



inner-city scholarship fund

A Child. A Chance. A Future.

Newsletter of Inner-City Scholarship Fund
Summer 2013

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37TH ANNUAL INNER-CITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND GALA RAISES \$1 MILLION FOR STUDENTS IN NEED



(Left to Right) His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, ICSF *Be A Student's Friend* scholarship recipient Tyreece Santana, Gala Chairs Joy and Michael Millette

Nearly 500 guests raised over \$1 million at the 37th annual FRIENDS of Inner-City Scholarship Fund Gala on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at Cipriani 42nd Street. Proceeds from the evening went to scholarship and enrichment programs benefiting students attending ICSF-supported Catholic schools.

The black tie affair was emceed by Dari Alexander, Fox 5 evening news anchor and daughter of longtime ICSF trustee Milton Williams, and

(continued on page 3)

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As we celebrate the class of 2013, I am so grateful to all of you who made high school graduation a reality for our inner-city students. Without your generous gifts of time and resources, many of these young people would not have had the support they needed to complete high school and go on to college. The impact you make by providing New York City's children with access to safe, quality Catholic schools cannot be overstated.

With your support, ICSF has provided nearly 8,000 scholarships to students living at or below the poverty level this year. We've also been busy with special events and new initiatives to bolster our assistance of inner-city children and their schools. In the pages ahead you will read about our latest activities:

- **ICSF held its 37th Annual FRIENDS Gala – a truly memorable evening**
- **Our new School Champions program is helping volunteers lend their talents to our inner-city schools**
- **Seniors celebrated their graduation with their sponsors at the *Be A Student's Friend* Graduation Reception**

I hope you enjoy a glimpse at the pictures and stories that recognize our students' accomplishments and the sponsors and volunteers who helped make them possible.

There is so much more to be done to ensure that a Catholic school education in New York City is possible for all children regardless of their family's economic status. If you know someone who would like to learn more about our work, please don't hesitate to refer them to our office at **212-753-8583** or by email at **info@icsf-nyc.org**.

On behalf of the Staff and Board of Trustees of ICSF, thank you again for your dedication to providing a brighter future for inner-city students.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Susan George". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Susan George
Executive Director

PROJECT YESS RECEPTION RAISES OVER \$220K



Project YESS Co-Chair Timothy Muccia presents Principal Award to Our Lady of Lourdes School Principal Cathy Hufnagel

Over 250 guests attended the Annual Project YESS reception on Tuesday, May 23rd at the Top of the Rock observation deck. The event, in collaboration with the YESS committee, raised over \$220,000 to support capital improvements at Catholic elementary schools throughout the Archdiocese of New York.

This year, Project YESS funded grants for 15 schools. Our Lady of Lourdes School, St. Mark the Evangelist, and Transfiguration School were represented at the event by their students and principals, and funds were raised for a new security system, a new fire alarm system, and a backflow preventer, respectively.

His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan addressed the crowd and thanked them for their continued support of inner-city Catholic schools. Project YESS Leadership Committee Co-Chair Timothy Muccia introduced Our Lady of Lourdes School Principal Cathy Hufnagel as the recipient of the Project YESS Principal Award which recognizes the outstanding leadership and dedication of an elementary school principal.

Since 1998, Project YESS has provided over \$4.2 million to schools for over 250 projects. These grants aim to fix windows, update bathrooms, improve lighting, upgrade security systems, and fund other capital improvements to provide a safe and pleasant learning environment.

To learn more about Project YESS, please contact Ginine Cilenti at cilenti@icsf-nyc.org.

GALA (CONTINUED)



Students from ICSF-supported St. Brigid School Choir perform for guests

chaired by Joy and Michael Millette, ICSF Trustee. Among the many ICSF supporters attending were His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan.

Guests were welcomed into the dining room by an upbeat medley of

songs sung by the St. Brigid School Choir. ICSF *Be A Student's Friend* scholarship recipient and Cardinal Hayes High School senior, Tyreece Santana, delivered a moving speech that was followed by Mr. Millette's touching first-hand account of his experience with the *Be A Student's Friend* program. These speeches garnered 16 new sponsors for the program, totaling over \$60,000 to support ICSF's signature scholarship initiative.

The FRIENDS Committee is made up of more than 200 volunteers who support ICSF students through initiatives including teaching art appreciation, preparing students for

the workplace, and fundraising for quality of life capital improvements in their schools.

Coming this winter, ICSF will host the 37th Annual Award Dinner at the Stephen A. Schwarzman building of the New York Public Library on Monday, December 16, 2013.

Please Save the Date.

To learn more about our future events, please contact Alyson Vetter at vetter@icsf-nyc.org.

A NIGHT TO CELEBRATE



Sponsor Jim Marbach with students Bryonna Vickers (left) and Shena Marshall (right)

On May 2nd, 2013, high school seniors receiving scholarships through ICSF's *Be A Student's Friend* program celebrated their upcoming graduations with their sponsors and thanked them for their generous support.

Founded in 1992, the *Be A Student's Friend* program is designed to support the education of economically disadvantaged children attending inner-city Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of New York. The program selects and matches students with sponsors who commit financial resources to help pay tuition for

either elementary or secondary school level students. A sponsor can choose to build a relationship with their particular student or to remain anonymous. On average, 98% of seniors in the program graduate and 96% pursue higher education.

While many of the students and sponsors at this year's graduation reception event were old friends, some students were meeting their sponsor for the first time. "It was so nice to meet my sponsor in person," said Angela Rivera, a graduating senior from Aquinas High School in the Bronx. "We've been writing to each other for

years, but to hug the person who has been such a help to my mom and me is really special."

Longtime supporters of the *Be A Student's Friend* program Barbara Weisz and Maris Fiondella were recognized at the event for the 11 years of support they have provided to their graduating students.

To learn more about ICSF's *Be A Student's Friend* program, please contact Kelvin Gentles at 646-794-3328 or gentles@icsf-nyc.org.

INNER-CITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND FACTS

- Average number of ICSF scholarships provided per year: **8,000**
- Percentage of high school seniors that graduate from ICSF-supported schools: **98%**
- Percentage of ICSF graduates that pursue a college education: **96%**
- Percentage of students who live near or below the federal poverty level: **68%**
- It costs our ICSF-supported Catholic schools **\$5,247** annually to educate the same elementary school student that public schools do for **\$15,498**. The average annual cost to educate an ICSF high school student is **\$9,734** compared to **\$14,525** per high school student in NYC public schools.

MEET AN ALUMNUS

Hedge fund manager Lundy Wright's initial contact with his sponsored student, Errol Winter, eventually evolved into an inspirational life journey for both of them.

Lundy sponsored Errol beginning with grade school in 1997 and continued through graduation from St. Raymond's High School in the Bronx in 2002 up to Errol's entry into Fordham University on a full scholarship the same year. Throughout that time, they saw each other four times a year to enjoy pizza and trade stories of triumphs and pitfalls.

Then Lundy lost contact with Errol for ten years until the Fordham graduate, acting on a long dormant impulse, e-mailed Lundy at his job in 2012 explaining how he had come across his name on a customer list at the bank he was working for. Miraculously, a single key stroke and an instant message closed the gap of ten long years. Lundy was, of course, overjoyed at this turn of events and honored that Errol had remembered him as a major figure in his life and contributor to his education.

Lundy then discovered how far Errol had traveled on his own, burnishing his own image by graduating early from Fordham, then continuing on as a graduate student in Finance online to complete an MBA from Northeastern University. Errol told him then that he could not have reached such heights without Lundy's faith and encouragement, especially when financial and family pressures weighed heavily on him. For both of them, Lundy says, "the experience revealed the power of a Catholic education to break the cycle of poverty with a very compelling message of hope combined with a lasting faith in Christian values and a strong commitment to academic and work discipline."

The team of Lundy and St. Raymond's High School's caring environment helped Errol escape the struggles of inner-city poverty and simultaneously offered new hope and freedom to a succeeding generation of like-minded students. Lundy reflected that Errol "had picked up the ball and ran with it," needing only that initial push to sprint for the goal line.

The two now see each other regularly and are a living example of how one generous hand can help another to surmount the world's material obstacles. Lundy hopes to do the same for his newly sponsored student, a junior at St. Raymond's High School.



Former *Be A Student's Friend* student, Errol Winter

MEET A STUDENT ON OUR WAIT LIST



5th grader, Guadalupe Vargas

Meet Guadalupe Vargas, a 5th grader at a Catholic school in Washington Heights. Guadalupe lives with her parents and siblings in Harlem.

While she excels in all of her subjects, Guadalupe's strongest area is creative writing. "I encourage her to write as much as possible and to continue reading every day to further her language skills," says Mr. Killian, who Guadalupe immediately confessed is her favorite teacher.

Guadalupe's neighborhood is poor and crime-ridden. Statistics indicate that its children will continue to experience tough economic challenges in their adulthood. The numbers also conclusively show that a quality education—one that is not available in Guadalupe's local

public school—will greatly increase their likelihood of escaping poverty. Guadalupe is currently in a school that is safe and academically strong. She is an honors student and if she continues to receive a quality education she will undoubtedly go far. Her mother is handicapped and her father works very long hours to make ends meet for his family. Unfortunately, the sacrifices of Guadalupe's father are currently not enough to keep her in the school she loves in the upcoming school year.

Guadalupe is currently on the wait list to receive a scholarship through ICSF's *Be A Student's Friend* program. Won't you help by becoming her sponsor? Contact Kelvin Gentles at 646-794-3328 or gentles@icsf-nyc.org to learn how.



- 1) Sponsor Michael McNamara and student Marylenia Villeda
- 2) Sponsor Jeannie and George Irish with student Robert Astwood
- 3) Student Juliann Memoli with her sponsor Melanie Coronetz
- 4) Sponsors Becky and John Halleron with student Carlyn Grullon



- 5) Sponsor Lana Wolkonsky with her graduating student Carlos Orellana
- 6) Sponsor Barbara Weisz with her graduating student Eryn Maisonet
- 7) Sponsor Beth Bacon and her student Carol Sanchez
- 8) Sponsor Rich Fabbro and students Tida Darboe (left) and Shannon Qualls (right)

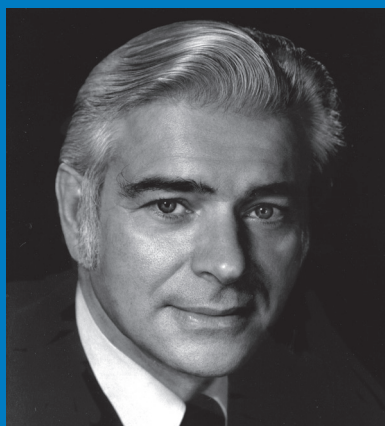
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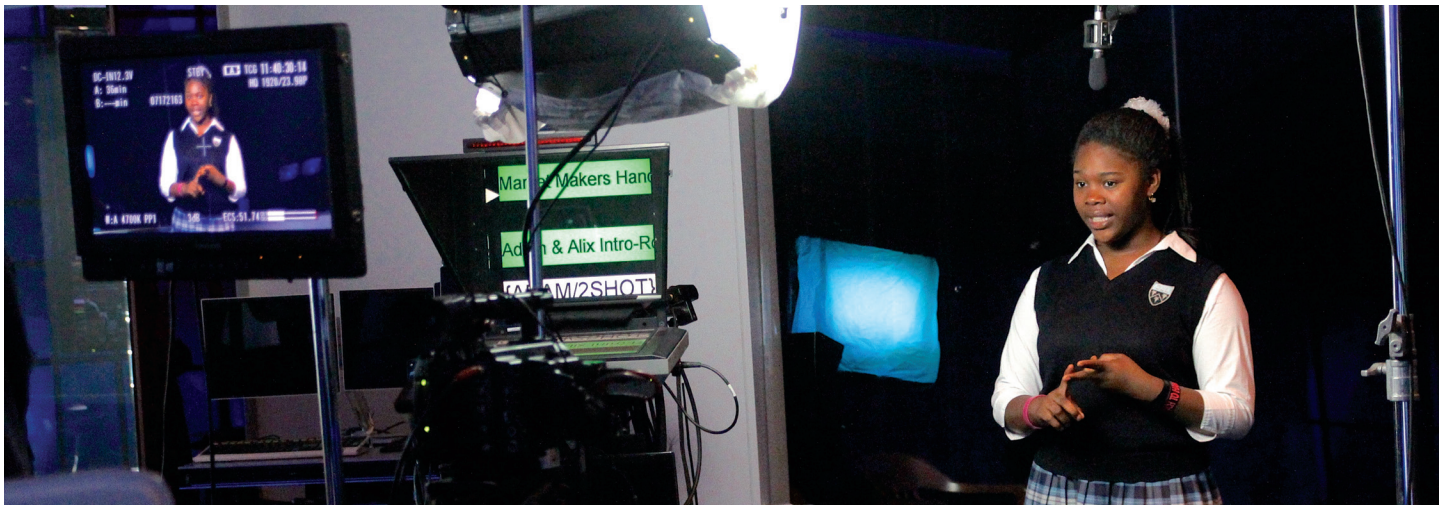
- 9) Project YESS guests enjoy an evening at the Top of the Rock
- 10) ICSF President Peter Grauer with his wife, Laurie Grauer (right), daughter Tory Grauer (left) and ICSF Trustee Christine Schwarzman (middle)
- 11) ICSF Junior Committee executive co-chairs (left to right) Kurt Spielmann, Jenny Miller and Ryan Cullen



ICSF SAYS GOODBYE TO A LIFELONG FRIEND PAUL P. WOOLARD 1923-2013

On January 10, 2013, we lost our long time trustee and friend, Paul Patrick Woolard. His more than 40 years of leadership and support for the Inner-City Scholarship Fund allowed hundreds of thousands of inner-city children to attend the Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of New York. The Trustees and Staff of ICSF express sincere condolences to his wife, Ruth. His legacy will live on in the lives of the countless current and former students to whom he helped to give a better future.

SPEECH BEE CHAMPION COMPETES IN NATIONAL FINALS



Our Lady of Lourdes 8th Grader Deigna Bernard records her speech for the Modern Woodmen Speech Competition

On Wednesday, May 1st, students from Catholic schools across Manhattan competed in the annual Manhattan Catholic Schools Speech Contest. *Be A Student's Friend* donors Dr. June Dwyer and Christine Schwarzman, ICSF Trustee, served as special guest judges at the regional event which is part of the national Modern Woodmen Speech Competition.

Students were asked to deliver a 3 to 5 minute speech on one person who has

overcome an obstacle in life. Our Lady of Lourdes 8th grader Deigna Bernard selected Babe Ruth, and delivered a powerful speech about his struggles as a 7-year old orphan at St. Mary's Industrial School for Boys and his success as a Hall of Fame baseball player for the New York Yankees.

Her stage presence and use of hand gestures wowed the judges and earned her a spot as a national finalist. Deigna recently submitted a final recording of

her speech to Modern Woodmen's headquarters and will find out the results in July.

The Modern Woodmen Speech Competition was organized in 1948 to offer students an opportunity to develop clear thinking and public speaking skills. Congratulations to Deigna and all of the speech bee participants on this amazing achievement!

ICSF LAUNCHES SCHOOL CHAMPIONS PROGRAM

On Tuesday, January 29th, 2013, Inner-City Scholarship Fund (ICSF) kicked off a new program called School Champions. This adopt-a-school program places board members at selected inner-city Catholic schools. The goal is to provide these elementary schools with a strong advisory board to aid in oversight and strategy for budgeting, fundraising, and enrollment that will result in improved financial, academic, and physical school conditions. This spring, the School Champions program placed over 30 talented advisory board members at 14 elementary schools in Manhattan and the Bronx. With the addition of

a Program Coordinator this summer, ICSF looks forward to growing this program to add more schools and additional board members to create new opportunities and ideas for growth.

If you're looking for a volunteer opportunity, please contact Caitlin Carmichael at carmichael@icsf-nyc.org to become involved with the School Champions program.



School Champions is the newest addition to ICSF's various volunteer programs

OPPORTUNITIES KNOCK FOR INNER-CITY STUDENTS

Competition between high school students for summer internships is greater than ever—especially for inner-city students. This is why Inner-City Scholarship Fund (ICSF) continues to support its Job Opportunities Program, which offers inner-city Catholic school students in the Archdiocese of New York job-readiness workshops and helps them obtain their first paid summer internships.

This year nearly 150 high school juniors attended the Job Opportunities Program, where professionals volunteered their time to improve student's résumé writing skills, prepare for job interviews and learn the fundamentals of business etiquette. Many students like Shenika Christopher, an incoming senior and National Honor Society student at Aquinas High School, are extremely thankful for the Job Opportunities Program. "It was an unbelievable

experience and extremely helpful towards getting a summer internship. I would absolutely recommend the Job Opportunities Program to other students." This summer, Shenika is one of four Job Opportunities Program participants interning at Weil Gotshal Manges LLP, where she is confident that her knowledge of Business Computer Applications and skills learned at the Job Opportunities Program will help her succeed as a receptionist in the demanding environment of a law firm.

Shenika wants to attend Columbia University to study medical biology and eventually open her own business on the West Side of New York City. "If I do well, it shows other inner-city students can do well too when given the opportunity," she says.

This summer, the Job Opportunities Program provided 43 inner-city students with internships at

prestigious corporations, law firms and non-profit corporations throughout the city. To qualify for the program, students need to be in the top 10% of their classes and show a deep commitment to their education and community service.

To learn how to sponsor Job Opportunities Program internships at your organization, please contact Christine Desposito at desposito@icsf-nyc.org.



JOP students participate in job-readiness workshops with "real world" professionals

JUNIOR COMMITTEE WORKS DIRECTLY WITH OUR STUDENTS



Junior Committee volunteers referee and coach basketball games for inner-city students

On May 3rd, 2013, the Junior Committee of Inner-City Scholarship Fund ended the year with a bang, raising over \$30,000 at its Masquerade Ball. Over 200 young professionals donned festive masks and celebrated to raise additional funding in support of the Junior Committee's programs. This year, Junior Committee

volunteers worked with over 20 schools to enhance the academic experience for boys and girls in our inner-city schools.

The Junior Committee led 13 field trips to destinations such as The Intrepid Air & Space Museum, New York Botanical Gardens, Museum of Natural History, Liberty Science Center, and the Bronx Zoo. Over 550 students attended these trips, which enabled them to get out of their neighborhoods and explore some of New York's most iconic landmarks. Junior Committee volunteers completed 10 community service projects to date, including building a rooftop garden, setting up science equipment, and painting classrooms, fences and murals. Principals rely on these small-scale projects to keep their schools looking inviting and well-maintained, especially since

there is often little to no room in the budget for aesthetic improvements.

Over 75 Junior Committee volunteers led 14 tutoring sessions for students in East Harlem. Sixty of these students also participated in a basketball program that led to a final tournament in April. In addition, students and volunteers cheered on the St. John's men's basketball team when it played Georgetown at Madison Square Garden in January.

To learn more about the Junior Committee, please contact Caitlin Carmichael at carmichael@icsf-nyc.org.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 182 ICSF GRADUATES OF 2013

ACADEMY OF MT. ST. URSULA

Peace Aisogun
Evangel University

Ashley Borrego
College of Saint Rose

Onleys Caceres
CUNY - John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Drenka Cavdarbasha
Manhattan College

Meghan Cuadra
CUNY - Borough of Manhattan Community College

Tida Darboe
SUNY - Farmingdale State College

Emely Jimenez
Fordham University

Shannon Qualls
CUNY - Bronx Community College

Raiza Santos
CUNY - John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Meagan Washington
North Carolina Central University

ALL HALLOWS HIGH SCHOOL

Ruben Ayala
CUNY - Lehman College

Steven Gonzalez
Seton Hall University

Christopher Herrera
Mercy College

Khaliq Howell
St. John's University

Junior Jimenez
CUNY - Borough of Manhattan Community College

Miguel Jimenez
United States Marine Corps

Isaac Khan
Syracuse University

Johnson Kow
Syracuse University

Gilbert Marmolejos
Mercy College

Freddy Nagua
SUNY - University at Albany

Hector Ortiz
University of Hartford

Deivan Poche
Bergen Community College

Justin E. Quinones
Syracuse University

Alvin Roman
SUNY - Potsdam

Luis A. Salazar
Manhattan College

Fabio G. Tavarez
Long Island University

AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL

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Iona College

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CUNY - Borough of Manhattan Community College

Vida Ebron
Syracuse University

Franchely Gallardo
CUNY - Lehman College

Iris Hernandez
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Sileny Jimenez
SUNY - Westchester Community College

Shivaughn Jones
CUNY - College of Staten Island

Melissa Labastida
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College of Saint Rose

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SUNY - University at Albany

Kevelyn Polanco
Syracuse University

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CUNY - John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Ashley M. Ramos
St. Thomas Aquinas College

Chabely Rodriguez
SUNY - Fredonia

Janeiry Santos
CUNY - York College

Lyncee Stroman
St. Thomas Aquinas College

Christine Valenzuela
Syracuse University

Alice Vallecillo
CUNY - City College of New York

Bryonna S. Vickers
SUNY - Canton

BLESSED SACRAMENT - SAINT GABRIEL HIGH SCHOOL

Justin Ruiz
Sacred Heart University

CARDINAL HAYES HIGH SCHOOL

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Long Island University

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SUNY - Oswego

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Syracuse University

Michael A. Gonzalez
CUNY - Borough of Manhattan Community College

Kevin Gutierrez
University of New Hampshire

Gerardo Ingram
CUNY - John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Angel F. Medina
CUNY - Bronx Community College

Carlos Orellana
Cazenovia Seminary

Ronnie Pinkerton
Siena College

Hendrick Rodriguez
CUNY - LaGuardia Community College

Jose L. Romero
Iona College

Tyreece Santana
University of Southern California

Andrew J. Santiago
CUNY - Hunter College

Orlando G. Singh
University of Connecticut

Jeremy E. Taveras
Utica College

Christian M. Vasquez
University of Bridgeport

Armando Vizcaino
Fordham University

Avery T. Yates
SUNY - Oswego

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AMDA College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts

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Hofstra University

Kasim Noble
Dominican College

Keirys Pena
Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Keyanna S. Pierre
Long Island University

Jenme Sanchez
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Karina I. Santos
Iona College

Marylenia Villeda
Iona College

Briana Williams
St. John's University

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Samantha Galarza
Undecided

Pricilla Guzman
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Yaniel Rodriguez
College of Mount St. Vincent

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Cornelius Krapah
Marist College

Hector Montijo
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Tavon Nowell
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Naya Maitland
American University

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Pennsylvania State University

Anibel Vargas
Hofstra University

Adriana Velazquez
CUNY - Hunter College

Audreamia Wardlow
Temple University

Tatyana Whyte
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Fordham University

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Fordham University

Nicole Castro
CUNY - Queens College

Jerlin Garo
*Hobart and William
Smith Colleges*

Jenizabeth C. Gomez
Fordham University

Wendy Gomez
*CUNY - John Jay College
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SUNY - University at Albany

Jade Koreisz
SUNY - Maritime College

Eryn Maisonet
Manhattan College

Amber Marcano
Mercy College

Raven T. Mercado
Long Island University

Tionney Nix
Haverford College

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College of Mount St. Vincent

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Community College*

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Fashion Institute of Technology

Mahen Ramjit
Long Island University

Alberto Salcedo
CUNY - Medgar Evers College

Anderson Vargas
Palm Beach State College

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Susan George, Executive Director
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Save the Dates!

The 24th Annual Lawyers Luncheon
Cipriani 42nd Street
Wednesday, November 6, 2013

The 37th Annual Award Dinner
The Stephen A. Schwarzman Building
of the New York Public Library
Tuesday, December 16, 2013