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Dear Members of the CUNY SPS Community,

I am delighted to present the CUNY School of Professional Studies Annual Report reflecting the 2016-17 academic year.

CUNY SPS faculty, staff, and program partners continued to develop and launch new academic programs during 2016-17. An MS in Nursing Education, an MS in Nursing Organizational Leadership, an MA in Youth Studies, and a certificate in Medical Coding were approved this year, bringing the number of degrees offered by CUNY SPS to 23: 12 bachelor’s degrees (ten online) and 11 master’s degrees (seven online). In Spring 2017, we crossed the 3,000-student enrollment milestone.

To better serve our growing population of students, this year, we established both the CUNY SPS Student Association and its governing entity, the CUNY SPS College Association, and both organizations are very actively engaged in the life of the School.

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 that our online degree programs were named second in New York State, and in the top 8% in the nation at number 22 by U.S. News and World Report’s list of Best Online Bachelor’s Degree programs.

Also this year, CUNY SPS was awarded grants and contracts of $19,413,000. New grants this year include $775,000 from the Central Park Conservancy’s Institute for Urban Parks, to help the Institute expand its professional development programming to park professionals across the country and internationally.

The number of scholarship opportunities that were available to students through the School grew by 55% from last year, and the number of students awarded a scholarship grew 23%.

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

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

Sincerely,

John Mogulescu
Dean, CUNY School of Professional Studies
Expanding Nursing Programs to Meet National Shortages
Nurse educators play a crucial role in helping nurses gain the expertise needed to meet the challenges of the evolving healthcare system. However, according to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)’s Special Survey on Vacant Faculty Positions for Academic Year 2013-2014, “nearly two-thirds of schools reported a shortage of full-time [nursing] faculty members. Additionally, hospital and medical centers have identified a need for more nurse educators to enhance the level of instruction to nursing students, new nurses, and ongoing needs for professional staff development.”

In her article, “Nurse Faculty Shortage Can Impact Healthcare,” featured as a blog post on Nurse.com, CUNY SPS Associate Professor of Nursing Dr. Kenya Beard explains the shortage and its impact, noting that “nurse faculty are retiring at a pace that exceeds the number of nurses who are assuming faculty positions. The nurse faculty shortage could have grave implications in healthcare if it is not addressed.” As the demand for nurses will necessarily increase as the population grows older and more diverse, the United States may experience a nursing shortage of up to 500,000 unfilled positions by 2025.

The recruitment of nursing faculty does pose a series of challenges: achieving the education required to become a faculty member can be costly, and graduate-level nursing education programs are far less common than nurse practitioner programs.

CUNY SPS, in response to these shortages of both nursing practitioners and nurse educators and to the deterrents of cost and availability, has developed two new master’s degrees in nursing that can be completed entirely online and at the New York in-state tuition rate. The first fully-online nursing graduate degrees at the University, the MS in Nursing Education was designed to increase the number of nurse educators in colleges and medical centers, ultimately ensuring that our nation’s hospitals receive more qualified nurses, while the MS in Nursing Organizational Leadership program prepares nurses to
contribute to the health, education, and social structures of communities by assuming positions of leadership.

“The complex, evolving healthcare system highlights the critical contributions needed from nurses to provide quality and safety in healthcare,” says Academic Director of Nursing Dr. Margaret Reilly. “Advanced education prepares nurses with the skills to promote health, lead change, and enhance quality care in various roles and settings.”

Both of these innovative programs were awarded scholarship funds from the New York State Department of Health through the Health Worker Retraining Initiative. The scholarship, administered by the John F. Kennedy Jr. Institute for Worker Education at CUNY SPS, provides financial, academic, and career support to workers in the healthcare system who are pursuing an advanced nursing degree at the CUNY School of Professional Studies.

Over the next two years, CUNY SPS plans to add more programs in nursing specialties, advanced certificates, and dual RN to BS-MS programs to its portfolio, adding to the current online RN to BS and master’s degree programs, and increasing opportunities for nursing professionals to advance their careers.
Dr. Kenya V. Beard

is an associate professor at the CUNY School of Professional Studies, a 2012 Josiah Macy Faculty Scholar, and was recently inducted into the American Academy of Nursing’s 2017 Class of Academy Fellows.

She is the founding director for the Center for Multicultural Education and Health Disparities, and disseminated research and best practices that have moved the needle on diversity, inclusion, and health equity. Dr. Beard is a faculty scholar for the Harvard Macy Institute Program for Educators in Health Professions and a senior fellow at the Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement at George Washington School of Nursing. She also co-leads the leadership mentoring program for the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties to strengthen the preparedness of culturally diverse nurse leaders.

An advocate for social justice, Dr. Beard is nationally recognized for her ability to provide meaningful ways to safely address difference and improve the quality of healthcare. Her research speaks to the complexities of diversity. She uses a multicultural education framework to address critical issues surrounding race and implicit bias. As chair of the New York State Action Coalition Committee for Diversity, she led the team in producing the 2014 Workforce Diversity Toolkit for New York. She also contributed to the National League for Nursing’s 2016 Diversity Vision Statement. Her work has earned her numerous awards and honors including the National Black Nurses Association’s Nurse Educator of the Year award, the Witten Presidential award for Excellence in Teaching at Hunter College, and the Dowling College Alumni Recognition Award for Leadership & Service. She is a fellow in the New York Academy of Medicine and the National League for Nursing Academy of Nursing Education and serves on the editorial board for the American Journal of Nursing and the New York State Board for Nursing.

Dr. Beard earned her undergraduate degrees in nursing from Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing and Excelsior College in New York. She received her master of science degree in adult health from Stony Brook University and doctorate in education in educational administration from Dowling College.
Professionalizing the Field of Youth Development to Better Serve Young People
The master's degree in Youth Studies responds to the needs of those working in youth services by providing a pathway for professional development.

Building on its legacy of providing educational opportunities that are responsive to industry and New York City, the John F. Kennedy, Jr. Institute for Worker Education at CUNY SPS designed and launched a master's degree in youth studies in Spring 2017.

Youth development principles view young people as assets and partners, not just as a population in need of services, and aim to support and prepare young people to thrive. In the early 1990s, there were an estimated 17,000 youth development organizations in the United States providing a wide range of programs and services to nearly 30 million young people. Now that the U.S. is home to nearly 100 million people under 24 years of age, the field of youth development has experienced tremendous growth. New York City alone is home to over 3 million young people under 24 years of age, hundreds of organizations focused on youth development, and thousands of frontline youth services workers.

Largely due to this tremendous growth, youth development practices have been adopted across a wide range of educational, after-school, direct service, advocacy, child welfare, and juvenile justice organizations. As the awareness and influence of youth development principles continue to grow amongst practitioners and policymakers, opportunities for research and for professional development for managers and frontline workers are increasing. Thought leaders, employers, and policymakers have called for multiple educational pathways to prepare youth development professionals to best meet the needs of young people and to help professionalize the field.

The new CUNY SPS degree responds to the needs of those working in youth services by providing a pathway for professional development. “The goal is to provide a balanced mix of theory and practice that will improve the skills and knowledge of those interested in taking their work and earning potential to the next level. Our commitment to youth and community development, using a strength-based, critical, participatory, and intersectional approach, occupies a unique place in the field. We are excited to be early adopters and innovators in the growing youth studies and youth development movements locally, nationally, and globally,” explained Dr. Sarah Zeller-Berkman, academic director of the program. Courses are offered online and in the evenings to accommodate working professionals.

Recognizing the need and opportunity to further professionalize the youth development workforce amidst significant growth, the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) partnered with CUNY SPS to offer a Youth Studies Scholarship. Providing financial assistance and career support to workers in the human services field who choose to pursue the master’s degree or advanced certificate in youth studies, 10 students in Spring 2017 and 14 in Fall 2017 were awarded up to $1,275 to cover tuition for their courses. Awardees were selected based on admission, financial need, prior or current employment in youth development or graduation from a related undergraduate degree, and a cumulative GPA of 3.0.

In addition to launching the master’s degree program, Dr. Zeller-Berkman developed the Intergenerational Change Initiative (ICI) at the CUNY Graduate Center. ICI works with municipalities to promote youth participation and intergenerational policy-making using social science data, and students in the CUNY SPS MA in Youth Studies program participate in the initiative’s research agenda. For example, with support from the Ford
Foundation and the New York City Young Men’s Initiative (YMI), ICI was able to partner with the Administration for Children Services (ACS) and Department of Education (DOE) on a data sharing initiative, laying the groundwork to begin incorporating youth input and expertise on a number of municipal projects. Students in the CUNY SPS program helped facilitate focus groups for this project.

Zeller-Berkman then launched the Youth Participatory Action Research Institute in Spring 2017 to directly train New York City youth in social science methods, using the information accessed through the ICI’s data sharing partnership. The majority of the Institute’s youth participants have direct, personal experience with City agencies. Many are young people who were “overaged and under-credited” in middle school, have had criminal justice involvement, or have been in ACS care. Participants bring their lived experience to inform the research agenda, learn research methods, then generate research from existing city data sets in order to inform, influence, and improve the policies that directly impact young peoples’ lives.

From 110 applicants, 15 young people were chosen to launch the program. They conducted multiple focus groups with more than 60 young people across the city and will disseminate their findings in Fall 2017. In the fall they will work on a digital tool that will allow them to survey a broad and diverse cohort of young people annually; the resulting data will help to inform various city policy initiatives. Additionally, four youth studies master’s students received grants to work on the project, an opportunity to gain experience as practitioners while advancing the field and discipline.

Academic Director’s Corner
Sarah Zeller-Berkman, PhD

Sarah Zeller-Berkman, PhD is the academic director of the Youth Studies Program at the CUNY School of Professional Studies, director of Youth Studies Initiatives at the John F. Kennedy, Jr. Institute for Worker Education, and director of the Intergenerational Change Initiative at the Public Science Project at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Dr. Zeller-Berkman brings more than two decades of experience as a practitioner, researcher, evaluator, professor, and capacity-builder in the field of youth and community development.

Trained in social-personality psychology, she has worked in partnership with young people on participatory action research projects about issues that impact their lives such as sexual harassment in schools, incarceration, parental incarceration, and high-stakes testing. Dr. Zeller-Berkman taught youth studies courses at Brooklyn College and worked at the Youth Development Institute for seven years as the head of their Community-Youth Development unit. Her publications include articles and chapters in the Journal of Community, Youth and Environments, The Handbook of Qualitative Research, AfterSchool Matters, New Directions for Evaluation, Globalizing Cultural Studies, and Children of Incarcerated Parents. Dr. Zeller-Berkman is committed to advancing the field of youth development, growing youth studies, and improving the status quo for, and in partnership with, young people.
Helping Professionals to Meet Immigrants’ Needs
In its 2015 American Community Survey, the United States Census Bureau reports that the immigrant population in the United States is more than 43.3 million, or 13.5% of the total U.S. population. In New York City, according to the Population Division of the NYC Department of City Planning, over 3 million New York residents are foreign born. Professionals working in many fields are faced with a wide range of issues confronting the immigrant population on a regular basis.

Reaffirming the University’s commitment to serving immigrants and their families, CUNY SPS offers an advanced certificate in immigration law studies, which educates students about the ever-changing field of immigration law. It is one of the most comprehensive and in-depth immigration law programs in the United States. By providing students with the foundational knowledge and skills to understand the complex and dynamic field of immigration law, the program contextualizes the legal framework surrounding the issues faced by immigrants and foreign nationals in the U.S. for professionals in diverse fields such as education, non-profit administration, human resources, law, criminal justice, and city government. Graduates leave the program better prepared to serve immigrants’ needs in their work, and to discern fact from fiction in the often-heat ed national and local discourses about immigration. The program further trains professionals to recognize when the intervention of an authorized legal professional is warranted, and to refer immigrants to available legal services.

The program began with the intention of training practitioners who could meet immigrants’ tremendous need for legal services. Since its launch, more than 230 students have earned the certificate. These students hail from throughout the United States and the world – including such areas as Texas, Oklahoma, Oregon, Illinois, Florida, South Africa, Thailand, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and of course, New York. They work in the field of education, as teachers and guidance counselors, as well as in higher education; in human resources; in nonprofit organizations; as lawyers and paralegals. Some students are attorneys who want to gain better grasp of immigration law, and some are immigrants themselves, looking for information concerning their own immigration situation or that of family members. Students have been policy advisors at federal agencies, directors of international schools, and employees of humanitarian aid organizations. There also have been students who are employed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security; all perspectives are welcome in class.

The program does not teach the practice of law and does not qualify graduates who do not hold an attorney’s license to practice law. All students in the program learn the rules governing the authorized and unauthorized practice of law and to refer immigrants who need legal advice to the proper resources. All courses are available both in person and online and because the faculty are all immigration judges or practicing immigration lawyers in private practice, government, or in non-profit/community-based organizations, the curriculum is updated regularly and can address the rapidly evolving field. In addition, the program enjoys a close relationship with the CUNY Citizenship Now! program, which provides free, high quality, and confidential immigration law services to help individuals and families on their path to U.S. citizenship. Citizenship Now! volunteers often go to or come from the advanced certificate program.
Professionals working in many fields are faced with a wide range of issues confronting the immigrant population on a regular basis.

The intense political debate about immigration, especially since the last presidential election, is reflected in enrollment in the advanced certificate program.

The advanced certificate in immigration law studies continues CUNY SPS’s tradition of providing innovative programs designed to meet the needs of the city and state. It also promotes the values of inclusion and respect that CUNY has always espoused, and the principles that have enabled our country and our city to thrive.

An Alumni Perspective
Cynthia Robinson Civil ‘14, Advanced Certificate in Immigration Law
Director of Student Programs, CUNY School of Medicine/Sophie Davis Biomedical Education Program

During my time at CUNY SPS, I found that all of the courses were engaging. I specifically enjoyed role playing with other students. We learned a lot from each other. I played an immigration judge in a mock court proceeding. A few semesters had passed since taking the course, and students would come up to me and say I really played the role of a judge. They said I was very convincing and a few expressed having the feeling they were in front of a real judge. The professor commented that they should take my line of questioning very seriously. I took one online course and it was great, but I also enjoyed physically being in a classroom setting, getting feedback from the professor and engaging with my peers.

I’ve attended several different CUNY certificate programs and CUNY SPS is the only school that continues to invite me to networking events and webinars about what’s trending. Current students and alumni are constantly learning from these interactions. I have gained friendships with students that I still am in touch with to this day. We meet for coffee and pastries and discuss what is going on in immigration and our personal lives. I have connected to students I met at CUNY SPS networking events and have connected with them on LinkedIn as well.

I earned my BA with a concentration in public administration at City College of New York (CCNY) and my MA in urban affairs at Queens College. I attended a certificate program to enhance my professional development. Immigration was in the news every day and it interests me. While in graduate school, I wrote a paper on the Dreamers and learned about DACA, and that sparked my interest in applying to the certificate program. I have been working in higher education for more than 18 years now, and all of my learning has influenced my career. I was asked by the provost if I would serve on the Diversity and Inclusion Council and my response was a resounding YES. Returning to school and completing my education has opened doors for me and has given me the ability to help my family and make a better life for the next generation.
Affirming our role as a leader in online education, we ranked in the top 8% of U.S. News & World Report’s list of the 2017 Best Online Bachelor’s Degree Programs. Of the institutions listed, we ranked 2nd in New York State.

Additionally, we ranked #16 out of 80 schools in the U.S. News & World Report’s list of 2017 Best Online Bachelor’s Programs for Veterans.

Our degree programs have also been recognized by several other organizations. ValueColleges.com ranked our MS in Data Analytics degree program 21st worldwide in its list of Top 50 Best Master’s in Data Science programs, our MS in Business Management and Leadership degree program was ranked 17th in its list of 50 Best Value Master’s in Management Programs, and our BS in Nursing was ranked 14th out of 50 nationwide in its list of Top 50 Best Value Online RN to BSN programs.

CollegeChoice.net ranked CUNY SPS 7th out of 50 nationwide in its list of 50 Best Online Colleges for 2016-17 and our Medical Coding Certificate was noted in HealthCareSystemCareers.org’s Top 45 Medical Billing and Coding Programs Online.
This year, we recognized over 700 graduates for their academic achievements at our 2017 Commencement exercises, held at David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center, in New York City.

Speakers during the ceremony included Dean John Mogulescu, CUNY Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Vita Rabinowitz, and CUNY SPS Associate Dean for Academic Affairs George Otte, who offered their praise and words of encouragement to our graduates.

Brennan Marcano, who spoke on behalf of the CUNY SPS Foundation Board of Directors extolled the importance of the students to their communities, and reminded them that “The city does not run on gas, the city runs on you. You are not another cog in the wheel, you are the wheel, and it’s time you did some serious rolling out there.”

Dr. Mariette Bates, academic director of our disability studies programs, served as the evening’s faculty speaker, and recalled her long history of social activism, challenging students to find their own ways to fight for a better world. Daniel Chan, a graduate of the MS in Disability Services in Higher Education program, represented the students of the graduating class and related his inspiring personal journey that led from obtaining a GED to earning two master’s degrees.

Commissioner for the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs Nisha Agarwal’s keynote address was the highlight of the evening. Her words were empowering, and recognized the graduates’ fearlessness despite the struggles they may have encountered in their journeys towards commencement. “You chose to move forward, to work harder, to reach higher, to take risks, to struggle with uncertainty, and to not just persevere, but to succeed,” said Agarwal, concluding her remarks to the graduates’ enthusiastic applause. The graduates then each crossed the stage to receive their certificates and diplomas from their academic directors and the dean, before being pronounced as new alumni, and celebrating their achievements with their classmates, families, and friends.

“You chose to move forward, to work harder, to reach higher, to take risks, to struggle with uncertainty, and to not just persevere, but to succeed,...”

– Nisha Agarwal, commissioner for the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs
Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

The Workplace Professionals Training Institute honored Dean John Mogulescu for his many years of service to CUNY and New York City. In his over 45 years at the University, Dean Mogulescu, founding dean of the CUNY School of Professional Studies, has developed highly-regarded programs such as CUNY ASAP, CUNY Start, and the CUNY Service Corps and GED Preparation Programs. He also created the University’s Workforce Development Initiative, and expanded Adult and Continuing Education services at CUNY and within its non-credit programs.

Mariette Bates, academic director of our disability studies programs, received two special recognitions this year for her contribution, leadership, and advocacy in academia, human services, and disability studies. Dr. Bates was the recipient of the Accessibility Award at the 8th Annual CUNY Accessibility Conference. Friends of Asha Niketan, a nonprofit organization that advocates for and improves the quality of life of developmentally disabled individuals in developing countries, also honored her for service.

Antonia Levy, instructional technology and multimedia manager, received the CUNY Excellence in Technology Award at the 15th Annual CUNY IT Conference.

Anthony Sterns, adjunct associate professor in our business and psychology programs, developed iRxReminder, a platform designed to ensure that patients take critical medications successfully, in addition to the iRxCapture App and iLidRx pill dispensing pod, which allows patients and their healthcare teams to monitor and manage medication. Dr. Sterns received over $900,000 in funding, as well as other capital investments, to improve medication adherence using the new technology he helped create.

Arthur O'Connor, academic director of our data analytics and information systems programs, won Best Paper for “Improving the Sustainability of Higher Education in the U.S.” in the Professional Certificate in Sustainable Value program competition, which is sponsored by the Rhode Island Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Special awards/recognition of our students

Shakima Williams-Jones, MS in Business Management and Leadership student, received the 2017 CUNY Student Leader of the Year Award for her academic achievement and service to CUNY SPS and the University.

Walei Sabry ’12, MA in Disability Studies alumnus, was hired as New York City’s first digital accessibility coordinator and is now responsible for making the City’s digital products available for people with disabilities.

Ming Canaday, Advanced Certificate in Disability Studies alumna, composed an autobiographical story for ForeignPolicy.com titled “I Was Rescued from a Chinese Orphanage. My Friend Wasn’t.” In her moving story, Canaday juxtaposes her own and her friend’s disparate experiences as individuals with disabilities in China, and urges the Chinese government to implement intervention and inclusive education programs to accommodate people with all types of disabilities.


Amoni Brown, BS in Business student, and her nonprofit organization, Brooklyn Multi-Service Community Center Corp., advanced to the Regional Finals of the 2017 NYS Business Plan Competition.

Kathleen Heck, RN to BS in Nursing student, and Emily Towner, BA in Communication and Media student, were selected to exhibit their work in the ePortfolio Student Showcase at the NY/NE Regional ePortfolio Conference.
Penny Lewis, academic director and associate professor of labor studies at the Murphy Institute, co-edited the recently published book, *The City Is The Factory: New Solidarities and Spatial Strategies in an Urban Age*, which speaks to the ways in which urban public spaces have become the emblematic sites of contentious politics in the 21st Century. Professor of labor studies Stephanie Luce was also a contributor.

Joanne Lavin and Margaret Reilly, associate director and director of our nursing programs, were the recipients of a $25,000 Work Development Initiative grant for their dual/joint nursing degrees. They also won a Health and Human Services Award for enhancing the management of mental healthcare through our nursing program’s collaborative work with our applied theatre program. Dr. Reilly won a second Health and Human Services award, with Queensborough Community College Associate Professor Georgina Colalillo, for their accelerated second degree curriculum proposal.

Jackie Faherty, adjunct professor of astronomy and physics and research scientist at the American Museum of Natural History, and a team of researchers from the Carnegie Institution for Science, the Institute for Research on Exoplanets (IREX) at Université de Montréal, the American Museum of Natural History, and the University of California San Diego, discovered that what astronomers had previously thought was one of the closest brown dwarfs to our own sun is in fact a planetary mass object.

Margarett Alexandre, adjunct assistant professor, led a group of five RN to BS in nursing students on the program’s first study abroad trip to Haiti. The students engaged with Haitian adults and children, still in need of basic health care after the devastating earthquake in 2010.

Susan Matloff-Nieves, adjunct lecturer in our MA in youth studies program, co-authored *Breaking Through! Helping Girls Succeed in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math*, which provides tips on how to keep girls’ enthusiasm for STEM from fading.

Agatha Roa ’13, BA in Communication and Culture alumna, was accepted into the University of North Carolina-Wilmington’s MFA program in Creative Nonfiction.

Yomi Desalu ’11, MS in Business Management & Leadership was featured in a recent *Black Enterprise* article “How this Engineering Graduate Transitioned from Intern to Music Executive.”

The CUNY SPS student body elected the inaugural representatives of the Student Association whose goal is to ensure that the student perspective is considered by faculty and administration in all matters related to the School’s operations. The elected representatives include: Leonard Blades (MS in Disability Services in Higher Education), Daniel Chan (MS in Disability Services in Higher Education), Misty Gardner (BA in Psychology), Yvette Humprhies (BS in Health Information Management), Jacqueline Rivera (BA in Psychology), Ana Vasquez (BS in Information Systems), Shakima Williams-Jones (MS in Business Management and Leadership), and Linda Yau (MS in Disability Services in Higher Education).

The CUNY SPS community is comprised of adult students.
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 non-profit organizations in a range of areas such as management and leadership, 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. The following grants were awarded this year.

Human Services

ACS Workforce Institute - $10,911,936
Supports ACS as it provides frontline child welfare and juvenile justice staff with the learning, coaching, and support needed to provide high-quality services to the children in its care.
Partner: NYC Administration for Children’s Services (ACS)

Family Development Credential - $60,000
Provides 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 - $3,197,339
Defines procedures and trains the agency’s employees so that they can fulfill the agency’s mission of helping both parents assume the responsibility for the economic and social well-being of their children.
Partner: NYC Human Resources Administration
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.

### Distance Education, Training Management Systems, Needs Assessment, and Evaluation

**$1,638,512**  
Supports 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 - $574,840

Provides 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*

### Management and Information Technology

#### Managing for Innovation - $180,000

Offers an intensive leadership development course for program managers in nonprofit organizations that pilot innovative, anti-poverty strategies for low-income New Yorkers.  
*Partner: NYC Opportunity*

#### Financial Literacy for High School Students - $58,000

Revises and updates an online credit-bearing course on personal finance for high school students.  
*Partner: NYS Higher Education Services Corporation*

#### Implementing ERP Business Software, Sponsored by Infor - $71,000

Offers a non-credit course for CUNY students in implementing enterprise resource planning (ERP) software and explore carriers in the industry.  
*Partner: Infor*

### Energy Management

#### Energy Management Program - $2,697,393

Collaborates with the CUNY Building Performance Lab, to support the City of New York’s efforts to reduce energy consumption by designing, developing and delivering training programs for NYC agency building personnel.  
*Partner: NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services*

#### Energy Efficiency for Multi-Tenant Building Superintendents - $85,164

Collaborates with the CUNY Building Performance Lab, to provide no cost energy-focused training to operators of small- to mid-size apartment buildings.  
*Partner: Mayor’s Office of Sustainability and NYC Small Business Services*

### Emergency Management

#### Build It Back Issue Resolution and Staff Development - $673,599

Develops and trains staff 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

**Learning Management System Support - $58,187**  
Facilitates the delivery of just-in-time training to thousands of city staff to prepare them to operate evacuation centers and hurricane shelters in response to major coastal storms.  
*Partner: NYC Emergency Management*

#### Emergency Management Resource System Support - $249,911

Supports the emergency management resource system that coordinates assets and human resources involved in the activation of the City’s coastal storm plan.  
*Partner: NYC Emergency Management*
Partnering with the Central Park Conservancy to Advance Professional Development and Best Practices for Urban Park Management

Since its founding, the CUNY School of Professional Studies (CUNY SPS) has been a trusted educational and training resource for New York City. Through its Office of Professional Education and Workplace Learning, the School partners with city agencies, nonprofit organizations, and labor unions to develop and implement customized educational solutions, manage staff recruitment, offer large-scale training services, oversee project implementation, and provide project management.

The Office has successfully partnered in large-scale, city-wide education and training programs, including creating a Workforce Institute with the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS), launching regional hurricane training and response programs with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, and developing a multi-pronged program to support the city’s efforts to reduce energy consumption with the Division of Energy Management (DEM), among many others. Last year alone, the Office provided education and training to more than 33,000 people through its partnerships.

When the Central Park Conservancy’s Institute for Urban Parks sought an institutional partner to help expand its professional development programming across the country and internationally, CUNY SPS entered the competition, alongside such other venerable institutions as Yale and Columbia Universities. The Institute recognized CUNY SPS’s proven track record and shared ideals, and awarded the School a two-year, $775,000 grant in June 2017. “As you can imagine, I am delighted that we were selected as the Institute’s partner from a distinguished field of competitors,” said Dean John Mogulescu.

Central Park is one of the most visited urban parks in the world, with more than 42 million visitors annually. Founded in 2013, the Central Park Conservancy’s Institute for Urban Parks educates urban park visitors and park management professionals to promote public stewardship and
professional management of urban parks. Through the Institute, the Conservancy helps ensure that urban parks — a critical component of municipal infrastructure — can continue delivering economic, social, health, and ecological benefits in an increasingly urbanized world. The Institute was created to focus the Conservancy’s work in two areas: helping improve the management practices of other parks through its program for urban park management, and fostering public appreciation and respect for urban parks, which in turn helps to develop healthy urban parks and sustainable cities.

With this partnership, CUNY SPS and the Institute will offer the first-ever multi-day executive education program for urban park leaders, beginning in March 2018. The program is geared toward executives, other senior staff, or board members of existing park groups in established public-private park partnerships such as conservancies and friends groups, as well as public sector agencies working in urban parks and open spaces that are interested in learning more.

CUNY SPS and the Institute are developing programming in addition to the executive education program, including online courses in urban park management leading to a non-credit certificate. These unique courses will enable parks employees everywhere — across the country and around the world — to benefit from the successes and tremendous experience of the Central Park Conservancy to build their skills and knowledge, and earn credentials to advance professionally.

Led by Jill Hyland, executive director of professional education and workplace learning at CUNY SPS, and Program Director Kim Enoch, the partnership also relies on expertise from across the CUNY system. The New York City Labor Market Information Service (NYCLMIS) at the CUNY Graduate Center is providing assessment and research services to help inform the Institute’s decision making regarding program and curriculum design. NYCLMIS provides timely, accurate, and relevant research responding to the needs of the City’s workforce and economic development policy makers and practitioners, and is a recognized leader in applying real-time labor market information to identify and address education and workforce issues. Additionally, the CUNY Office of Research Evaluation and Program Support (REPS) will evaluate the programs, to ensure participants experience lasting gains in knowledge and skills that improve their job performance in the longer term.

The Central Park Conservancy and CUNY are both embedded in and committed to New York City, and share promises of access to public education and public spaces for our diverse urban population. CUNY SPS is proud to partner with the Central Park Conservancy to support the field of Urban Park Management.

Last year alone, the Office of Professional Education and Workplace Learning provided education and training to more than 33,000 people through its partnerships.
On behalf of the CUNY SPS Foundation Board of Directors, I am pleased to share highlights from the 2016-2017 year—my first year serving as Chair of the Board—and to offer sincere thanks to all those who generously support the School.

The CUNY SPS Foundation exists to enhance public understanding and recognition of CUNY SPS, and to develop support for the School. Inspired by CUNY SPS students, my fellow board members and I work to build lasting relationships that foster a community of support for the School. As member Brennon Marcano explained to the class of 2017 during his commencement address in May, “We do this because we believe in you. We know that you are the life and energy of the city.”

The CUNY SPS Foundation Board is comprised of professionals from a broad range of backgrounds including finance, workforce development, entrepreneurship, law, education, and nonprofit management. We support the School and volunteer our time and expertise, because we believe that CUNY SPS is a transformative resource for working adults, employers, and New York City.

We understand our students’ need for an accessible, high-quality education that will prepare and inspire them to pursue meaningful careers. We focus on expanding access to CUNY SPS programs. The Foundation has raised more than $2 million since our founding, significantly growing the number of scholarship opportunities available for CUNY SPS students.

This year we have continued to build on our success and have supported more CUNY SPS students. Of particular note, the generous founding supporter of the ACE Scholarship, Alan Fishman, renewed his two-year, $100,000 challenge gift to sustain this important program. We saw a 10% year-over-year increase in alumni participation, with increasing numbers of alumni demonstrating their appreciation by supporting the School. We saw a 40% increase in the number of gifts, and a 30% increase in the number of donors this year. While these figures are important, we measure our success by our impact on students.

I am proud that the Foundation has awarded nearly 140 scholarships totaling more than $820,000 in just five years. Over 60 of those recipients have graduated from CUNY SPS, and the others continue to work hard and progress toward the degrees and certificates that will advance them personally and professionally while influencing their workplaces, their industries, and their communities.

As you read about the incredible CUNY SPS Foundation scholarship recipients who are profiled in this report, you will undoubtedly be inspired by their hard work and perseverance. Thank you for investing in their success.

Sincerely,

Horace Barker, Chair
CUNY School of Professional Studies Foundation Welcomes Two New Members

The CUNY SPS Foundation welcomed Kalyn Johnson Chandler and Jason Kubica to its Board of Directors during the 2016-2017 academic year. Growing significantly from three to 14 members since 2015, Kalyn and Jason join other industry leaders with diverse experience, who are committed to helping working adult students to grow personally, excel in the workplace, and enrich their communities.

Kalyn Johnson Chandler is a lawyer by training. After a successful ten-year career at a large international law firm, she decided to pursue her passion for entrepreneurship. She is the founder and creative director behind the signature paperie, Effie’s Paper: Stationery & Whatnot, named for her grandmother, Mrs. Effie Hayes. She is a recognized letter writing expert and the co-author of the cult classic, The BAP Handbook: The Official Guide to the Black American Princess. “I’m delighted to be joining the CUNY SPS Foundation Board and excited about the opportunity to be a part of such an innovative school leading the way for online learning,” said Johnson Chandler.

Jason Kubica, an advisor with UBS in New York City, helps families and businesses to plan for the future and manage their assets accordingly. In addition to his expertise in equity research, corporate investment planning, and strategic planning, Jason brings a passion for grassroots business and philanthropic projects to the Board. He has previously helped to grow a niche clothing company, a textile design firm, and a digital printing business, and has developed and hosted a fundraising event for the Gowanus Canal Conservancy in Brooklyn.

The Foundation Board is leading the Help Put New York to Work Campaign, an ambitious five-year effort aimed at raising $2 million dollars in scholarship funds. “I am thrilled and grateful that CUNY SPS students will benefit from Kalyn and Jason’s professional expertise and deep commitment to our mission,” said Horace Barker, chair.

The Foundation has awarded nearly 140 scholarships totaling more than $820,000 in just five years.
Scholarships: Supporting Student Success

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the CUNY SPS Foundation has awarded named scholarships totaling more than $820,000 to nearly 140 students since 2012. Often scholarship assistance helps address the financial challenges unique to adult students, and enables recipients to remain enrolled and succeed. The 2016-2017 CUNY SPS Foundation scholarship recipients are exceptional and inspiring students. They are 35 women and five men, representing 14 different academic programs. They are working adults who came to CUNY SPS to complete their degrees and advance their careers. For many, that journey is not simple. They manage work, children, families, and financial obligations, while at the same time figuring out how to be successful college students.

Fiorella Leal, ACE Scholar, began her career in in part-time positions spanning the purchasing, accounts payable, and guest services departments at the New York Racing Association (NYRA). A purchasing agent at NYRA served as a mentor, advising Fiorella to seek a career path with opportunities for advancement, and teaching her about the procurement department’s roles and functions. Shortly thereafter, she was hired by Bronx Community College as a purchasing agent, then by the City of New York as a procurement analyst. At 29 years old, she is pursuing a BS in business to improve her skills and knowledge, continue advancing in her career, and increase her salary and earning power.

Natasha Khan, Patti Lieberman Scholarship for Early Childhood Education recipient, is pursuing the Children’s Program Administrator Credential (CPAC), a credential for current early childhood program supervisors and directors who desire to be more effective leaders. She entered the field as a substitute teacher in 2003 and was promoted several times, serving as lead teacher before accepting a managerial position. “When I became an administrator I realized I can help not only the children and their families…I can also help my fellow colleagues become more educated as the field continues to grow,” she says. Mother to two young boys, she works as a full-time site supervisor at a private pre-kindergarten program in the Bronx and aspires to continue to advance, and ultimately lead an early childhood program as a director.

Russ Peterson Technology Scholarship recipient, James Hamski, began his career as a hydrologist, studying the operations and impacts of hydroelectric dams. He developed computer-mapping skills on the job, and focused on learning more about software engineering in his free time. After six years in the hydropower industry, James combined his skills in computer mapping with a growing interest in software development as a technical product manager on a web search application called Geofacets. He currently works at a consulting firm helping clients decide which features to include in their products. James is pursuing the MS in data analytics to improve product management. “So many business decisions are made based on gut feeling, but I want to help clients make decisions that balance risk and rewards using data,” he says.

James Hamski (second from left) with members of the Peterson Family.
Bob Martin Scholar, Jean Lieber, earned her associate’s degree in architecture technology in 2002, but had been unable to gain employment in that field. Between 2002 and the birth of her daughter in 2011, she worked as a customer service agent for Bank of America. As her daughter neared school age, Jean wanted to re-enter the workforce. She is earning the BA in communication and media in order to retool her skills, and notes that “the digital/internet age that we live in is changing the way people obtain and share information. It’s a growing field and I want to be part of it.”

Pursuing her MS in disability services in higher education, Deanna Knapp received the William J. Kissane III Scholarship. She began working in the disability resource center at a SUNY campus in 2014 and was appointed assistant director of the office in 2015. She enrolled at CUNY SPS in order to augment her knowledge in this highly regulated field, and to provide the best possible services for students with disabilities. Deanna also works a part-time retail job to pay off her student loans. She aims to use what she learns in this groundbreaking degree program to provide the best possible services and supports to SUNY students with disabilities. She believes that “this coursework is essential to my being successful in providing services for students with disabilities…it’s the first program of its kind and I am so excited to be a part of it.”

Founding Dean’s Scholar Shakima Williams-Jones, has been the sole accountant for the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (International Emmy Awards) since 2007. She continues to serve in that role while pursuing her MS in business management & leadership. Shakima sits on the board of Uncommon Schools NYC, a charter management organization operating 22 K-12 charter schools in New York City, coaches high school basketball, and is the proud parent of five. She aspires to start a nonprofit organization that helps struggling families through tuition and rent assistance, financial planning, education and assistance, literacy programming, counseling services, and healthcare assistance. Shakima received the CUNY Student of the Year Award in June 2017 in recognition of her academic achievement and service to CUNY SPS and the University.

ACE Scholar Shifa Jiwani, worked part-time as a patient care coordinator and assistant at a dentist’s office in Manhattan while earning her associate’s degree from CUNY’s LaGuardia Community College, graduating as a Registered Nurse. She is earning her BS in nursing and plans to pursue an MS in nursing to continue to advance in her career. In addition to providing financial assistance, the ACE Scholarship mentoring program inspired Shifa to encourage newly-admitted students in the nursing program to set similarly ambitious goals. “Being a mentor in return for this opportunity helps me pass the spark to others to continuously learn and climb the academic ladder,” she says. Shifa aspires to be a family nurse practitioner, working in underserved communities.

Originally from Myanmar, Sam Aung came to the United States to pursue a higher education shortly after the Southeast Asian country ended decades of dictatorial rule. After earning an associate’s degree in liberal arts from Montgomery College in Maryland, Sam enrolled in the undergraduate communication and media program at CUNY SPS in 2015. He plans to pursue advanced degrees and ultimately return to Myanmar as a journalist, and he “would like to return to Myanmar and help people become more educated and more successful.” The Stephen M. Rossen Memorial Scholarship is providing vital financial assistance to help Sam pursue his dreams.

Katrina Blake, the inaugural McKay Guissine Scholarship recipient, originally planned to pursue a career as a prosecutor, and earned an associate’s degree in paralegal studies in 2008. Unfortunately, her educational plans had to be postponed while she worked, served as the primary care provider for her son, and simultaneously dealt with the severe illness and ultimate passing of her husband. Now the mother of three and recently remarried, Katrina’s educational priorities and career goals have evolved. In addition to being inspired by her son, her first “Big” at Big Brothers Big Sisters was an undergraduate psychology student whose guidance and advice inspired her to pursue a career as a child advocate. She is earning her BA in psychology as a first step toward her career goal.
Recognizing Our Generous Supporters

A Renewed Challenge to Expand the ACE Scholarship Program

In 2015, philanthropist Alan Fishman seeded the CUNY SPS ACE (Achieve College Education) Scholarship program with a generous two-year $100,000 matching gift. To date, 31 scholarships have been awarded, and Mr. Fishman has generously renewed his gift to sustain the program, challenging CUNY SPS to raise an additional $100,000 over the next two years.

ACE Scholarships provide full tuition support through graduation to high-achieving undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need and are within 6-21 credits of completing their degrees.
CUNY SPS joined a unique, branded, University-wide effort for #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back, on November 29, 2016.

We set an ambitious goal to raise $15,000 in support of the ACE Scholarship to help us meet our match.

Thanks to support from more than 115 generous donors, CUNY SPS raised over $23,000.

In a friendly competition among campuses across the 24-college CUNY system, CUNY SPS placed 9th in number of gifts and total dollars raised.

Most importantly, this generous support will underwrite seven additional ACE Scholarships.

ACE Scholars also give back to CUNY SPS. As part of their award requirements, recipients must serve as mentors to newly-admitted students each semester. “It is important that our ACE Scholars ‘pay it forward’ by helping new CUNY SPS students,” said Fishman. “Ultimately, I would love to see all of the mentees become Scholars themselves, mentoring others and expanding the program in their turn.”

As high-achieving students who are close to completing their degrees, ACE Scholars have first-hand experience of what it is like to be a student at CUNY SPS, and offer unique insights to incoming students as they navigate the challenges of returning to college as adults. Over the last two years, ACE Scholars collectively mentored 108 newly-admitted CUNY SPS students, and early results suggest that such mentoring influences new students’ persistence.

ACE Scholars are extremely motivated students who have diverse professional and life experiences. Of the first 31 ACE Scholars, 28 have graduated from CUNY SPS, and three are currently on track to finish their degrees during the Fall 2017 semester.

Christine Hansen (’15, BA Psychology), a member of the first cohort of ACE Scholars, is an attorney who had also volunteered as a New York State certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) for 20 years. Her EMT experiences inspired a desire to change careers and provide mental health services for first responders suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). After graduating with a psychology degree from CUNY SPS, Christine has taken the next step towards earning a license to provide mental health services by pursuing a master’s degree at New York University.
A Renewed Challenge to Expand the ACE Scholarship Program (continued)

With Mr. Fishman’s renewed support, in May 2017, CUNY SPS was able to award a third cohort of ACE Scholarships for the 2017-2018 academic year. Like the previous 31 awardees, the third cohort of ACE Scholars are high-achieving, focused students with ambitious career goals.

At the time of the inaugural $100,000 matching gift to establish the ACE Scholarship, Mr. Fishman’s donation was the largest single contribution in CUNY SPS history. His visionary support and the success of the program have inspired others to invest in CUNY SPS students, leading the CUNY SPS Foundation to exceed the Scholarship’s two-year, $75,000 matching requirement. “In addition to the financial support that the ACE Scholarship provides to students,” said John Mogulescu, dean of CUNY SPS, “the program has had a broader impact, improving new student retention, raising awareness about the challenges adult students face, helping the School attract new supporters, and elevating the institution’s profile by highlighting our students’ stories. We are incredibly grateful for Alan’s support.”

Alan 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 is a generous philanthropist and an active community leader. He is the chairman of the Brooklyn Community Foundation and serves on the boards of several private companies and other not-for-profit and civic organizations. As the former chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Mr. Fishman was instrumental to the organization’s transformation into one of New York City’s most renowned cultural hubs.

For example, Daniela Borodin, who is pursuing a BA in communication and media, began her undergraduate studies in her native Brazil before moving to the United States more than 20 years ago. After completing her associate’s degree at LaGuardia Community College, where she was on the dean’s list every semester, she attends CUNY SPS while working full-time, and is “determined to prove that age and finances are not limitations for those who have a goal and persist.” Her own experiences over decades of navigating immigration policy have inspired her to pursue a career in the law, working on behalf of immigrants’ rights.

ACE Mentors and Mentees meet up at CUNY SPS
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