will be awarded on the basis of need and academic merit.

Eugene Walters Scholarship

The Eugene Walters Scholarship is open to any undergraduate student who is enrolled in a CUNY SPS online degree program on a part or full-time basis. Eugene Walters Scholarship(s) are awarded on the basis of financial need and academic merit. This scholarship can only be applied to student tuition costs.
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