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**CUNY School of Professional Studies 2018–19 Annual Report**

**Editor**
Andrea L. Fagon

**Design**
Kelly Cunningham

**Writers**
Marissa Armanios
Mary Jane Reis
Ariana Souzis
As I look back at the highlights and accomplishments of the 2018–19 academic year outlined in this CUNY School of Professional Studies annual report, one major theme emerges: the School’s dedication to providing a quality, affordable, and easily accessible education to all students.

Our growth reflects the work we do to carry out this mission. As one of the fastest growing schools at The City University of New York, we now offer 23 degrees: 11 bachelor’s degrees (10 online) and 12 master’s degrees (10 online). Over 3,700 adults are currently enrolled in our credit-bearing programs and over 15,000 in our non-credit workplace learning offerings. We serve our students with dedication and commitment, and receive such high marks in this area that this past year U.S. News and World Report’s 2019 list of Best Online Bachelor’s Degree Programs ranked CUNY SPS 15th in the nation, placing us in the top 5 percent of the 357 institutions that were ranked, and making us the top one listed in New York City.

In this Report, you will read about the ways that we are committed to expanding our students’ ability to finish their degrees. We are leading the way by providing robust Credit for Prior Learning opportunities as well as the first path to Zero Textbook Cost degree in the University. We have initiated a Jump Start program for adult applicants whose GPA may not quite reach our admission threshold but who can demonstrate college-level skills and knowledge, and Test Flight, the first online class simulation program of its kind at CUNY, is giving prospective students the chance to experience online learning before enrolling with us.

We continue to expand our programs so that we are always at the forefront of rapidly changing academic and professional fields. As you will read in the Report, we offer degrees and certificates in the field of administrative health programs — our largest growing group of programs. Students can receive a BS in Health Information Management, a BS in Health Services Administration, and a Certificate in Medical Coding, providing healthcare workers with the skills they need for a changing professional landscape.
Additionally, CUNY SPS continues to grow its customized workplace learning portfolio with City agencies in an effort to help further train those already in the workforce. In 2018–19, a new program with the NYC Department of Correction and expanded programming with the NYC Department of Homeless Services and the NYC Administration for Children’s Services accounted for an additional $6 million in grants and contracts, for a nearly $33.5 million 2018–19 total Grants and Contracts budget. This is an increase of 34% from last year’s total Grants and Contracts budget of almost $25 million, and ranks CUNY SPS 6th in the University in external funding.

Along with program development, we work hard to make education affordable not merely by offering low tuition, but by providing financial support and scholarships to students in need. With every passing year, CUNY SPS is able to do more for its students financially through the work of the CUNY SPS Foundation.

Finally, the work we do would not be possible without our dedicated faculty and staff, who tirelessly devote their time and expertise to ensure our students graduate from CUNY SPS with the skills essential to future career success.

I am so pleased and proud of our accomplishments featured in this Annual Report — each a facet of our larger mission — and hope that you will also enjoy reading about our School.

Sincerely,

John Mogulescu
Dean, CUNY School of Professional Studies
In recognition of its efforts to support and empower adult learners, the CUNY School of Professional Studies received the prestigious Adult Learner Impact Award from the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) for 2019. This annual award recognizes a CAEL member organization that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to expanding lifelong learning opportunities, improving adult access to education, and enhancing the quality of that education through innovative academic programs for adult learners.

“Our partnership with CAEL has been a catalyst for launching a robust Credit for Prior Learning program and other services and programs designed for adult degree-completers,” says Dr. Jennifer Sparrow, associate dean of academic affairs. “It’s an honor to have our School’s work recognized by this highly regarded institution.”

Previous recipients of the award from across the nation include DePaul University (Chicago), the University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa), Pace University (New York), University of Maryland University College (College Park), and Case Western Reserve University, Weatherhead School of Management (Cleveland), among others. CAEL is a national nonprofit that works within the higher education, public, and private sectors to make it easier for people to get the education and training they need.
“CUNY SPS is dedicated to creating multiple paths to degree completion that take into account the day-to-day realities faced by our adult students....” – Jennifer Sparrow, associate dean of academic affairs

Expanding Opportunities for Degree Completion at CUNY SPS

At the CUNY School of Professional Studies (CUNY SPS), innovation drives the mission. From its inception, CUNY SPS has used the latest in technology and online learning, as well as innovative programs and practices, to reach one of higher education’s most underserved populations: adult students. Today, CUNY SPS is a recognized leader in the field [see CAEL Award], having created a number of initiatives designed to help working adults complete degrees that are intellectually rigorous and professionally relevant.

As Dr. Sparrow explains, “CUNY SPS is dedicated to creating multiple paths to degree completion that take into account the day-to-day realities faced by our adult students. This means recognizing the challenges they face in terms of their time and finances. But it also means giving them credit for college-level learning acquired outside the classroom. Only by recognizing the roadblocks that stand in their way and the knowledge they bring to the table can we build better and more equitable paths to degree attainment.”

In recognition of these realities, the School has expanded opportunities for Credit for Prior Learning (CPL), added new scholarships and grants, and radically increased the number of Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) courses. These initiatives aim both to widen and smooth the road to degree completion, helping adult learners save time and money while meeting their educational and professional goals.

Credit for Prior Learning: A Streamlined Pathway to Graduation

One of the most critical practices for helping students complete their degrees is the Credit for Prior Learning Initiative (CPL). Through this initiative, CUNY SPS undergraduates can earn up to 45 credits for knowledge mastered through relevant professional experiences, such as licensing and credentialing programs, as well as through non-credit coursework or college-level examination programs. CUNY SPS undergraduates can also earn credit by building portfolios documenting college-level learning gained through workplace or volunteer experiences.

Using Credit for Prior Learning dramatically reduces time to degree completion and increases graduation rates: a landmark 2010 study from the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL), titled “Fueling the Race,” reports that students who receive CPL are 2.5 times more likely to graduate than those who do not. CUNY SPS takes this evidence seriously, even making sure that students think about prior learning experiences when they apply. In recognition of the School’s exceptional efforts, CAEL has invited CUNY SPS to participate in a 2019 study measuring the experiences and outcomes of students who earn credit through prior learning.

In the meantime, the School continues to expand prior learning opportunities. Two of the most recent additions include the Google IT Support Professional Certificate and Saylor Academy’s Direct Credit Exams [see New Programs box on following page]. The rapid growth of CPL at CUNY SPS and other CUNY schools has also led to the need for clear, consistent policy concerning its use. Once again, CUNY SPS is leading the way as one of seven senior CUNY schools teaming up to shape official CUNY-wide policy for CPL based on nationally recognized standards. Creating uniform policy will make it easier for all CUNY students to use prior learning experiences to earn credits — and to complete their degrees.
New Programs to Expand Prior Learning Opportunities

CPL and the Google IT Support Professional Certification

One of the latest additions to the CPL initiative is the Google IT Support Professional Certification. In addition to preparing students for an entry-level role in IT support, this eight-month online training program enables them to receive 12 college credits towards the School’s online BS in Information Systems. The certification, which costs only $49, corresponds to a full-time semester’s worth of required coursework.

Saylor Academy and New Opportunities for Credit

CUNY SPS has partnered with Saylor Academy, a non-profit organization that offers free and open online courses, to provide SPS students with another opportunity to earn Credit for Prior Learning (CPL). CUNY SPS faculty have evaluated 31 of Saylor’s Direct Credit examinations, which have also been approved by the American Council on Education (ACE). These examinations correspond to courses offered in CUNY SPS General Education distribution areas.

Pre-Evaluated Training and Experience for Veterans

CUNY SPS values the training and experience that our student veterans received during their military experience. The American Council on Education (ACE) and the National College Credit Recommendation Service (NCCR) have evaluated college-level training programs, credentials, and licenses from the military and government, most of which may be eligible for college credit at CUNY SPS.
Bringing Down Financial Barriers: Scholarships and ZTC Courses

Getting credits for prior learning significantly reduces the cost of earning a degree, but sometimes CUNY SPS students need additional help with tuition, books, and other school-related expenses, as well as with financial emergencies.

In recognition of its student body’s financial needs, CUNY SPS provided more than half a million dollars in scholarships and grants during the past five years, and the School continues to add new programs [see sidebar for recent additions]. Some of these scholarships offer full tuition, others partial. One grant enables students to wipe out outstanding debt and restart their degree, while another offers financial assistance for emergencies. All address the very real needs of adult students.

Tuition is not the only financial barrier to degree completion, however. According to College Board estimates, textbooks and school supplies account for between $1,200 and $1,400 of an undergraduate’s budget, on average. These costs can present a significant roadblock to many CUNY SPS students.

Enter Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) courses. These fully online classes use only free materials, such as Open Educational Resource (OER) textbooks, links to scholarly and professional websites, and licensed resources from CUNY library databases, as well as text and multimedia lectures. In academic year 2018–19, CUNY SPS offered a total of 299 ZTC courses — more than twice the 120 offered in the previous academic year. By summer 2019, 88% of General Education sections were ZTC courses, and the School became the first CUNY senior college to offer a four-year degree that could be earned through ZTC coursework: a BA in Communication and Media.

Student savings have been dramatic. In academic year 2018–19, CUNY SPS students enrolled in ZTC courses collectively saved more than a quarter of a million dollars. What’s more, students really appreciate the free course materials [see insert]. As one put it, “I loved being able to jump right into reading assignments without having to worry about waiting to be able to afford the textbook.” Or, as another explained, “I saved money [and] it was easier to study on-the-go.”

At CUNY SPS, nothing matters more than helping students to grow intellectually and to cross the finish line to successful degree completion. By reducing financial barriers and recognizing the real value of students’ prior professional and educational experiences, the School is continually creating effective pathways to graduation.
Recent CUNY SPS Scholarships and Grants Aim to Facilitate Degree Completion

- The Finish Line Degree Completion Scholarship provides students within 6-30 credits of graduation with financial support based on need and academic merit.

- The Finish Line Debt Forgiveness Program helps CUNY SPS students with outstanding tuition payments by wiping out tuition debt up to $2,000, enabling students to re-enroll and restart their program of study.

- The Petrie Emergency Grant Fund at CUNY SPS provides emergency financial assistance to students experiencing a significant financial hardship which could adversely affect their educational success or even jeopardize their ability to stay in school.

- The Petrie Nurse Scholars Award provides full tuition assistance through degree completion to students enrolled in the nursing BSN program who previously earned an Applied Science (AAS) Degree in Nursing from a CUNY Community College.

- THE CUNY SPS Textbook Grant offers up to $200 for textbook costs to students in good academic standing who demonstrate financial need. The grant is open to all students enrolled in degree or certificate programs.

Experiencing the Positive Impact of Free, Open-Source Learning Materials: Zero Textbook Cost Courses at CUNY SPS

“I was able to get right into the coursework without having to worry about waiting until my next paycheck to be able to purchase a textbook.”

“Saved money, time, and easily accessed the materials.”
What do CUNY SPS students think about Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) courses? A survey of students who have taken one or more of these courses shows that most of the School’s students value the ZTC course material and classes. Here’s why, in their own words:

“It is easy to access and costs $0. You have the option to pick and choose different articles or research papers.”

“The benefits [included] not being locked down to a textbook and exploring more than one source of material.”

“Besides the no cost, I find it easier to learn materials online.”
New Degree Program: MA in Museum Studies
The CUNY School of Professional Studies (CUNY SPS), in partnership with the New-York Historical Society, recently launched an online Master of Arts in Museum Studies program. A special focus of the program is to diversify the museum workforce and to address the needs of an increasingly diverse and engaged museum-going public.

The online MA in Museum Studies is designed to immerse students in both the theoretical and practical aspects of museum work. As part of the program, CUNY SPS works with the New-York Historical Society to hold on-site practicums, where students in the program gain experience within the city’s oldest museum in practices like curation, collections management, and museum operations. The program focuses on building a more diverse workforce, including those who require special accommodations, particularly in leadership positions.

CUNY SPS Dean John Mogulescu said, “Our school has always looked for innovative ways of addressing emerging needs, and our partnership with the New-York Historical Society certainly promises to shape more diverse, inclusive, and professionalized workforce for museums.”

This degree program is especially needed now, when museums support more than 726,000 jobs in America and are seen as one of the most trusted sources of information in the country, rated higher than newspapers, government sources, and even academic research. However, at a time when 38 percent of Americans identify as Asian, black, Hispanic, or multiracial, a 2015 national study conducted by the Mellon Foundation, the Association of Art Museum Directors, and the American Alliance of Museums found that only 16 percent of leadership positions at art museums were held by people of color.

From administration and finance to curation and education, the program educates students about all areas of a museum, regardless of the focus, content, or audience a specific museum serves. Students learn to curate exhibitions, design educational services, and provide museum services with attention to all potential visitors to a museum.

“We are proud to partner with CUNY SPS to create this innovative program, at a time when museums must evolve and expand to meet the needs of their audiences,” said Dr. Louise Mirrer, President and CEO of the New-York Historical Society. “Museums currently receive more than 850 million visits each year and provide communities with a sense of place and a collective heritage. This program is especially visionary as it focuses on increasing diversity and inclusion in the museum of the future.”
Demand for Skilled Professionals Drives CUNY SPS Programs in Health Information Management and Health Services Administration

As career opportunities in health-related fields continue to expand, CUNY SPS has developed several innovative programs to respond to workforce need: the BS in Health Information Management (HIM), the BS in Health Systems Administration (HSA), and the Certificate in Medical Coding. These programs benefit adults interested in pursuing dynamic health-related careers — and employers seeking skilled professionals.

“CUNY SPS created its HIM program because hospitals, insurance companies, software vendors, and other healthcare employers in New York City were facing significant shortages of credentialed professionals at every level of experience, and we knew our students would find opportunity in this field,” explains Ellen Karl, academic director for HIM and HSA. “Later, we realized we could also serve allied health professionals who had technical credentials but needed a college degree to advance in their careers.”

In the last twenty years, nothing has changed more in healthcare than the way healthcare organizations manage data — and nobody knows this better than Karl. She observes, “Not long ago, medical records were kept in folders that were only available in one place at one time, and might only represent a snapshot of a patient’s health, such as a hospital stay. Today, most patients have complex Electronic Health Records (EHRs) involving numerous data points that are available across multiple healthcare settings. Healthcare organizations need skilled HIM professionals to acquire, input, manage, analyze, and protect that data in print and digital formats.”

That’s where CUNY SPS can help. The School’s HIM program teaches students to develop, implement, and manage health information and data systems. Graduates might help employers measure quality of care, manage reimbursement, organize research, guide practice planning, and/or evaluate current operations. Credentials are critical for HIM graduates. Many CUNY SPS students majoring in HIM take a challenging examination to become Registered Health Information Administrators (RHIA). Thanks to strong programming from qualified faculty, as well as the three test prep sessions offered each year, CUNY SPS students have an outstanding 80% pass rate, compared to 69% nationally.
Good jobs await HIM graduates. Ninety-five percent of the School’s degree completers have found employment in health information management or another health-related field. One of those students, José Fernandez, is a senior medical audit analyst who is now fielding offers for management positions. He reports, “I can’t speak highly enough about how the School helped me achieve my bachelor’s degree and accreditation while working two jobs.” The future also looks bright for enrolled and entering students as well: the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) projects 11% job growth for health information technicians and medical records professionals between 2018 and 2028.

Students interested in entering the fastest-growing degree program at CUNY SPS, the BS in Health Systems Administration (HSA), can also expect to find abundant career opportunities. Job openings for health system administrators are expected to grow by 18% between 2018 and 2028 (BLS). More and more adults, especially those already working in health-related fields, are using the HSA program to boost their career prospects.

As Karl notes: “We noticed we had enrolled a number of allied health professionals — radiology technicians, medical technologists, lab assistants — in HIM classes. Many had completed an associate’s degree in a clinical field and wanted to earn a related bachelors. What these students needed were courses in healthcare management and business, and that is why we developed the HSA degree.”
The HSA program prepares students for managerial positions in healthcare organizations by teaching them to develop departmental goals and objectives, train staff, manage area finances, evaluate the impact of health-related laws and regulations, and communicate with stakeholders — all skills that ensure quality of care. Student response has been overwhelmingly positive. Aida Ortiz, who will graduate this December, reports that “CUNY SPS offers a great program that helped me gain understanding of the healthcare industry. Finishing my degree has given me confidence in myself and my career prospects.”

In addition to these degree programs, CUNY SPS also offers an online Certificate in Medical Coding. This certificate offers students a meaningful credential and provides workers who already code with a way to demonstrate proficiency. Coursework prepares students to pass the Certified Coding Associate (CCA) credentialing examination and enables them to work in hospitals, clinics, doctors’ and dentists’ offices, health insurance companies, and government offices, among other places of employment. Students who complete the Certificate can also use it to earn 36 Credits for Prior Learning (CPL) towards a degree in HIM at the School. For these students, the Certificate program acts as a ladder to a college degree — and to a better future.

CUNY SPS has also served as the training partner for a special apprenticeship program in medical coding that was initiated by the nation’s largest and fastest-growing healthcare workers union (1199SEIU) and the New York Alliance for Careers in Healthcare (NYACH). This special, limited apprenticeship helped many students get critical, real-world experience in the field.

Whatever path students take — the Certificate in Medical Coding, the BS in HSA, or the BS in HIM — CUNY SPS graduates know that their skills are in demand. As the healthcare industry continues to grow, and to grow more complex, the School’s graduates have what it takes to succeed. As Karl puts it, “It has been incredibly rewarding to see both students and employers benefit from these programs.”
One of the driving forces behind the success of the degree programs in Health Information Management (HIM) and Health Systems Administration (HSA) is Academic Director Ellen Karl, who has helped build and expand both programs for the benefit of more than 200 currently enrolled students. As George Otte, senior associate dean of academic affairs, explains, “Ellen, with her strong academic background yet also her firm footing and experience in the healthcare sector, is a wonderful exemplar of CUNY SPS and especially its practitioners’ degrees, which prepare students for specific credentialed roles in the workforce.”

Karl has recruited talented faculty from across the country to teach critical courses in health information management, increased the number of prep courses for credentialing exams to improve student pass rates, and identified new opportunities for students to learn through experience, such as a medical coding apprenticeship program. Karl has also created the HSA program, the fastest-growing CUNY SPS degree, by listening to enrolled students in the allied health professions, understanding their professional needs, and then building a program to meet those needs. Not surprisingly, Karl is proud of what these programs offer, explaining, “Many of our students are first-generation college graduates and we are helping them to improve their lives and to achieve their goals and aspirations.”

Karl is also uniquely positioned to shape the professions for which CUNY SPS programs train students. She is the president-elect of the Health Information Management Association of New York City (HIMANYC) and from 2016-2018 served on the Board of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). She is currently serving on the AHIMA Foundation Board and the Health Information Management Accreditation Council (HIMAC), one of two councils of the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM). In recognition of her significant and sustained contribution to the HIM profession, she has also been named a Fellow of AHIMA. Karl is particularly proud of serving in leadership positions in HIM-related professional associations, saying “It is critically important to the success of one’s HIM career to volunteer at the local, state, and national levels, and to network with those doing like work.”

In addition to holding an MBA in health administration, Karl is a Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) and Certified Health Data Analyst (CHDA) with wide-ranging professional and consulting experience in the management and analysis of health-related data.
What do you do when you want to finish your baccalaureate degree at the CUNY School of Professional Studies (CUNY SPS) but your GPA from five, ten, or even 20 years ago doesn’t reflect your academic potential — or meet the School’s criteria for admission as a transfer student? The answer is simple: apply to CUNY SPS through Jump Start, a new performance-based application process designed to remove barriers to enrollment for adult learners who do not have a 2.5 GPA, but who do have compelling work and life experience.

The program, developed with a grant from Graduate NYC’s College Completion Innovation Fund, opens the door to higher education for a specific type of adult learner. According to Jennifer Grace Lee, associate dean of enrollment management, “When we reviewed past applications, we realized that there were many highly motivated and competent students who could succeed but who we couldn’t admit simply because they didn’t have the required GPA. We created an alternative admissions process for this group, one that provides a more meaningful assessment of their college readiness.”

The program has generated great interest, with 114 applicants, 72 admitted and 56 matriculated for Fall 2019. Lucas Sifuentes, director of undergraduate and graduate admissions, noted that Jump Start applicants included, among others, “healthcare professionals, small business owners, writers, and parents — people with a wide range of backgrounds and proven skills who simply needed a closer, more careful look.”

How does the Jump Start application process work? Some students come to the application directly while others are recommended to it by the CUNY Admissions team. In either case, applicants are contacted by a dedicated adviser known as a “Navigator,” who can guide them as they build an admissions portfolio that documents their college-level knowledge and skills. Unlike a traditional admissions officer, however, the Navigator can do something more: show applicants how to leverage traditional transfer credits and Credits for Prior Learning (CPL) in a way that reduces the duration and cost of attending CUNY SPS — critically important factors for returning adult students.
Returning adult learners also tend to have little to no experience with online education. For this reason, Jump Start also offers a weeklong simulation of an online class called Test Flight. This first-in-kind program for CUNY is mandatory for Jump Start applicants and very popular overall, with more than 95 percent of all participants surveyed responding positively. As one of them wrote, “This experience has been amazing . . . [it] made me more excited to get back to school and to do well and succeed.” Or as another put it: “My favorite [thing] about the Test Flight was really all of it — its existence.”

What is it about Test Flight that makes it so powerful? The course functions much like any other course at CUNY SPS, and thus gives prospective students a realistic and reassuring taste of the School’s online model. Test Flight students explore varied and engaging online materials, practice information synthesis, and review time management and task prioritization skills. These last two objectives are particularly important for adult learners, who face many competing demands on their time, and who may never have taken a course without a physical classroom or fixed meeting time.

Although Test Flight was designed to work in conjunction with Jump Start, it is also serving others, including traditional applicants, students from other CUNY schools and institutions of higher learning, and non-degree learners. Angela Francis, associate director for academic affairs, explains, “We were really surprised and pleased by the level of engagement we’re seeing, not just from Jump Start applicants but from other people who are considering returning to college. It’s gratifying to know Test Flight is helping them see themselves back in the classroom.”

CUNY administrators are excited about the potential for Test Flight, and proud of how the Jump Start program allows applicants to leverage professional and life experiences in both the admissions process and their chosen academic program. As Jennifer Sparrow, associate dean for academic affairs, sums it up: “Jump Start offers applicants a chance to demonstrate that they are more than a 20-year-old GPA, and I think everyone deserves that chance.”
Commencement 2019

Distinguished speakers included Dean John Mogulescu, Student Representative Haris Khan, who brought greetings from the Board of Trustees, and student speaker Windy Nicely, who graduated with her BA in Psychology and shared her intense personal journey towards attaining her degree.

“I am entirely grateful to CUNY SPS for giving me the room to show up as myself, a whole and perfectly imperfect being,” said Nicely. “From where I stand today, it’s easy to see adversity is not someplace that you travel out of or through as quickly as possible. But, rather, it’s a path to an awakening to our authentic selves.”

Alyse Zwick, CUNY SPS alumna and former NY1 News correspondent, served as the emcee for the evening. The evening was also punctuated by Keynote Speaker Alison Stewart, renowned reporter, news anchor, and author, whose timely remarks provided graduates with a lasting note of motivation and hope as they ended their academic journey at CUNY SPS.

“My spidey sense tells me you know something about grit and perseverance and resilience,” said Stewart. “No tide brought you here. You got out your boat, you put it in the water, you took out your oars, and rowed.”
UNY SPS ranked 15th in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*’s list of the 2019 Best Online Bachelor’s Degree Programs. The list placed CUNY SPS in the top 5% of all ranked institutions for a second straight year and one spot higher than our 2018 position.

“We built our online degree programs to expand access to working adults who want to finish their degree and advance professionally,” says Dean John Mogulescu. “Being ranked in the top 5 percent of the country’s online bachelor’s degree programs for a second straight year further validates the dedication of the CUNY SPS faculty and staff to make good on that mission.”

The magazine assessed more than 360 institutions in four criteria: student engagement; faculty credentials and training; student services and technology; and reputation among its peers.
The 2019 CUNY SPS Nursing Convocation and Pinning Ceremony was held on Tuesday, May 21, at the William and Anita Newman Conference Center at Baruch College. This special event, held annually to honor our nursing student graduates and their accomplishments, is an opportunity to celebrate and to reminisce on the nursing graduate’s experience at CUNY SPS.

The nursing pinning ceremony is a time honored tradition that dates back to the 12th century. It is a celebration of the graduates’ completion of nursing school, and commemorates their service as members of the profession of nursing. All the nursing student graduates were pinned by the nursing faculty individually as they walked across the stage. ACE Scholars and Sigma Theta Tau inductees were also honored at the event. Student speakers Robert Dybec and Karline Barthe shared perspectives and stories about their academic journey.

Over 80 nursing students, faculty, administration, family, and friends attended this memorable day. Capstone projects were also highlighted and summarized the contributions to the culture of safety made by our students to our community of clinical partners who collaborate with the CUNY SPS Nursing Program.
Celebrating #CUNYTuesday

As part of our #CUNYTuesday fundraising campaign, members of the CUNY SPS community attended an evening of health and wellness on November 27, 2018, led by alumni presenters Daniela Borodin (BA in Communication and Media ‘18), Melissa Hinds (BS in Nursing ‘16), Stephen Ippolito (MA in Disability Studies ‘16 and BA in Sociology ‘14), and Carolina Moquete (Advanced Certificate in Youth Studies ‘17). Over $43,000 was raised for the 2019 campaign towards student scholarships, exceeding the $40,000 goal.

Class Gift Campaign

As a first-time initiative, graduating students and past donors had the opportunity to participate in the Class Gift Campaign with a goal to raise $2,019 for the Friends of CUNY SPS fund. This donation was matched by an anonymous alumnus. The Class Gift Committee worked with the CUNY SPS Student Association to host events, design programs, and educate the graduating class about the importance of giving.

Youth Studies Program trip to Colombia

The youth studies program took their first study abroad trip to Bogotá, Colombia. During this time, they learned about the non-profit organization CINDE, visited local youth organizers, and engaged in dialogue about issues that matter to the youth studies community.

The CUNY SPS Abilities and Resources Committee’s first pop-up museum

The CUNY SPS Abilities and Resources Committee held their first pop-up museum of disability culture and history on April 3, 2019. This one-day event showcased student-submitted artwork, antiques, film, mixed media, and presentations pertaining to disability studies, advocacy, history, culture, and the arts.
Senior Associate Dean George Otte spoke at the International Day of Education at the United Nations on January 24 as part of a panel titled “Facilitating Inclusive Education Through Technological Innovation.” His remarks focused on the importance of and opportunities provided by online education.

Dr. Lilly Mathew, associate professor of nursing informatics, attended the National Institute of Nursing Research’s intensive research Precision Health boot camp. She was one of 100 participants from throughout the country to be selected for the competitive training course, which addressed digital health data and smart technologies that enable “smart health” and improve patient outcomes.

The youth studies programs, led by director Dr. Sarah Zeller-Berkman, partnered with the Intergenerational Change Initiative to conduct preliminary research exploring the impact of gentrification and housing instability on youth development. Eight students from across CUNY, in addition to a group of NYC high school students, joined our professor of youth action and agency to explore this topic.

Dr. Elizabeth Alsop, academic director of the BA in Communication and Media and BA in Liberal Studies degree programs, published an article, “The Question of James’s Speech: Consensual Talk in The Ambassadors” in the journal Narrative. She was also awarded a PSC-CUNY Grant to support research on her new book project “The Television Will Not Be Summarized: Televisual Excess in the Post-Network Era.”

Dr. Elizabeth Bishop, adjunct assistant professor of youth studies, was selected as one of the 40 LGBT Leaders Under 40 by the BEQ Pride Magazine. Dr. Bishop also published her book Embodying Theory: Epistemology, Aesthetics and Resistance with Peter Lang Press in December 2018.

Chris Vine, academic director of the MA in Applied Theatre degree program, received the 2019 Campton Bell Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Alliance for Theatre and Education. Professor Vine has devoted over 35 years to the theatre and education community, specializing in the areas of theatre-in-education, process drama, and Theatre of the Oppressed.
Dr. Mark Friedman, adjunct associate professor of disability studies, won two grants. The first with Nebraska Developmental Disability Council for statewide training on person-centered planning, and a second with the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council for helping people with disabilities serve on boards of directors and policy-making bodies.

Dr. Jacqueline Leber, adjunct associate professor of disability studies, presented a breakout workshop session for the Annual Adjunct Summer Institute at Fashion Institute of Technology titled "Universal Design for Learning: Using constructivism as one tool to address UDL."

Dr. Jan Kaminsky, associate professor of nursing, was selected as one of ten New York Yankees Nurse Heroes. Dr. Kaminsky was nominated by her peers and patients for her commitment to the nursing profession.

Under the leadership of academic director Ellen Karl and clinical professor Janet Mohlenhoff, the BS in Health Information Management degree program’s 2018 Annual Program Assessment Report was reviewed and accepted by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education. This certifies that the program remains in good standing and will maintain accreditation.

Sue Karnet, adjunct assistant professor of art history, showed her work at the Art is Money-Money is Art exhibition beside the likes of Andy Warhol, Banksy, and Keith Haring at the East Village Art View this spring.

Richard Schumaker, adjunct assistant professor of English in the CUNY SPS General Education program, has multiple achievements tied to his work with the Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA), including chairing the seminar: “Teaching the Literature and Film of the Great War Now” and presenting “Teaching the Theme of Death in Novels of the Great War.”

Bradley Gardener, adjunct assistant professor of general education, was selected by a committee of faculty and students as the first recipient of the CUNY SPS Adjunct Faculty Teaching Excellence Award. This new annual award acknowledges an adjunct faculty member’s creative and innovative online teaching practices in undergraduate courses.
Michelle Pinedo (BS in Business ‘13) and Steven Dupré (BA in Communication and Media ‘14) were selected to serve on the Foundation Board. In their respective roles, Pinedo now assists the Board with matters related to finance and auditing while Dupré supports fundraising and alumni engagement initiatives.

Leonard Blades, (MS in Disability Services in Higher Education) was appointed to serve as vice chair of disabled student affairs on the University Student Senate Steering Committee for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Romona Betton (BS in Health Information Management ‘17) was selected to serve on the American Health Information Management Association New Graduate Leadership Committee. In her role, Betton provides guidance to student members, conducts research to help with idea development, and creates resources and benefits geared towards new graduate members.

Tshomba Polepole, (MA in Disability Studies) who was recognized for his work as a craniofacial surgeon and director for community-based rehabilitation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by Universal Peace Federation USA. Cara Liebowitz (MA in Disability Studies) was interviewed for NPR’s American Anthem piece titled “For Many With Disabilities, ‘Let It Go’ Is An Anthem Of Acceptance.” Liebowitz is now the development director for the National Council on Independent Living, a disability policy group. Olivia Harris (MA in Applied Theatre ‘14) became executive director of Speak About It, an educational company that uses theatre and dialogue to address consent, boundaries, and healthy relationships on college campuses and beyond.
The student-run news site The Kiosk received a Certificate of Recognition at the CUNY Correspondents’ Dinner on May 23, 2019. Hosted by CUNY University Student Senate, the inaugural CUNY Correspondents’ Dinner was developed to recognize and honor student media and journalists across CUNY. Since its inception on October 29, 2018, The Kiosk and its dedicated team of content providers have sought to share news, ideas, and experiences as a way to bridge all CUNY SPS constituents.

“Student journalism […] fosters community and helps writers hone their craft in a collaborative atmosphere,” says Lisa Sheridan, The Kiosk’s founder and editor-in-chief. “It ensures students have a voice and holds those in power accountable. As online students without an analog campus experience, I thought it was particularly important that we have a student journalism publication to serve [our] students.”

“Personally, this award provides recognition, appreciation, and support for the work that has been done,” says Duubar Villalobos Jimenez, The Kiosk’s news editor. “With this award, we can now be more confident in the outstanding services that we provide, thus encouraging us to keep stimulating our society to achieve greater good.”

Our Motivation.
In spring 2019, the CUNY School of Professional Studies (CUNY SPS) announced a partnership with JetBlue Airways to offer crewmembers an avenue through which they can pursue a graduate degree. The Master’s Pathways, which grew out of the existing JetBlue Scholars program, features online degrees from CUNY SPS in the areas of business, data science, and psychology.

Consistent with CUNY SPS’s dedication to serving working adults and the airline’s mission of inspiring humanity, the partnership has created an opportunity for crewmembers to further their education with convenient online degree options, which make a graduate-level education more accessible and attainable. CUNY SPS was selected as one of JetBlue’s exclusive institution partners based on the School’s online graduate program offerings, commitment to expanding access to higher education, affordability, and the quality of academic support available to students.

In 2016, JetBlue launched JetBlue Scholars, a program that helps staff complete their bachelor’s degrees, and since the program’s beginning, crewmembers have shown interest in master’s degree opportunities. The evolution of the Master’s Pathways program comes as a direct response to crewmember requests for additional options.
“The online MS in Business Management and Leadership program at CUNY SPS provided the flexibility I needed to grow in both my career and academic journey,” explained Mabel Herrera, a success coach for the JetBlue Scholars program and a CUNY SPS alumna. “The combination of high-quality faculty and courses made me a more competitive candidate and helped me land a new role at JetBlue! Further, as an online student, I was able to develop and maintain virtual relationships, which has become an important skill to have in today’s job market.”

CUNY SPS opened enrollment to JetBlue crewmembers in summer of 2019, and continues to recruit interested employees, most recently at recruitment events in Long Island City, Queens, and Utah. Along with CUNY SPS, JetBlue has partnered with LSUS Shreveport, Thomas Edison State University, University of Maryland Global Campus, and WGU to offer more than 30 different graduate degrees and specializations to the airline’s crewmembers.
Training NYC Employees For Advancement

CUNY SPS Professional Education and Workplace Learning Partnerships Help Employees and Organizations Thrive

The CUNY SPS Office of Professional Education and Workplace Learning (PEWL) administers professionally oriented certificate programs and courses and creates customized workplace learning programs in an effort to help people advance their careers and help organizations improve their effectiveness. Underlying the office’s mission is the belief that employee training is the key to success. As Amy Perez, executive director of the Office of Professional Education and Workplace Learning explains, “With the ever-changing landscape of employer needs, PEWL seeks to partner with employers to help identify needs and gaps across their workforce and, more importantly, create and deliver highly engaging and customized learning programs that best support both the employee and employer through change.”

PEWL works to achieve these goals through pedagogical expertise, including eLearning technologies, detailed project management, and strong partnership development and management. In the 2018–19 academic year, these core factors played a critical role in the continuing success of PEWL programs, which make up a collective $32 million in grants at CUNY SPS. Highlights from a few existing and new programs are listed below.

Energy Management Institute

Launched in 2009 by the Department of Citywide Administrative Services’ Division of Energy Management, the Energy Management Institute (EMI) was designed to create a community of skilled energy management professionals across agencies who could contribute to meeting the City’s ambitious energy and emissions reductions goals. Through EMI, the Division of Energy Management provides City staff with instruction in energy management best practices so that they can help create a culture of energy efficiency at their agencies and implement operational improvements, energy efficiency retrofits, and clean energy projects across the City’s portfolio.

EMI is continually retooling to make the program offerings more effective for its participants and in 2019 it made a major pedagogical shift, moving from a lecture-based training to a hands-on, learner-centric instructional model that employs engaging content, practical applications, and different learning modalities to address the preferences of adult learners. As a result of this switch, many courses were revamped in 2019, including the Building Operator Certification Level 2 course (BOC-2), which was extended from 14 weeks to 28 and began featuring new video learning segments and providing a Learning Coach to discuss projects one-on-one with students.

This new curriculum approach also allowed EMI to begin implementing the Kirkpatrick model of training evaluation, the best practice strategy that will allow program faculty to more effectively assess what the participants have learned in the training programs.

As a result of these updates, there has been an increase in student engagement, and better quality projects and exam results. The change has also enabled City staff to become more of a contributor to their agency’s efforts to support the City’s goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
Helping New Yorkers in shelters to strengthen their financial literacy skills was identified as a top priority following Mayor Bill de Blasio’s 90-day review of homeless services in the spring of 2016. The New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS) began working with CUNY SPS in January 2018 to develop an adult financial literacy learning program for its shelter case managers, along with an abbreviated version of the course for shelter directors. For subject matter and instructional design expertise, CUNY SPS engaged The Financial Clinic, a national nonprofit that could provide direct knowledge of and hands-on experience with financial coaching since they staff several of the City of New York’s Financial Empowerment Centers across the five boroughs.

Working together, CUNY SPS and The Financial Clinic developed a 2-day course to train shelter case managers on how to provide basic financial coaching to shelter clients. Topics covered include setting financial goals, developing budgets and savings plans, accessing and understanding credit scores and reports (as well as how to build and manage their credit scores, since this is a key component of being able to access permanent and sustainable housing), managing debt, and setting up no/low cost bank accounts. Case managers participating in the DHS FIN program also get to pair up and practice financial coaching through several interactive role-play exercises, as well as receive a number of job aids (including a monthly income and expenses worksheet) that they can share and review with their clients.

In its first year, the program has trained a total of 286 staff from 76 shelters across the city and is set to expand further. Starting in November 2019, and continuing into the next 2-3 years, CUNY SPS will begin offering the DHS FIN course to staff from over 80 Families with Children shelters, as well as 45 General and Special Population shelters.
In January 2019, the New York City Department of Correction (DOC) and CUNY SPS launched a partnership to support the development of an overall organizational training strategy focused on best practices and innovative delivery methods. The CUNY SPS DOC team provides project management, learning strategy development, and vendor management support for DOC programs including revisions to curriculum for new recruits, leadership programs for supervisors, and the development of compliance eLearning programs for all DOC staff.

In the short time since its launch, the collaboration has already accomplished two main objectives. First, the team developed six compliance eLearning modules for all DOC employees to complete. These modules are replacing in-person refresher trainings, thereby reducing training delivery expenses while allowing the staff to complete the trainings at their own convenience. Topics covered in these eLearning modules include Workplace Violence Prevention, Americans with Disability Act, Suicide Prevention, and Special Risk Groups.

Additionally, CUNY SPS worked with DOC experts to design On The Job Training (OJT) and simulations for new DOC recruits and supervisors. These programs provide employees new to their position the opportunities to practice critical skills in a realistic simulated work setting or under a controlled and supervised work environment so they will be able to perform work-related tasks in a safe, productive, and professional manner. Some of the real-life scenarios that are covered require learners to synthesize multiple skills, knowledge, and/or attitudes while facing unanticipated real-life tensions and emotions.

These three programs represent just a few of the workplace learning initiatives that PEWL has implemented at various agencies and organizations around New York City. The accompanying chart features a complete list of the programs that make up PEWL’s collective $32 million in grants. Taken together, these programs underscore PEWL’s efforts to provide quality on-the-job training that benefits employees and, by extension, their organizations and its patrons. For as Tracy Meade, CUNY SPS senior associate dean for strategy and innovation, observes, “If you take care of employees’ learning needs and skills, you create a better workplace, provide better service, and contribute to the effectiveness of organizations.”

“With the ever-changing landscape of employer needs, PEWL seeks to partner with employers to help identify needs and gaps across their workforce and, more importantly, create and deliver highly engaging and customized learning programs that best support both the employee and employer through change.”

– Amy Perez, Executive Director of the Office of Professional Education and Workplace Learning

“Department of Correction

Training NYC Employees for Advancement continued
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Description/Program Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Central Park Conservancy</td>
<td>Learning Programs for Urban Parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>ConEdison</td>
<td>Training for Building Maintenance and Superintendents</td>
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<tr>
<td>NYC Administration for Children’s Services</td>
<td>Workforce Training Institute</td>
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<td>NYC Department of Citywide Administration Services</td>
<td>Energy Management</td>
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<td>NYC Department of Citywide Administration Services</td>
<td>Managing and Advancing in the Arts</td>
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<td>NYC Department of Homeless Services</td>
<td>Financial Literacy</td>
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<td>NYC Department of Homeless Services</td>
<td>DHS Procedure and Training Program</td>
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<td>NYC Department of Correction</td>
<td>Training DOC Workers</td>
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<td>NYC Human Resources Administration</td>
<td>CUNY Training Program</td>
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<td>NYC Human Resources Administration</td>
<td>Families Forward Demonstration</td>
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<td>NYC Housing Recovery Operations</td>
<td>Build it Back</td>
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<td>NYC Office of Emergency Management</td>
<td>CSP Training LMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>NYS Office of Children and Family Services</td>
<td>Distance Education/Media Production</td>
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I am honored to serve as the new Chair of the CUNY School of Professional Studies Foundation Board of Directors, and I am happy that the previous two Chairs, Horace Barker and Robert Kissane, still serve on the Foundation Board and will continue to provide guidance and support.

I look forward to continuing to work with Dean Mogulescu, our dedicated Board members, and the high-caliber faculty and staff at CUNY SPS, all of whom bring diverse talents and clear commitment to our students.

In my five years as a member of the Foundation Board, I have been impressed by how CUNY SPS has grown, providing an incredible array of degree and certificate programs that catapult thousands of hard-working students ahead in their careers. The faculty and staff consistently focus on offering new opportunities and more support for students’ success every day. As Chair, I promise to uphold the Foundation Board’s mission and to build upon the impressive growth of our School.

Inspired by our students, my fellow board members and I work together to build alumni and community relationships that foster philanthropic support for CUNY SPS. Due to the support of the CUNY SPS community and the generosity of the Board, the Foundation raised more than $435,000 in FY19. This represents a 12% increase in cash and pledges compared to FY18. This increase includes a renewed, two-year $100,000 pledge for our successful ACE Scholarship Program, and a commitment establishing the first CUNY SPS Adjunct Faculty Teaching Excellence Award. Further, the Board personally increased its financial support to nearly $200,000 in FY19, a 247% year-on-year increase.

An example of our fundraising program growth is #CUNYTuesday—a University-wide effort for #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. In FY19, the CUNY SPS Foundation raised over $44,000 for our campaign, representing a 36% increase in dollars over FY18. For our first CUNY SPS class gift campaign, we received more than 44 gifts from alumni, students, and friends raising a total of $4,749, which was double our overall goal.

I join my fellow board members and the entire CUNY SPS community in offering our sincere gratitude to the many alumni and friends who donated last year. As you read the transformative student stories in this Annual Report, you will undoubtedly be inspired by our wonderful community.

Thank you for supporting our special School and its high-achieving students.

Sincerely,

Blake Foote
Chair, CUNY SPS Foundation Board
Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Blake Foote
Workforce Development Consultant

Horace M. Barker
Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley

Joel Cohen
Managing Director (Ret.), JPMorgan Chase

Patti Lieberman
Trustee, A.L. Mailman Family Foundation, Inc.

Robert Kissane
Chairman, CCS Fundraising, Inc.

John Mogulescu
Dean, CUNY School of Professional Studies and Senior University Dean for Academic Affairs

Members at Large

Stephanie Benjamin
Retired, The City University of New York

Pamela Brier
former CEO of Maimonides, Bellevue and Jacobi Hospital Medical Centers

Charlita Cardwell
Vice President & Senior Counsel American Express Travel Related Services, Inc.

Steven Dupre
Director of Inclusion & Diversity (I&D), PGIM

Lea Kilraine
Global Manager of Strategic Projects Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP

Jason Kubica
Senior Vice President, Wealth Management UBS Financial Services Inc.

Brennon Marcano
Chief Executive Officer The National GEM Consortium

Michelle Pinedo
Vice President Finance and Operations Episcopal Relief & Development

Letter from the Foundation Board

Over $435,000 Raised in FY19

Increase from FY18 = 12%

FY19 Board Support Almost $200,000
Foundation Board New Alumni Members
Alumni Michelle Pinedo (BS in Business ’13) and Steven Dupré (BA in Communication and Media ’14) have been selected to serve on the Foundation Board.

In their respective roles, Pinedo assists Board members Joel Cohen and Jason Kubica with matters related to finance and auditing while Dupré supports Board members Brennon Marcano, Horace Barker, and Stephanie Benjamin with fundraising and alumni engagement initiatives.

In addition to the commitment they have towards enhancing the recognition for and support of CUNY SPS among the greater public, Pinedo and Dupré bring a wealth of professional knowledge and experience to the Board to champion their new positions.

Pinedo is vice president of finance and operations with Episcopal Relief & Development, a global relief organization that works with Anglican and ecumenical partners around the world to find solutions to hunger, poverty, disaster, and disease in collaboration with local communities. In this capacity, she is responsible for ensuring that all of the support functions — finance, IT, and human resources — are performing at peak levels. She has over 20 years of senior-level finance experience in leading non-profit organizations including Amref Health Africa and the Museum for African Art.

Dupré is the director of inclusion and diversity at PGIM, the global investment management business of Prudential Financial, Inc. In this role, he is responsible for raising PGIM’s profile as an inclusive workplace and collaborating with senior leaders to foster an environment that attracts and retains a diverse pool of talent. Prior to joining PGIM in 2011, Dupré worked at Bank of America/Merrill Lynch in the Global Human Resources Department.
Bob Martin Memorial Scholarship

Endowed by Dr. Zeita-Marion Lobley, director of student services, in memory of her late husband, 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 their degree. Tuition scholarships of $2,000 are awarded on the basis of financial need and academic merit.

Ellysa Alton
Dania Elder
Alina Grinberg
Silvia Taylor

CUNY SPS Textbook Grant Fund

Established by the CUNY SPS Foundation, the CUNY SPS Textbook Grant helps undergraduate and graduate students who are facing a financial crisis purchase their course textbooks. To be eligible for the CUNY SPS Textbook Grant, students must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 credits, have completed a minimum of 6 credits at CUNY SPS, demonstrate financial need, and enroll in courses with textbook costs. Undergraduate students must have a minimum 2.0 GPA; graduate students must have a 3.0 GPA or higher.

44 students have received an Emergency Textbook Grant to date.

Eugene Walters Memorial Scholarship

Endowed through the generosity of the Eugene Walters Family Foundation, 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. The tuition scholarship is awarded on the basis of financial need and academic merit.

Rayven-Nikkita Collins
Finish Line Debt Forgiveness Program Fund
Established by a grant to CUNY SPS, the Finish Line Debt Forgiveness Program provides temporary financial assistance to eligible undergraduate CUNY SPS students with a past due tuition balance to help them get back on track to complete their degrees. To be eligible for a Finish Line Debt Forgiveness Grant, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credits at CUNY SPS, have a minimum 2.0 GPA, and enroll in a minimum of 6 credits for the coming term. Applicants must demonstrate financial need and have a tuition balance in arrears.

23 students have received a Finish Line Debt Forgiveness Grant to date.

Finish Line Degree Completion Scholarship
Established by a charitable grant from Mark T. Gallogly and Elizabeth B. Strickler, honoring Jeffrey and Shari Aronson, the Finish Line Degree Completion Scholarship supports adult, undergraduate learners who are current CUNY SPS students. To be eligible, students must be enrolled on a part- or full-time basis, maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA, and be within 6–30 credits of completing their degree. Applicants must demonstrate that their financial aid has expired or will not cover the cost of finishing a degree program. Tuition scholarships of $200–$1,500 are awarded on the basis of financial need and merit.

Founding Dean’s Scholarship
The Founding Dean’s Scholarship, endowed in perpetuity by the generous support of Founding Dean John Mogulescu, is open to all applicants enrolled in a CUNY SPS degree program on a part- or full-time basis. Tuition 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.

McKay Gussine Scholarship
Established by alumna Jacqueline McKay (MS in Business Management and Leadership ’11), the McKay Gussine Scholarship is open to all students admitted to or enrolled in degree programs at CUNY SPS on a part- or full-time basis. For newly admitted students, priority is given to applicants who were mentees (“Littles”) through Big Brothers Big Sisters. Current students must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA and priority is given to applicants who have been volunteer mentors (“Bigs”) through Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Willa Antrum  Sunika Jackson  Lika Nakani
Loraine Aybar  Brian Jagnanan  Monique Ogarro
Courtney Catalana  Wanda Johnson  Aida Ortiz
Liem Duong  Sandi Law  Ronald Schmick
Elaine Ewing  Josh Levine  Meriam Setti
Umme Ferdousi  Ruzdelania Lora  Akintunde Thomas
Megan Fonseca  Shivan Mahabir  Chana Walter
Robert Green  Reynaldo Manzano  Leata Williams
Lisa Guzman  Asia Mathews
Rickardo Henry  Courtney Mckane
Luis Illades  Zaid Mohammed

2018–19 Scholarships and Recipients 37
Museum Studies Scholarship
Initiated in Fall 2019 through the generosity of the New-York Historical Society, one of New York City’s leading cultural institutions, the School’s Museum Studies Scholarship is open to students admitted as part of the first cohort in its MA in Museum Studies degree program and enrolled for a minimum of 6 credits. The scholarship provides support to students who are from under-represented groups or can demonstrate a commitment to diversity.

Jahaira Arias          Zakery Risinger          Jinelle Thompson
Josephine Gonzalez     John Sapida
Rachel Pitkin          Donaulta Starcevic

Nancy Klinger Memorial Scholarship
Established in memory of Nancy Klinger, who was instrumental in creating and launching the Children’s Program Administrator Credential (CPAC) at CUNY SPS, the Nancy Klinger Memorial Scholarship provides tuition assistance for students pursuing their CPAC who demonstrate academic promise and/or financial need.

One student has received a Nancy Klinger Memorial Scholarship in the current academic year.

Patti Lieberman Scholarship for Early Childhood Education
Endowed by the generous support of Patti Lieberman, CUNY SPS Foundation board member, 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.

Jackson Kenyetta

Petrie Nurse Scholarship
Established with a generous $150,000 grant from the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation, the scholarship underwrites 100% of a student’s tuition and follow recipients through degree completion. The Petrie Nurse Scholars program provides tuition assistance to students enrolled in the CUNY SPS online bachelor’s degree in nursing (RN to BSN) who previously earned an applied science (AAS) degree with a major in nursing from a CUNY Community College.

Adebukola Akinkunmi  Elena Davarashvili  Debbie Quelle
Michelle Brooks       Yishi Huang          Maria Soto
Teodora Buzan         Maiza Martins        Olga Ternovetchi
Baly Cooley           Justine Mascarella

Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund
Established with a generous $150,000 grant from the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation, the purpose of the Petrie Emergency Grant Fund at CUNY SPS is to provide emergency financial assistance to eligible students who are experiencing hardship, which could adversely affect their educational success. The main criteria for a grant is the demonstration of a financial emergency and that the capacity for continued study may be in jeopardy due to financial hardship. Applicants must be able to provide documentation supporting the need.

13 students have received a Petrie Student Emergency Grant in the current academic year.
Russ Peterson Technology Scholarship
Created in memory of Russell Peterson and endowed in perpetuity by his family, the Russ Peterson Technology Scholars program is open to students pursuing the BS in Information Systems, the BS in Health Information Management, or the MS in Data Science. Eligible students must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA; undergraduate students must be within 30 credits of graduation, and graduate students must be within 12 credits of graduation. Tuition-based awards are made on the basis of financial need and academic merit.

Gurpreet Singh

Stephen M. Rossen Memorial Scholarship
Established by the generosity of the Rossen family, the Stephen M. Rossen Memorial Scholarship is open to any student enrolled in a CUNY SPS online degree program on a part- or full-time basis, and who is within 30 credits of degree completion. Tuition scholarships of $1,500 are awarded on the basis of need and academic merit.

Bidemi Akanbi Benjamin Monahan

Timothy Meade Memorial Scholarship
Endowed in perpetuity by the generosity of founding donor Tracy L. Meade, senior associate dean for strategy and innovation, in memory of her late brother, the Timothy Meade Memorial Scholarship is open to undergraduate students enrolled in the CUNY SPS Disability Studies degree program with a 2.0 GPA or higher. Applicants can be enrolled on a part- or full-time basis. The tuition scholarship is awarded on the basis of financial need and priority is given to eligible applicants with a disabled family member.

Thomasina Huertas

U.S. Military Scholarship
Established by the CUNY SPS Foundation to support the School’s military student community, the U.S. Military Scholarship is open to either active or inactive military personnel enrolled in a CUNY SPS degree program on a part- or full-time basis. Undergraduate students must have a minimum 2.0 GPA, graduate students must have a 3.0 GPA or higher. The tuition scholarship is awarded on the basis of financial need and academic merit.

Trevorlis Elder Jonathan Tarharka Jun Yan

William J. Kissane III Scholarship
Endowed in perpetuity by alumnus Robert Kissane (BS in Communication and Culture ’09), former board chair of the CUNY SPS Foundation and current board member, in memory of his late brother, the William J. Kissane III Scholarship is open to students who are enrolled in a Disability Studies degree program (BA, MA or MS) at CUNY SPS, have a minimum 3.0 GPA, remain enrolled in a minimum of 6 credits per semester, remain in academic good standing, and demonstrate financial need. Tuition scholarships of $1,000 will be awarded on the basis of eligibility and merit.

Chiyere Barbor Weiting (Jennifer) Feng Katriel Paige
Khadijah Eltareb Jonathan Heifetz Quamique Ruiz
In 2015, philanthropist Alan Fishman established the CUNY SPS ACE ( Achieve College Education) Scholarship program with a generous two-year $100,000 matching gift. To date, 73 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 6-30 credits of completing their degrees.

Milan Fredericks received her associate’s degree from Johnson & Wales University in 2004. She was enrolled at Lehman College full-time in 2006 with the intention of obtaining her bachelor of science until she was forced to drop out in 2008 when the recession hit and times became tough. After 10 years, Milan was able to get back to work finishing her degree in communication and media at CUNY SPS. With a lot of hard work and some luck, Milan landed a temporary job in 2011 at Columbia University and, more than six years later, is still there and thriving in the same department. Milan hopes to stay at Columbia University and parlay her enhanced skills in graphic and web design, social media and email marketing, and digital media into another promotion, with the goal of eventually becoming a director of digital communications and marketing.

Dale Beaumont is currently obtaining a BS in business at CUNY SPS part-time. Originally from Jamaica, Dale attended the Borough of Manhattan Community College on and off while working two jobs to support himself and his wife, eventually graduating with an associate degree in business management. For the past five years, Dale has worked as an underwriter, but decided that he wanted to own his business and contribute to society in a different capacity. In December 2018, he resigned so that he would be able to focus fully on his cleaning business, Unique Care Management Services, and collaborate with a friend who operates a small brokerage business. He hopes to apply his degree from CUNY SPS toward expanding his own business.

Kimberley Alexandre is working toward a bachelor of arts in human relations at CUNY SPS. She received an associate degree in liberal arts at the Borough of Manhattan Community College and, prior to that, completed two semesters at the Katharine Gibbs School. For 17 years, Kimberley worked as an office manager at Symphony Space, but decided to go back to school in order to seek out other opportunities. “I keep going and pushing my education because I know obtaining the BA in human relations from CUNY SPS will provide me with more income, more opportunities to grow, and more dignity.” To help pay for her classes, Kimberley took a second job as a server for Union Square Events and eventually landed a teacher assistant position at the Children Learning Center, which teaches children with autism.
Pamela Lee knew from an early age that she wanted to work in healthcare, and started her education in the field by studying nursing assisting at a vocational high school. At age 18, Pamela began working in a pediatrician’s office while raising her son, William. Several years later, after her daughter Madison was born, Pamela returned to school to pursue an associate degree in nursing at CUNY Medgar Evers College, where she also works as a college assistant, tutoring and mentoring the students that are currently matriculating in the AAS to RN program. Pamela is currently enrolled in the BS-MS in nursing organizational leadership at CUNY SPS, and hopes to utilize her knowledge and experience to eventually become a chief nursing officer.
Alexander Garcia-Torres came to the United States after finishing elementary and high school in the Dominican Republic. He graduated with an associate degree in arts at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, where he majored in business administration. Alexander is now attending CUNY SPS in order to finish his bachelor’s degree, because he wants to develop his professional skills and knowledge of human relations in hopes of getting a job in the field after graduation. “I am Latino and coming from a different country, I have faced many obstacles… My hardships have only given me the drive to remain focused on my goal: achieve a higher education degree.” Alexander also works as a personal banker at JPMorgan Chase.

Arlene Sanchez originally started her undergraduate studies in engineering but decided instead to concentrate on health care administration, and in 2006 received a bachelor’s degree in health administration from Monroe College. For the past 12 years she has worked in healthcare management, gaining experience as she was promoted from front desk clerk to office manager. “During this time I learned I highly enjoy emerging medical information technology and, knowing this is a relatively new field, I am very excited to be part of a new frontier.” Currently completing her BS in health information management at CUNY SPS, Arlene’s career goals including applying to a master’s program in medical informatics, where she hopes to gain a degree that will allow her to qualify to work as a health information technology department manager at a veteran’s administration hospital.

Karline Barthe has been a registered nurse for 8 years, obtaining her Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) license in 1996. Originally, Karline attended CUNY Medgar Evers College and SUNY Farmingdale, but returned to school later to get her BSN, and is currently completing her degree at CUNY SPS. She has worked as an LPN for several years in ambulatory care and community health nursing, and is now employed with the NYC Health + Hospitals as a chronic disease collaborative care nurse in the adult ambulatory department. Karline’s plan after graduation is to continue her nursing education and obtain her master’s degree in nursing education, where she may focus on ‘transcultural nursing’ teaching.

Patricia Allotey has an associate degree in health information technology and is currently pursuing her bachelor’s degree in psychology at CUNY SPS. She is also a dedicated volunteer at Lutheran Medical Center. “One of the main reasons why people fail is that there is no discipline in their action. You would need some form of sacrifice if you were to achieve a certain degree of success…. I believe in volunteering to help make the system whole and believe that supporting and giving assistance without remuneration goes a long way to promoting grassroots development.” Patricia is also employed as a health information management technician at Kirby Forensic Psychiatric Center, and hopes to become a psychologist at this facility after she graduates.

Rose Beauplan originally graduated as a LPN in 2009 from LaGuardia Community College. For seven years, she worked in a long-term care facility. “I really enjoyed working with the adult population there, and still offer my services every other weekend.” Rose became a registered nurse in 2018 and landed a job at ENT and Allergy Associates, where she works with a diverse range of patients, including children. Her goal is to become a nurse practitioner and work with the pediatric population after completing her BS in nursing at CUNY SPS.
Jessica Kenniff graduated from Queensborough Community College in 2009 ready to pursue her dream of becoming a social worker. “As a former foster care child, experiencing the system and heartbreak first hand, I always felt compelled to want to help people overcome.” For the last five years, Jessica has been employed by the City of New York as a peace officer for the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS), where she works in a law enforcement capacity. Jessica is currently completing a bachelor’s degree at CUNY SPS and hopes to use her education to teach her fellow officers to understand various aspects of disability, mental health, and the social services systems, while also expanding her career opportunities at ACS.

Lisa Sheridan worked for 20 years as an apparel designer, but struggles in the industry and mass layoffs led her to switch careers to her other great passion—words. In order to land a professional writing position, Lisa had to finish her BA, so she enrolled in the bachelor’s degree program in communications and media at CUNY SPS. “I needed an economical online degree program that would allow me to maintain full-time employment in order to fulfill my responsibilities as a single mom. It was thrilling to discover SPS is a nationally ranked affordable online institution.” As a student, Lisa has worked to make a meaningful impact on the school by serving in student government and as a peer orientation mentor, and launching the school’s first student-run news publication, The Kiosk. After graduation, Lisa plans to attain her master’s degree in entrepreneurial journalism at CUNY School of Journalism.
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