



inner-city scholarship fund

*A Child. A Chance. A Future.*



Newsletter of Inner-City Scholarship Fund | Summer 2019

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## INNER-CITY CELEBRATES THE CLASS OF 2019

On Monday, May 13, Inner-City recognized the class of 2019 at its tenth annual *Be A Student's Friend* Graduation Reception. For some of the eighty students and their sponsors in attendance, the reception marked the first time they had a chance to meet each other. The evening provided an opportunity for students to share their accomplishments, and for sponsors to have a firsthand look at the impact a Catholic school education had on their students.

"I've exchanged letters with my sponsors for years," said Krystal, a graduate of St. Jean Baptiste. "But meeting them in person was so overwhelming. They've meant so much to me and my family."

Inner-City's *Be A Student's Friend* program matches Catholic school students in need of financial assistance with a sponsor who provides support. Sponsors can choose to get to know their student personally or remain anonymous and receive periodic updates from their students.

Several sponsors, among them Laurie and Peter Grauer, Laura Richards and James Naughton, Martine and Ronan Wicks, and Keitha and Peter Murray, were recognized for having sponsored their students since the second grade, and eight sponsors were recognized for participating in the *Be A Student's Friend* program for over twenty years.

Susan George, Executive Director of Inner-City, congratulated the students on their hard work and announced that 100 percent of the students in attendance would be pursuing higher education at some of the finest colleges and universities in the nation, including Amherst College, St. John's University, Northeastern University, and Villanova University.

Inner-City is proud of the class of 2019, and the success of its graduates is Inner-City's greatest accomplishment.

**For a full list of Inner-City Scholarship Fund's class of 2019, please turn to page 10.**

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Dear Friends,

The end of the school year, and with it, another set of graduations, is one of my favorite times of the year. As much as I enjoy seeing all of our students complete another year and proudly get ready to move up to their next stage of learning, high school graduates stand out in a special way. They have finished their time in the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of New York and achieved one of the most important milestones of their lives. Many have been in Catholic school since kindergarten, and many more will go on to college, often as the first in their families to do so.

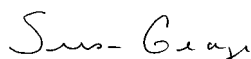
As we celebrate the class of 2019, I thank you for helping make this milestone possible. We are truly grateful for donors like you who believe in the value of education. As a result of your devotion, thousands of inner-city students were given the opportunity to attend schools that they would not have access to otherwise. Over the summer, we look back at the past year and the achievements we are proud to have accomplished together:

- More than **11,000** students were provided tuition assistance to attend Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York
- **338** 12th grade scholarship recipients graduated high school
- **98** percent of our graduates have been accepted to a college or university
- The Kids Are Our Capital Campaign has supported **345** scholarships
- Over **200** volunteers gave their time to providing our students with enriching experiences such as job readiness seminars, field trips, basketball leagues, art appreciation courses, and much more.

It was an exciting spring for Inner-City as the FRIENDS of Inner-City Scholarship Fund Committee hosted the 43rd Annual FRIENDS Gala on May 21 at Cipriani 42nd Street. Inner-City trustee Margaret Crotty and her husband, Rory Riggs, co-chaired the gala, helping to raise nearly \$1.2 million for tuition assistance and enrichment programs. You will read more about this great event and others in the pages to come.

On behalf of all of us at Inner-City, thank you again for contributing so generously. With your support we are creating a lasting legacy of providing a Catholic education to future generations of inner-city students that will make all the difference for them in life. None of this would be possible without you.

Sincerely,



Susan George  
Executive Director

### STAFF

**Susan George**  
Executive Director

**Nicholas Gulde**  
Deputy Director

**Lucson Andre**  
Controller

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Development Associate

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Coordinator,  
Job Opportunities  
Program

**Robert Gittings**  
Manager,  
Institutional Support

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Major Gifts Associate

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## 43RD ANNUAL FRIENDS GALA RAISES \$1.2 MILLION



Gala Chairs Margaret Crotty and Rory Riggs speaking at the FRIENDS Gala

On Tuesday, May 21, Inner-City hosted the 43rd Annual FRIENDS Gala, raising nearly \$1.2 million dollars to provide scholarship support and enrichment programming for students at inner-city Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York. The event, which had over four hundred guests, was hosted at Cipriani 42nd Street, and its theme was “Sky’s the Limit,” recognizing the infinite possibilities that Catholic schools make possible for their students.

Guests enjoyed performances from students at Mount St. Michael Academy, Notre Dame School of Manhattan, and St. Raymond Elementary School, who sang classic songs reflecting the “Sky’s the Limit” theme, including “Fly Me to the Moon” and “Wind Beneath My Wings.” Amaya Rojas, a seventh grader at Santa Maria School in the Bronx, delivered this year’s student speech. She discussed her time at Santa Maria, which she has attended since

kindergarten, and the opportunities that she received because of her *Be A Student’s Friend* scholarship.

“I know that this scholarship is a privilege, and that’s why I try each day to be the best student that I can be, work hard, keep my grades high, study, and review things we did in class, to make my family, myself, and my sponsors proud. I’ve earned honors every quarter and have made the most of my experience at Santa Maria School,” said Amaya, before saying that her dream for the future was to help people as a doctor or a teacher. Gala Chairs Margaret Crotty and Rory Riggs gave a passionate speech, thanking everyone in attendance and talking about the impact Inner-City had made on their lives as supporters.

“As the school year comes to a close, we are constantly reminded of the importance of a quality education,”

said Susan George, Executive Director of Inner-City Scholarship Fund. “I’m amazed by the generosity of the people in this room, especially Margaret Crotty and Rory Riggs, who are so dedicated to supporting Catholic education for future generations.”

To view a recording of the 43rd Annual FRIENDS Gala, please visit [InnerCityScholarshipFund.org/Videos](http://InnerCityScholarshipFund.org/Videos)

Please save the dates for Inner-City’s two fall events, the **St. Thomas More Award Luncheon on November 6** and the **Annual Awards Dinner on December 11**.

**To learn more about Inner-City’s events, please contact Alyson Vetter at [Vetter@innercitynyc.org](mailto:Vetter@innercitynyc.org)**

## JIMMY LEE SCHOLARS ATTEND SPRING WORKSHOP, YANKEES GAME



### Jimmy Lee Scholars with Yankees great Mark Teixeira

In April, the Jimmy Lee Fund Scholars gathered for their annual meeting, which was held this year at All Hallows High School. The day was packed full for the 25 students and members of the Jimmy Lee Scholars Fund Committee. Starting with a college essay writing seminar led by committee member, Connie Sheehy, the students were offered profound advice on the importance of the essay as part of their college applications. Later in the day, the students received a surprise visit from retired New York Yankee, Mark Teixeira. “Tex” spoke

about his time with the Yankees and the importance of staying focused on working hard, “despite life’s hurdles” he said. Tex also spoke about his relationship with God and his family and how these two things are what matter most in his life.

The students then walked over to Yankee Stadium where they continued their educational afternoon. Yankees Director of Media, Jason Zillo, spoke to the students about careers in public relations, the importance of networking, and taking advantage

of the opportunities afforded to them as Jimmy Lee Scholars. Mr. Zillo even brought in his colleague and All Hallows alumnus, Kenny Leandry, to share his story with the students. As a Bronx native and graduate of an inner-city Catholic high school who participated in Inner-City Scholarship Fund’s Job Opportunities Program, Kenny was truly able to connect with the students.

To wrap up the day, the students enjoyed the Yankees game from the J.P. Morgan corporate suite. Besides all the hot dogs they could eat and a Yankee victory, the students were able to bond as a group and spend time with their Committee mentors.

The Jimmy Lee Scholars Fund is an endowed scholarship program of Inner-City Scholarship Fund, established in memory of longtime friend and trustee of Inner-City, James B. “Jimmy” Lee, Jr.

**To learn more about the Jimmy Lee Scholars Fund, please contact Nicholas Gulde at [Gulde@innercitynyc.org](mailto:Gulde@innercitynyc.org)**

## DE NICOLA SCHOLARS HOST RECEPTION

On January 3, Christie and Tony de Nicola hosted an inaugural reception for the de Nicola Scholars in Dillon Hall. At the event, Mr. and Mrs. de Nicola met cohorts of sophomores and freshmen for the first time and spoke to them about the importance of hard work and the values that their Catholic school education would impart. The students were grateful to Christie and Tony, and resolved to dedicate themselves

to their high school careers. The de Nicolas have been longtime, generous supporters of Inner-City, and Tony has served on the Board of Trustees since 2006.

The Anthony and Christie de Nicola Scholarship Fund is one of the endowed scholarships created as part of Inner-City’s Kids Are Our Capital scholarship endowment

campaign. The campaign will provide scholarships in perpetuity through a group of endowed scholarships. These endowed funds already support 345 scholarships, a number which will only continue to grow in the years ahead.

**To learn more about creating an endowed scholarship, please contact Nicholas Gulde at [Gulde@innercitynyc.org](mailto:Gulde@innercitynyc.org)**



## CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE OVERCOMING ENORMOUS ODDS



**Ron Schutte, President of All Hallows High School, presents Robert Chapman with his diploma**

Inner-City Scholarship Fund is proud of all its graduates, as most have overcome steep odds to achieve their academic goals. The story of one such graduate, Robert Chapman, is characteristic of how Inner-City students respond to both personal adversity and the generosity of others.

When Robert was in 5th grade, doctors found a tumor in his brain that had been present since birth and had grown undetected until it reached the

size of a golf ball. Robert underwent surgery to remove the tumor, and he spent months re-learning how to walk and talk. Sacred Heart, his Catholic elementary school, sent a teacher to work with him during his recovery. Robert worked constantly to keep up with his studies, and he was able to graduate from Sacred Heart and continue his Catholic education at All Hallows High School in the Bronx.

Since entering high school, his

path was anything but easy. In 2014, Chapman was faced with another tumor, this one pressing against his optic nerve and causing him temporary blindness. A year later, doctors found a third tumor. Thankfully, both were removed and Chapman is now considered tumor-free.

Throughout his struggles Robert kept a positive attitude and worked hard to maintain good grades in hopes of completing high school on time. "I was motivated to just keep going, no matter what," Chapman said. "Don't let the tumor get in the way of what's happening."

This past June, Robert graduated on time and has been accepted into Mercy College. He hopes to attend medical school after that. Robert credits Christine and Stephen Schwarzman, his Inner-City Scholarship Fund sponsors, for not only providing tuition assistance to his family, but for inspiring him with their kindness when times were very tough.

Inner-City Scholarship Fund congratulates Robert and all of our amazing graduates for defying the odds and making us all proud.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS RECEIVE SPECIAL ACCREDITATION



**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS *in the* ARCHDIOCESE of NEW YORK**

**Faith-Based.Future-Focused.**

This past March, Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York hosted an AdvancED External Review Team that reviewed the system and a cross section of its schools to evaluate the system's adherence to the AdvancED Accreditation Standards and to make a recommendation for AdvancED School System Accreditation.

The team found that Catholic schools met the requirements for accreditation and announced that

it will be recommending the system for AdvancED School System Accreditation. To earn AdvancED School System Accreditation, systems must: 1) meet the AdvancED Accreditation Standards; 2) implement a continuous process of improvement; and 3) host an External Review team once every five years.

As a part of the accreditation process, a team of trained professionals from across the state and nation, reviewed

Archdiocese of New York documents and performance data; interviewed system, school and community stakeholders; conducted site reviews to several schools; and observed system and school practices in action. The team offered both recognition of strong practices as well as areas for improvement to the system.









1. Ruth Woolard, Donna D'Urso, and friend at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Friends Gala
2. Sponsor Richard Fabbro with graduating seniors at the Be A Student's Friend reception
3. Gala attendees on the dance floor
4. Leighton Longhi with graduating seniors
5. Students performing "Sky Full of Stars" at the Gala
6. Inner-City trustee Christine Schwarzman and graduating seniors
7. Inner-City trustee Walter Tomenson and guests at the FRIENDS Gala
8. Jimmy Lee Committee members Beth and Izzy Lee with

- graduating seniors
9. Junior Committee members at the Spring Soirée
10. Guests on the deck at the Spring Soirée
11. Michael Brudnicki, Ken Wright, and friend at the Spring Soirée
12. Judge Michael Garcia and Lawyers Committee members Jerome Coleman and Des Lyons
13. Guests at the annual Lawyers Committee summer reception

## BE A STUDENT'S FRIEND



Jameela is a sophomore at St. Jean Baptiste High School on East 75<sup>th</sup> Street, a beautiful tree-lined street off Park Avenue in one of Manhattan's coveted upper-east side zip codes.

Only a forty-minute subway ride, a five-mile distance from her apartment on 165<sup>th</sup> Street in the Bronx, Jameela's two neighborhoods could not be more

polarized. At home, she immerses herself in family and mom's home-cooked meals. At school, this sophomore with a 90 grade point average continues to push herself, especially in math (her favorite subject), and makes time for the high school softball team, which she joined last year. Which world does she love more?

Jameela loves them equally. The daughter of parents who came to New York from the Dominican Republic, Jameela knows the nature of hard work and struggling to make ends meet. Her father drives a taxi and her mother is a janitor. They rely on food stamps and with a monthly rent of almost \$900, there is very little left for her education. Jameela is the youngest of five children and her parents are committed to her success, to making sure that their daughter has the proper academic foundation so she can attend college and enter the world of business and banking, her chosen career path.

Jameela's role model is her cousin Yanilda, who was also dedicated to her studies and now attends college, with the goal of becoming a detective.

Because of her parents' unrelenting commitment to her Catholic school education, Jameela's world is one of hope. But this teenager understands that the onus is on her, to work hard and push herself through walls and barriers in order to accomplish her academic and career goals. She understands that education paves the road to self-appreciation and fulfillment. One of her wishes is to help alleviate the financial burdens on her parents.

With your help, she can make that happen. Jameela is a remarkably focused student, who has the proper balance of family and school, who recognizes that education is a highway on the map to a successful and fulfilling future. But Jameela's academic future is in jeopardy. She needs your help to complete her journey at St. Jean Baptiste.

*\*Name changed to respect the privacy of our student and her family.*

**To learn more about sponsoring a student, please contact Michelle Santoro at [Santoro@innercitynyc.org](mailto:Santoro@innercitynyc.org)**

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM GIVES STUDENTS A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

Inner-City Scholarship Fund's Job Opportunities Program gives high school juniors the unique opportunity to gain experience in a business setting through a series of job-readiness workshops, culminating in a paid summer internship at some of the most prestigious companies in New York City. The workshops cover essential skills like resume-writing, interviewing and office etiquette, and this year companies participating in the program include ABC, KPMG, Kelley Drye and Hogan Lovells, along with several companies joining the program for the first time.

The Job Opportunities Program enables inner-city students with the knowledge and skill-set that they will need when they enter the evolving workforce. Participating in the Job Opportunities Program continues to bear fruit long after the summer is over.

This year, a Job Opportunities Program alumna and member of the class of 2016, Linda Chan, secured a spot in Citi Bank's Summer Analyst Class. Before attaining the position, Linda asked to meet with someone from the program who had helped her when she was in high school. She said that in that meeting she was reminded "to stay calm and confident [because] there

is a reason for all this to happen." Thanks to the Job Opportunities Program, Linda had the skillset to gain a spot in the class, but also the knowledge to help her through the process."

The Job Opportunities Program is always on the lookout for volunteers to assist in its workshops and for companies interested in offering internships.

**To learn more about volunteering or offering internships, please contact Christine Desposito at [Desposito@innercitynyc.org](mailto:Desposito@innercitynyc.org)**



## LEARNING TO LOOK TEACHES ART APPRECIATION

Now in its twenty-fourth year, the Learning to Look program enhances students' appreciation and knowledge of art and gives them a chance to develop their creative thinking. What makes this program different from any other art education program are the four main educational goals: the seeing and feeling of visual relationships (aesthetics), the making of art (production), the study of works of art (art history), and the critical evaluation of art (art criticism).

This curriculum is taught in eight Inner-City supported schools by a

group of dedicated volunteers, with different courses for each grade level. For example, the second grade focuses on 19th century European paintings and sculpture, the third grade learns about American art, and the fourth grade looks at old masters paintings and sculpture.

The students' experience is taken above and beyond by their annual trips to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the spring. These trips allow the students to see the pieces in person and gain a new level of appreciation for these historic works of art. Students are able to enjoy

this opportunity every year thanks to the 29 volunteers, including several first-time members. These volunteers meet three times throughout the year to review and prepare the curriculum for their time in the classroom.

**To learn more about Learning to Look, please contact Emily Cafaro at [Cafaro@innercitynyc.org](mailto:Cafaro@innercitynyc.org)**

## JUNIOR COMMITTEE HOSTS THIRD ANNUAL SPRING SOIRÉE BOAT CRUISE



**Dan Ehrhardt, Jen Bladock, Katie Brudnicki, and Mick Pandozzi at the Spring Soirée**

On Thursday, June 6, Inner-City Scholarship Fund's Junior Committee hosted its third annual Spring Soirée boat cruise around lower Manhattan. The cruise left from Skyport Marina and passed through the East River and around the Statue of Liberty before returning to port three hours later.

Nearly 200 attendees spent the night eating, dancing, and networking with other young professionals. The event raised almost \$20,000 thanks in part

to seven corporate sponsorships, while featuring a raffle with prizes including a whiskey tasting, free dinners, a Bluetooth speaker, and tickets to golf and soccer events. The money raised will support the Junior Committee's volunteer programs in Inner-City supported Catholic schools.

The Spring Soirée was the culmination of a successful year of volunteering for the Junior Committee. During the school year, the Juniors lead field

trips to the 9/11 Museum and the Spy Museum, in addition to the usual slate of tutoring and basketball programs at Catholic schools. The Juniors are excited to spend the summer planning for another great school year.

**To learn more about volunteering with the Junior Committee, please contact Emily Cafaro at [Cafaro@innercitynyc.org](mailto:Cafaro@innercitynyc.org)**

**Janissa Abreu**  
Lehman College

**Kenneth Acosta**  
Pace University

**Christian Agudo**  
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**Nelson Aguilar**  
Undecided

**Joy Agyemang**  
Undecided

**Nayeli Alejo**  
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**Emily Almanzar**  
Undecided

**Ivana Almonte**  
Undecided

**Allan Alvarez**  
Pace University

**Bridget Amoaeng**  
Undecided

**Lauren Ampadu**  
Stony Brook University

**Matthew Anazagasti**  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

**Quetzalli Andrade**  
Adelphi University

**Vickssy Aracena**  
Undecided

**Katelin Arce**  
Undecided

**Amani-Janae Arkorful**  
Adelphi University

**Jonathan Armstrong**  
Manhattan College

**Christopher Assou**  
LaSalle University

**Sierra Augustine**  
Johnson and Wales University

**Sonny Badyna**  
Utica College

**Joeseeph Baez**  
SUNY Albany

**Rafael Baez**  
New York University

**Asia Batchelor**  
Caldwell University

**Angelina Bell**  
SUNY New Paltz

**Fabiola Benitez**  
City College of New York

**Jonathan Benitez**  
College of Mount St. Vincent

**Krisnelli Benito**  
Manhattan College

**Sofia Blandon**  
Manhattan College

**Stephen Boateng**  
Manhattanville College

**Melodie Borrero**  
Adelphi University

**Nickolas Bosque**  
Iona College

**Chelsea Brito**  
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**Issamar Brito**  
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**Jahika Brown**  
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**Brianna Bueno**  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

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Rutgers University

**Daphne Buitron**  
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**Johnny Burgos**  
Lehman College

**Justine Burgos**  
Lehman College

**Aspyn Burke**  
Towson University

**Alexandra Burkhardt**  
Texas Christian University

**Micah Byers**  
Hartwick College

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Lehman College

**Nya Castro**  
Stony Brook University

**Robert Chapman**  
Mercy College

**Elizabeth Chimbo**  
Baruch College

**Gabriela Chinga**  
Undecided

**Ancil Clayton Jr**  
Penn State

**Amanda Collado**  
Mercy College

**Jeremy Collado**  
Undecided

**Kayla Collins**  
SUNY Albany

**Lisette Colon**  
Undecided

**Tyler Colon**  
Undecided

**Kiani Copeland**  
Stony Brook University

**Jennifer Cordero**  
Undecided

**Madelyn Cordova**  
College of Mount St. Vincent

**Michael Crespo**  
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**Jamie Crique**  
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**Kayla Cruz**  
Manhattan College

**Peter Cruz**  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

**Joshua Cuebas Garcia**  
Fordham University

**Amaya Dacosta**  
SUNY Albany

**Malcolm Davis**  
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Monroe College

**Kelly De Leon**  
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**Kimberly Deer**  
University of Hartford

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**Dimitri Delatour**  
Drexel University

**Mayerling Delgadillo**  
Pace University

**Daijon Delgado**  
Genesee Community College

**Mya Delgado**  
SUNY New Paltz

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**Elijah Diallo**  
U.S. Marine Corps

**Nafissatou Diawara**  
Howard University

**Alexandro Diaz**  
Undecided

**Zachary Diaz**  
Undecided

**Nekhi Dickens**  
SUNY Oswego

**Bianca Diopa**  
Undecided

**Courtian Dixon**  
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**David Djan**  
St. John's University

**Justin Do**  
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**Victoria Dominguez**  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

**Taina Edmond**  
College of Mount St. Vincent

**Rasheina Edwards**  
SUNY Old Westbury

**Mia Enmanuel**  
Manhattan College

**Jevonnii Escoffery-Pothemont**  
Hunter College

**Joshua Espinal**  
City College of New York

**John Estrella**  
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**David Feliz**  
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**Ryan Figueroa**  
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**Annabel Filpo**  
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**Jayvon Flowers**  
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**Brendan Gannon**  
Undecided

**Destiny Garcia**  
Undecided

**Emanuel Garcia**  
Mercy College

**Ivan Garcia**  
Borough of Manhattan Community College

**Jesus Garcia**  
Baruch College

**Joshua Garcia**  
SUNY New Paltz

**Michael Garcia**  
College of Mount St. Vincent

**Amanda Giordano**  
Wagner College

**Katherine Gomez**  
Adelphi University

**Ariadna Gonzalez**  
SUNY New Paltz

**Crystal Gonzalez**  
Bronx Community College

**Jazmin Gonzalez**  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

**Kerwin Gonzalez**  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

**Lizette Gonzalez**  
Undecided

**Samantha Gonzalez**  
Queens College

**Nalima Gramboute**  
Hofstra University

**Andrea Guerrero**  
Hunter College

**Julio Gutierrez**  
School of Visual Arts

**Brianna Guzman**  
College of Mount St. Vincent

**Johnny Ha**  
Lehman College

**Darryl Hagans**  
Undecided

**Demetris Harris**  
Borough of Manhattan Community College

**Tatyana Heras**  
Pace University

**Jarred Hernandez**  
SUNY Buffalo

**Julia Hernandez**  
College of Staten Island

**Katie Hernandez**  
Undecided

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Penn State

**Treyne Holloway**  
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**Keyara Holmes**  
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