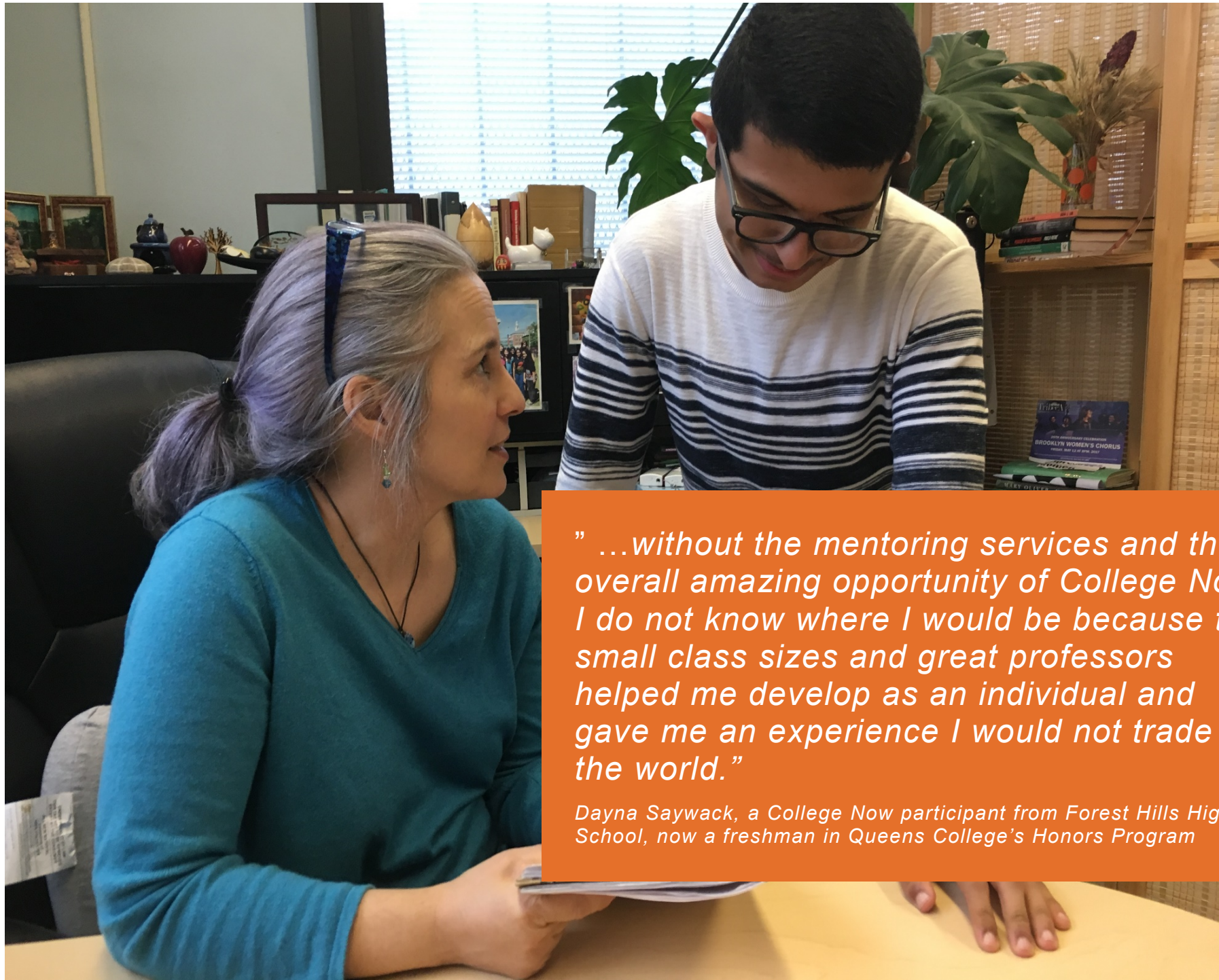




College Now

2018-19 Annual Report





“ ...without the mentoring services and the overall amazing opportunity of College Now, I do not know where I would be because the small class sizes and great professors helped me develop as an individual and gave me an experience I would not trade for the world.”

Dayna Saywack, a College Now participant from Forest Hills High School, now a freshman in Queens College's Honors Program

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What is College Now?

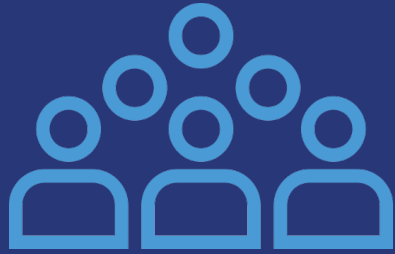
College Now, a partnership between CUNY and NYCDOE is a FREE college transition/dual enrollment program for DOE students. It provides college credit courses aligned with first year study at CUNY, pre-college courses which increase students' academic readiness for college without a need for remediation, college and career awareness courses and activities, full day summer programs, STEM Research Academy and access to CUNY campus facilities and events. College Now courses are offered before and after high school students' day or on Saturdays, both on college campuses and in high schools.

Participation in College Now significantly boosts student success once they enter college. By the end of the 1st semester at CUNY, freshmen with College Now experience earned an average of 17.31 cumulative* credits compared to 9.94 credits for those without. This advantage is especially high for Black and Hispanic College Now alumni and for students just under college readiness benchmarks.

*cumulative credits are a total of credits transferred and credits earned in the first semester



By the end of their 1st semester in CUNY, freshmen with College Now experience earned 17.31 cumulative* credits compared to 9.94 credits for those without.



23,000

students

33,425

total enrollments



30,393

college credit courses

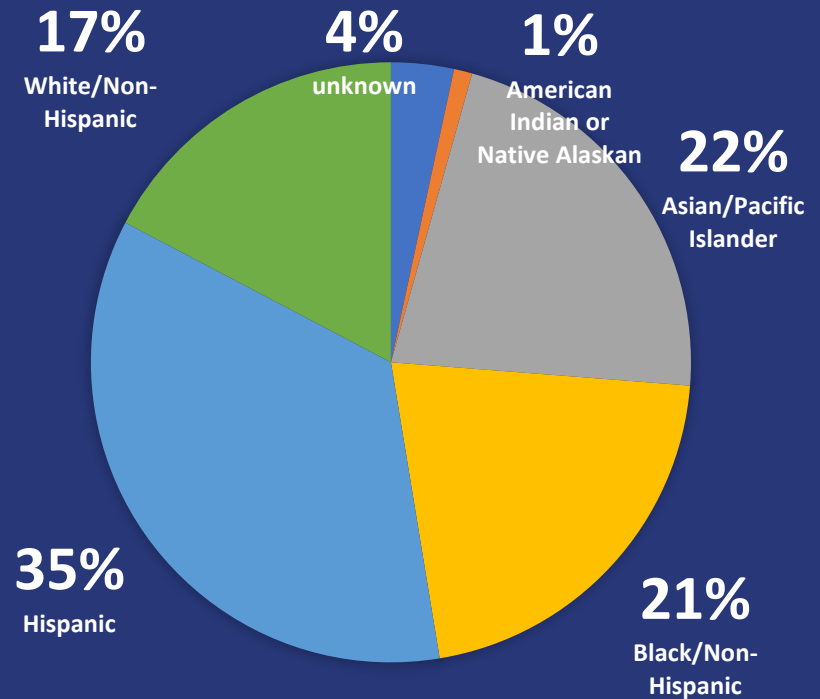
1,197

college and career awareness courses

1,835

pre-college courses

College Now Students by race/ethnicity





17

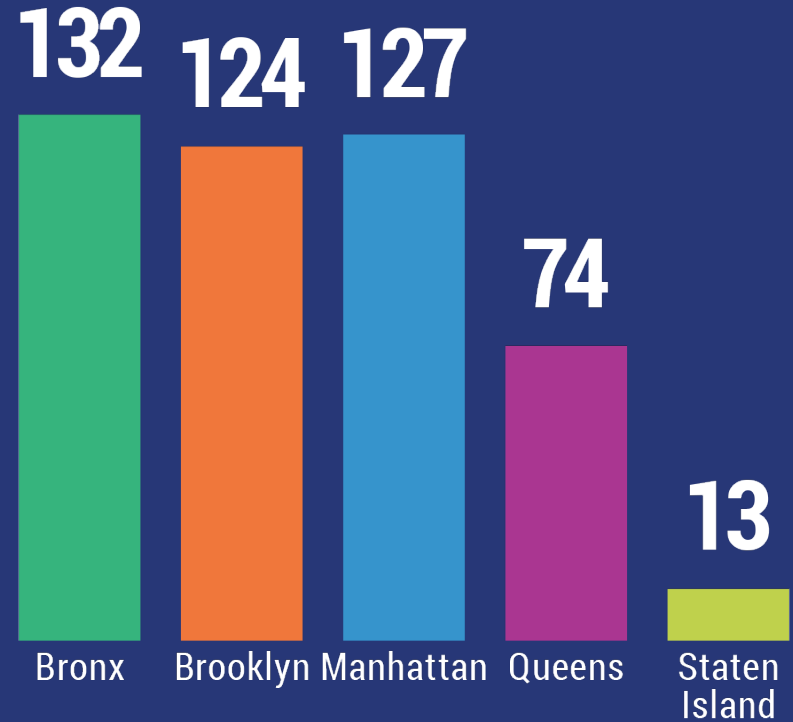
CUNY campuses



36

full day summer programs

Number of high schools with students in College Now by borough



476 total

across all programs

88.3%

of students enrolled in courses
completed
with a grade of A, B or C

Program design

College Now Central Office program staff oversees the program planning and budget and provides support to campus programs. Central Office staff collects program data for continuous evaluation and improvement and to support research of the program's impact on students' transition to college. The program's operations are guided by the need to balance its resources across New York City, provide effective course sequencing from pre-college to college credit courses, enroll a population of students that reflects the demographic profile of partner schools, and close the gap in program participation by minority males. In collaboration with their partner high schools each program designs multiple pathways to college readiness and success for their students. Courses are offered before and after the standard high school day and on Saturdays.

Assessment benchmarks

In its strategic planning process in 2013, College Now Central Office and campus staff established the University-wide program assessment benchmarks requiring each program to achieve an 80% student success rate in college credit courses, meet 95% of its enrollment projections, and maintain an average class size of 25 students. Most programs consistently meet these benchmarks. The most important measure of success, the completion rate of college credit courses, was 88.3% last year with a range from 73.9% to 97.4%.

Each campus program partners with a portfolio of high schools in a partnership model which allows the program to build

relationships with their partner schools and to plan and operate efficiently with a small number of staff at each campus while serving students from over 450 high schools across the city

Course location and teachers

During the academic year, some programs hold their courses exclusively or primarily on the college campus, while others are primarily high school based, with the majority of courses offered in the high schools, and a number of course sections held on college campus. While high school based programs provide the convenience of easy access to College Now courses, their students can also take college campus based courses.

College Now programs create many opportunities for students to visit and participate in events on their college campuses: campus tours, college advisement hours for students, orientations, parent open houses, career orientation workshops, theater performances, library workshops, and many others. In the summer, College Now offers a variety of full-day programs exclusively on seventeen CUNY college campuses.

Courses

35% held on CUNY college campus

65% held in high school

Teachers

59% - CUNY adjuncts

37% - high school teachers hired as CUNY adjuncts

3% - CUNY full time faculty



“College Now class gave me many opportunities to explore my city, my mind, and the way things are in the world. It has taught me to push and challenge myself every day [...].”

Mariyum Jahan, Midwood High School



Collaboration with college departments

One of the main campus collaborations is between College Now and academic departments. All College Now courses are taught by CUNY instructors and observed by relevant departmental representatives. College Now instructors follow the departmental syllabus and grading policy and receive professional development and support from the department for which they teach. Effective collaboration with admissions, registrar, library, technology services, and other campus departments is essential for smooth operations of the program. Staff from financial aid, admissions, ASAP, SEEK, and other opportunity programs are regularly invited to provide workshops and presentations for students, their parents and DOE staff at College Now events.

Collaboration with DOE high schools

High school staff collaboration and involvement is vital for the programs' success. They must ensure that College Now courses fit into students' schedule of after-school activities. A thoughtful integration of the College Now program into the many college preparation activities in each high school can help build a strong college going culture in the school.

Campus events for DOE staff from partner schools

In addition to almost daily contact with partner schools, College Now programs arrange regular events at college campuses for DOE high school staff. In FY 19, College Now programs brought hundreds of DOE high school counselors, teachers and administrators to CUNY campuses for events such as guidance counselor conferences, liaison meetings, and principals' breakfasts. While each College Now program organizes events for their partner high schools, College Now programs in Manhattan host a joint event for all of their partner schools. These events serve to provide their partner schools with the opportunity to receive updates regarding College Now programming, initiatives and course offerings, and learn about new academic programs and developments offered through CUNY, on the campus, and through other partner programs.

Teachers and administrators who work for College Now have a big role in recruiting students. They are the program's biggest advocates. A Queensborough College Now instructor, Ms. Michele Theodorou, emailed the College Now Office: *"College Now was offered when I was a high school student, and by the time I graduated, I had accumulated 15 college credits. While others in my college cohort were taking 15 credits per semester, I was able to take 12 credits which helped tremendously with my workload. I decided to take the courses because I knew that the credits were guaranteed and transferrable to any college I was planning on attending. As fate would have it, years later I now get to promote the College Now benefits to my own students!"*



“... Before I went into the program I really did not have a clear vision of what I want to pursue for my college career [...]. But after attending the program and completing it, I found a passion for math and engineering that I was unsure of before and I have more of a vision of what I want in my future.”

Cristian Gomez, Achievement First University Prep High School

Student academic support

Follow up and support of College Now program staff on campus and in high schools is intentional and critical for student success. Among the strategies that all programs employ to support students' success are attendance reports, mid-semester progress reports from course instructors, and communication with students, high schools, or parents. Students experiencing challenges are provided support by mentors, peer study groups, or a college tutoring center.

Benjamin Lambright, adjunct lecturer in the English Department at Lehman College, in describing the College Now program points to the key driver of student success in the program: *“Perhaps the greatest strength of Lehman's College Now program lies in how focused we are on each student. Almost all of them come into the program eager to succeed, but when something goes wrong they get support from everyone around them. A student facing challenges in our program can expect help from their instructor, College Now's guidance counselor, their high school's staff, and even our program's director. I can't think of anywhere else where that many layers of support are available to a student. This is truly a unique and important program that is helping to give NYC's young people an important jump-start in their academic careers.”*

Student development

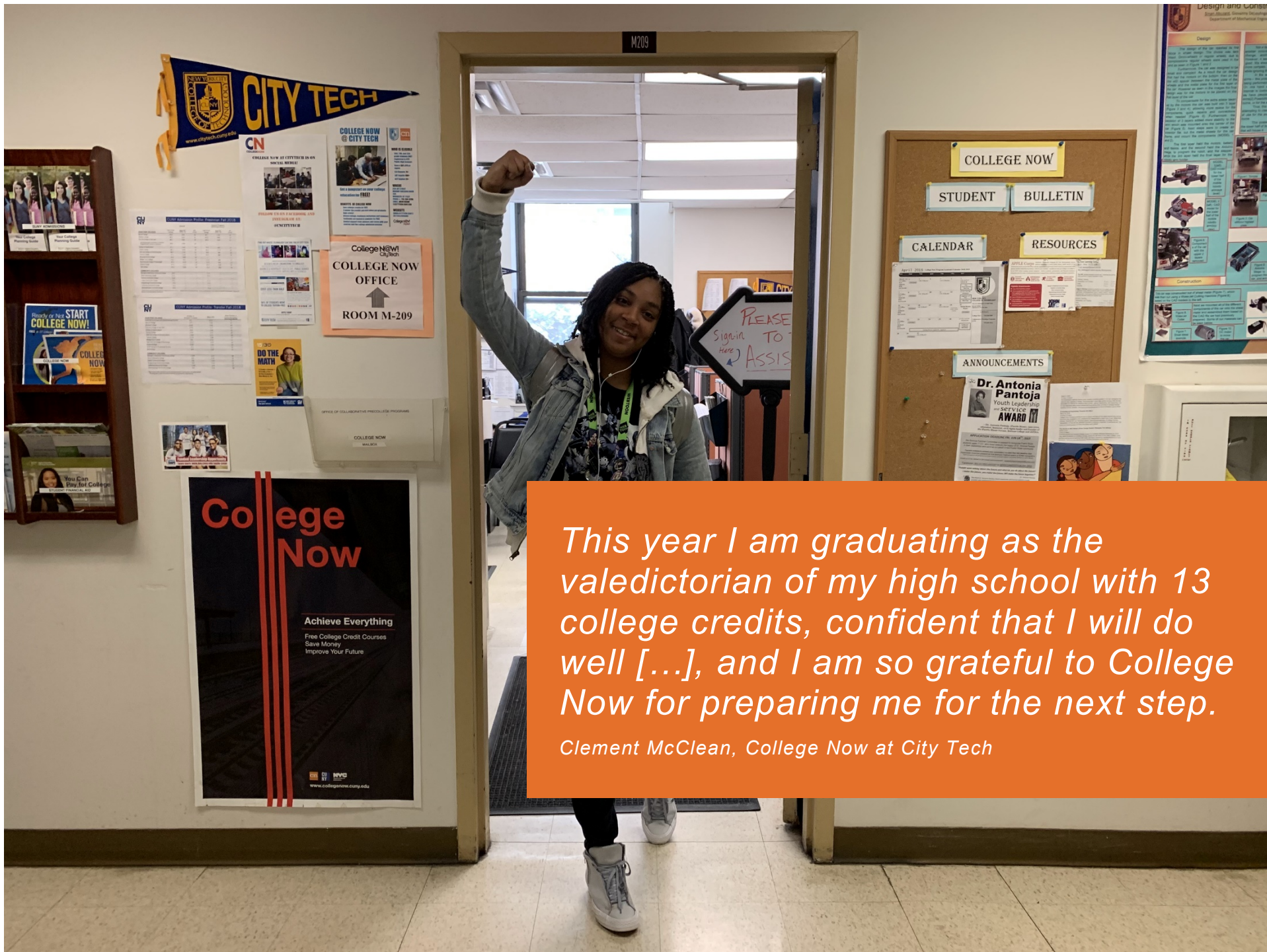
The student ambassador program at Hunter has emerged as a model peer outreach program, which other programs have started to replicate.

The student advisory council at Kingsborough, among other things, gives College Now students the opportunity to provide input on new course selections for the program.

The student mentoring program at Queens College taps into a large number of College Now alumni at Queens to serve as paid mentors to current College Now students in the program.

Many programs, regularly employ College Now alumni in their offices. Brooklyn College Now successfully engaged, supported and built relationships with alumni, several of whom returned to the program as tutors, collaborated as co-researchers or simply sent anecdotal feedback on their college experiences.

The 10th annual Urban Male Conference with the title *Civic Responsibility and Advocating for Youth* was held in May on John Jay's campus. The conference is organized jointly by the five Manhattan based College Now programs with a focus on the challenges urban males encounter in education and college preparation. The conference features a prominent keynote speaker in the morning and multiple workshops on topics ranging from barriers to completing high schools, economic benefits of a college degree, issues in socialization of young urban males. Representatives from CUNY opportunity programs hold info sessions.



This year I am graduating as the valedictorian of my high school with 13 college credits, confident that I will do well [...], and I am so grateful to College Now for preparing me for the next step.

Clement McClean, College Now at City Tech

Access to college credit courses for students in a wider range of academic achievement

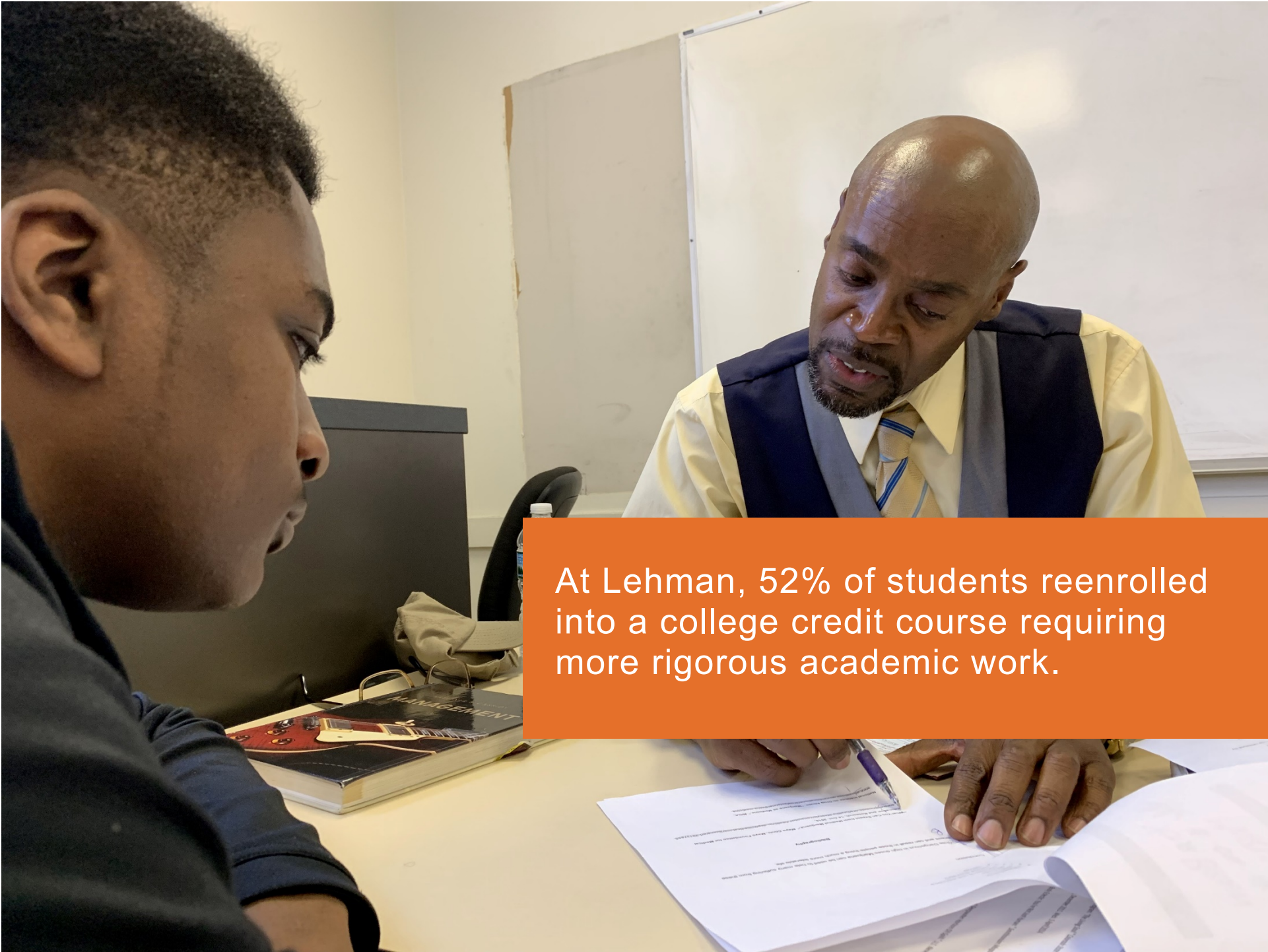
One of the important goals of the program has always been to provide college credit courses to students in wider levels of academic readiness for college, not just the top percentage. Individual programs use different strategies to achieve this goal. Many campuses establish a sequence of progressively more demanding courses for students whose grades are more in the middle than at the top level of academic performance, which means that they are on track to graduate high school but not with college ready scores on Regents exams. Those students may start in the program by taking a college credit course without a pre-requisite. Examples of those sequences include taking an Introduction to Speech or Critical Thinking course before taking a more writing intensive course such as college level English or Psychology. Community colleges typically have more courses without prerequisites. Because of that, some senior programs may offer a no-credit college prep class or partner with a program at a community college in a cross campus gateway course (CCGC) partnership. Gateway course here has the meaning of being a gateway into the program for students who are on track to graduate high school but have not reached college ready scores on their ELA Regents exam. For example, Queensborough, Kingsborough, LaGuardia, Hostos and Bronx collaborate with Brooklyn, Medgar Evers, Queens,

City and Lehman College in a CCGC initiative to ensure those programs more fully serve their partner schools' students.

Another successful pathway into the program is from First Year Seminar (FYS), a one-credit college and career awareness course for sophomores in the spring, followed by their first three-credit course in junior year, when the College Now program typically begins. The goal of this pilot pathway established for programs in the Bronx is to teach sophomores about the college going process, increase their awareness about career choices, and prepare them to be successful in their first three college credit course in the program. The pilot program has been very successful and we are seeking funds to expand this opportunity city-wide.

Multilingual learners

College Now provides many opportunities for multilingual learners to participate in the program, either directly in college credit courses or in activities that will prepare them to be successful in college credit courses. In addition to participating in college credit courses, there are courses and a summer program specifically offered for English language learners (ELLs). At Hostos, SIELP (Summer Intensive English Language Program) provides alternative pathways for multilingual learners to enter into college credit courses upon a successful completion of the program. Other courses, such as Basic writing for ELLs, Introduction to Speech for Non-Native Speakers, Acting I for ELLs are some of the examples of college prep and college credit courses offered to multilingual learners.



At Lehman, 52% of students reenrolled into a college credit course requiring more rigorous academic work.

Program highlights

Hunter: College Now Ambassador (CNA) Program

This program, which has been running successfully for over nine years, is one of the main highlights of Hunter's program. The program promotes student leadership and some students take on this role for two years. CNAs assist liaisons in the recruitment of their peers, lead group tours and assist during College Now orientations and/or Hunter College events. Students gain leadership experience and public speaking skills before they enter college, build a stronger connection to college, and gain experience in balancing academics and extra-curricular involvement to get the most out of their college experience. Many former CNA's have enjoyed the program so much that their peers who didn't participate in the program have contacted us inquiring about involvement in the opportunity.

Queens: Developing student leadership for social change and justice

Queens College Now offers two related courses, one pre-college and the other college credit, that they consider unique and important in terms of training students to become leaders and empowering them to take action towards the goal of achieving social change and justice. In the pre-college course, Leadership for Social Change, students learn to "map" a social problem and use their maps to design a project that they will ultimately put into action. Examples of potential projects include putting together a fundraiser for a non-profit, organizing a tree planting day to fight deforestation, or starting a letter writing campaign to elected officials focused on a particular social issue or cause. The college credit course, Education for Social

Justice, uses the pedagogical approach called Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) in which young people study their own social contexts to understand how to improve conditions and bring about greater equity. Students identify a relevant problem (for example, racial segregation in city schools), research it, create a plan to address it, implement the plan, evaluate the plan's efficacy, and start the process over by addressing a new understanding or area of the problem. Several College Now students who completed this course have presented their research at an annual conference at Columbia University.

Kingsborough: Student Advisory Board and the College Now Film Festival

This leadership opportunity, among other things, provides input on new course selections for the program and holds workshops on leadership and public speaking skills, mental health, and first aid. The College Now Film Festival is another long standing event for students in the program. In spring 2019, in collaboration with the Behavioral and Social Sciences, Political Science and Men's Resource Center departments, the featured film was *The Pursuit of Happiness*. Students are given the opportunity to view the film with selected panelists who spoke before the screening and conducted a question and answer period at the end. A special extra credit assignment was provided to the students to submit to their College Now instructors.

LaGuardia: Transition Center

LaGuardia is piloting a transition center manager, who works with their College Now alumni who choose to matriculate at LaGuardia. The Transition Center not only prevents College

Now alumni from getting lost in the fray during the normal Admissions process, but also reaches out to those students who have not enrolled at all, in an attempt to draw them back and encourage them to study.

Queensborough: Letters to seniors

The Queensborough program piloted a direct mail initiative in which they sent a letter to all seniors in their program with a breakdown of the courses they took, credits earned, how they aligned with CUNY Pathways and how to transfer credits. The program has begun a working relationship with the Office of Student Affairs in an effort to better support College Now alumni entering Queensborough.

Bronx: First Year Seminar (FYS)

This one credit course offered by First Year Programs integrates critical thinking skills development with college, career, and student development topics such as time management, good study habits, and communication skills. College Now offers the course to qualified sophomores in the spring to prepare them for successful participation in College Now. In spring 2019, there were 21 College Now FYS sections, which included classes held at high schools across the Bronx and on campus at Hostos and Lehman.

Brooklyn: Joint College Now staff and alumni conference presentations— Leading to College (LTC) alumnae Lovely Olivier (Georgetown, '18), Breyanna Esterene (BC, '19), and Okina VanPutten (JJ '22) presented with Brooklyn College program director Pieranna Pieroni and colleagues from CAMBA and CUNY at the 2019 National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education in Portland, Oregon. The presentation, entitled “Leading to College: A Decade of High

Ed.-CBO Collaboration in Support of Urban Students,” featured a discussion of the post-secondary outcomes of LTC students and a panel presentation in which alumnae discussed the impact of the program on their navigation of college, career and identity development.

Alumna Alyssa Gardner Vazquez (BC '20) presented with Brooklyn program director Pieranna Pieroni and former College Now adjunct instructor Atasi Das at the food systems studies conference, “Finding Home in the Wilderness” which took place in Anchorage, Alaska. Brooklyn’s presentation focused on the Community Roots, a garden-based program, as an instantiation of a critical-transdisciplinary pedagogical approach.

Baruch: Published articles - Associate Director Clemente Diaz wrote two articles for the American Psychological Association highlighting College Now and the STEM Research Academy. **Early Research Experiences: Why Students Should Seek Out Opportunities As Early As High School** -

<http://psychlearningcurve.org/early-research-experiences-why-students-should-seek-out-opportunities-as-early-as-high-school/>

Advanced Placement And Dual Enrollment: What’s A Student To Choose? - <http://psychlearningcurve.org/advanced-placement-and-dual-enrollment-whats-a-student-to-choose/>

Postsecondary Data Presentations on College Now Alumni in CUNY

Vanessa Francisco, Central Office College Now program coordinator, delivered numerous presentations on postsecondary data on College Now alumni in CUNY, which helped programs in providing and sharing these important achievement data with their DOE partner schools’ staff at liaison meetings.



“It is an awesome tool considering that some students may be the first in their families to attend college and so do not really know what to expect.”

Adebayo (Bayo) Fayemi, a former Hillcrest High School student who took three College Now classes at York

2018 Summer programs

Summer programs are opportunities for students to explore a rich array of career focused offerings, as well as participate in more traditional liberal arts programs. In summer 2018, there were 36 full day programs combining college credit courses and enrichment workshops held across 17 campuses enrolling 1,380 students. Students were provided metro cards, free lunch and field trips. On average, over 97% of students completed their courses successfully and earned three or more credits. Many programs boasted 100% successful completion of students in their summer programs.

Baruch College Liberal Arts Academy; Bronx Community College EST 11: An Introduction to Energy Technology ;New Media Arts – Youth Remixing History Summer Business and Entrepreneurship Academy; Borough of Manhattan Community College Video Arts Technology; Health Education ; Sociology/Chronicles of Consciousness; Brooklyn College Marine Ecology Program (AREAC); Pre-calculus Math Intensive; Urban Eco-Justice (Community Roots); City College of New York Summer Architecture Program; College of Staten Island Summer College Experience; Hostos Community College Bronx Civic Scholars Institute (BCSI); Summer Intensive English Language Program (SIELP); Hunter College Summer Science Institute; John Jay College Law and Criminal Justice Summer Institute (CJSI); Kingsborough Community College Brooklyn Science Innovation Initiative; Career Exploration Maritime Technology; LaGuardia Community College Making a World of Difference / Social and Political Philosophy; Introductory Nutrition: Campaigning for a Healthier Community; Critical Thinking: Thinking Critically about Social Justice; College Algebra & Trig: Real World

Engineering Problems and Solutions; Reading the Biography: Scientists, Science and STEM Sampler; Lehman College Summer Multimedia Arts Academy; Summer Science Academy; Medgar Evers College Summer Science Bridge Program; New York City College of Technology Careers in Engineering and Computer Technologies; Queensborough Community College Robotics; Theater Production; Queens College Summer Science Program; The Summer Institute for the Humanities & Social Sciences; York College Jazz; Music Production

STEM Research Academy

STEM Research Academy is a two-part program for minority students who attend high schools with underdeveloped research programs. During the spring, students take a science-focused College Now course that introduces a scientific topic area and prepares them to be in a research lab. During the summer, students apply to be matched and placed with a CUNY research faculty member for a hands-on research internship for which they receive a stipend.

STEM Research Academies at Baruch, Brooklyn, City, John Jay, Lehman, Queens, York and Queensborough Community College enrolled 184 students from 63 NYC high schools in the spring STEM-focused course, and 102 students continued in the summer research projects supported by 40 CUNY faculty members. More than 20% of those students continued their summer research into the fall semester alongside their CUNY research mentors. Placement of students in paid lab research

internships, with stipends for hosting labs, has had dramatic impact on students' lives and is supported by Pinkerton, Rivesville, Summerville and Simon's Foundations. STEM Academy participates in the Science Research Mentoring Consortium which links CUNY STEM RA to other science programs and opportunities across New York City, affording both students and program staff opportunities for professional growth.

Teacher voices

Martina Clark, LaGuardia: *"College Now is the perfect bridge for our students to not only learn more on a given topic, but equally important, to have an actual college experience under their belt and a preview of necessary skills and tools to thrive in academia and beyond."*

Kristena Newman, Psychology 101 instructor at Queens: *"I'm really excited about this class. They are a really attentive, fun group of students and I honestly think this will be an amazing semester."*

Professor Gary Wright, an instructor in John Jay's Law and Criminal Justice Summer Institute and CLIW Workshop, opines *"[] I see so many of my former College Now students around campus, and they always tell me that their experience in the program made them choose John Jay."*

Aaron Poter, Art 84 instructor, Art Department - Bronx Community College: *"I was also pleasantly surprised to see another former A student, Christopher, from my College Now course, turn up in my regular BCC classroom a year later. He is well on his way to earning another A and a degree in digital art."*

Student voices

Dianejili Dookhie, Academy for Conservation and the Environment says: *"My participation in the College Now Program has been a very eye-opening experience. I feel as though it has helped me to overcome my fear of attending college and exploring new environments. [...] It is truly one of the most life changing experiences. Everyone deserves a chance to know about this program and what it offers."*

Michael Cruz, who graduated from College in June 2019, emailed the College Now director at Queensborough to say that College Now helped him finish his undergraduate degree in four years and he was on to his graduate degree.

Tottenville alumna, Ms. Jessica Assad, who completed three courses, says: *"College Now has been one of the best things for me through my four years of high school,"*

Shanice Nyamekye from Performing Arts & Technology High School says: *"The whole class was involved and everyone was respectful towards each other. The tasks were a little challenging but we all helped each other to try to succeed."*

Scholarships

The Myself Third: Spirit of New York Scholarship which encourages the civic involvement of high school students has been made possible through a generous gift provided by City College alumnus, Robert Friedman. Since 2002, when it was established, over \$600,000 has been awarded to 187 College Now alumni entering CUNY.



STEM Research Academy Fall Internship Extension allowed one of John Jay's academy participants to continue her research interest and prepare for the NYC Science and Engineering Fair.

The Arlene Kahn Scholarship, established in honor of the founding director of the College Now program at LaGuardia, is awarded at spring Honors Night Ceremony to one or two LaGuardia College Now alumni who opt to attend LaGuardia. Fourteen students received the scholarship from 2009 to 2019.

The Rob Pero Memorial Scholarship Fund was created in honor of the former director of College Now at Kingsborough, and the first annual ceremony to honor the students who won the scholarship stipend was held in 2019.

Model City Council Project

The Model NYC Council Project gives College Now students the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to assume the role of a New York City Council member and represent one of the legislative districts in the five boroughs. Our faculty mentors guide students through what it means to be an active member of city government. Students research an issue the City Council is considering and how it may affect the people in the legislative district they are assigned to represent. In the final ceremony, held in the actual City Council Chamber, they hold a debate and vote on the issue.

Grants

Teagle Foundation funds Leading to College, a partnership between Brooklyn College Now and a Flatbush based social services organization, CAMBA, to provide students at School for Human Rights with pre-college and college courses and

supports, and their families with college-related knowledge and services.

The Guardian Life Insurance Company facilitated budgeting and student lending workshops for students during student orientation at Borough of Manhattan Community College, and at the Urban Male Conference in Manhattan.

NYCT College Now partnered with Project Window, a non-profit organization to offer their first prom dress giveaway event in the spring of 2019 in which 131 high school students from their partner schools received free designer dresses, shoes and accessories for prom and graduation.

Kingsborough held the first STEM fair sponsored by Con Edison and National Grid grants. Students visited the campus and participated in STEM-related activities in campus labs.

The Petri Foundation supported a pilot program to offer math co-requisite courses to College Now students at Borough of Manhattan Community College and LaGuardia. The success of the pilot encouraged other College Now programs to add math co-requisite courses as an alternative to remedial courses.

Lehman College Now collaborated with campus colleagues on a STEP grant to fund an SAT Prep Academy for high school juniors. The average score improved to 1100, a score that makes students eligible for many baccalaureate colleges in CUNY and SUNY.



Over \$600,000 has been awarded to 187 Myself Third Scholarship recipients since it was founded in 2002.



What's next: alumni support, career focus and internships

College Now FY19-22 Strategic Plan

The program staff just completed its third strategic planning process and created a new mission statement which recognizes the importance of both college and career preparation and the role they play in creating a successful future for students.

CUNY's College Now program enables NYC DOE high school students to develop academic momentum toward a college degree, envision options for their future, make informed choices about college, and learn how their education can lead to rewarding careers.

The new mission statement guides the program's focus in the next three years: strengthen students' transition to college, mainly by supporting College Now alumni in CUNY and leveraging College Now as a recruitment tool which brings academically better prepared students to CUNY; support students in career and technical education (CTE) programs in partner schools in their transition to college; and extend the knowledge of College Now outside of CUNY.

College Now Staff

Baruch College	Clemente	Diaz
	Maziely	Crisostomo
Borough of Manhattan Community College	Diamond	Brooks
	Peter	Williams
Bronx Community College	Paola	Liriano
	Susana	Rivera
Brooklyn College	Jennifer	Mayzman
	Pieranna	Pieroni

City College	Richard T. Alejandro	Stremme
	Andrianna	Lazaro Roman
College of Staten Island	Rebecca	Collins
Hostos Community College	Elizabeth	McClure
	Travaras	Wilson
Hunter College	Christian	Geter
	Erlyn	Perez
	Omyra	Mendez
John Jay College	Carla	Gonzalez
	David	Duffy
Kingsborough Community College	Anna	Jean- Paul
	Domenick	Betancourt
	Erika	Bruculeri
	Gabriela	De La Cruz
	Sari	Dekki
LaGuardia Community College	Carolyn	Schoenfeld
	Ingrid	Henner-Stanchina
	Leslie	DeLeon
	Mario	Bialecky
	Tyleah	Pena
Lehman College	David	Castillo
	Griselda	Gantz
	Jay	Santiago
Medgar Evers College	Fola	Gurka
	Nicole	Vann
	Tracy	Berry
New York City College of Technology	Anna	Noel
	Matthew	Venturino
Queensborough Community College	Alexa	Brittain
	Arlyne	Vlachos
	MaryAnne	Helfenbein
Queens College	Cristina	Meyer
	Marci	Teran
York College	Les	Goodman
	Letitia	Raphael
	Nawrin	Bridgeman
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Photographs by Eser Atila

