

THE CUNY SCHOOL OF LABOR
AND URBAN STUDIES

JOSEPH S. MURPHY SCHOLARSHIP FOR DIVERSITY IN LABOR

RECEPTION AND AWARDS

RECOGNIZING
LABOR'S
RISING
LEADERS

10
CELEBRATING
YEARS

INTRODUCING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
FOR THE 2023-24 ACADEMIC YEAR



CUNY SCHOOL OF LABOR AND URBAN STUDIES

Dedicated to Public Service and Social Justice



CUNY SLU: More Than Just a School

Offering the only interdisciplinary curriculum in labor and urban studies in the nation, SLU awards undergraduate and graduate degrees in those fields, as well as credit-bearing professional certificates in areas such as public administration, public policy, health care administration, and labor relations. SLU also collaborates with New York City's labor unions and other CUNY schools to offer a broad range of college-credit programs designed to give workers the academic and technical skills they need for professional advancement.

A School Rooted in Labor

Although SLU is CUNY's newest self-standing school, it has been serving New York City's workers and underrepresented communities for nearly 40 years. The foundation program for CUNY's "labor college" was established in 1984 through a unique collaboration between the University and three New York City municipal unions and began with just 52 students. Today, SLU serves more than 1,200 students in its core academic programs and at its partner CUNY colleges across the five boroughs of New York City. SLU's ties to the labor community remain steadfast: the leaders of 26 labor unions and community organizations currently serve on its Advisory Board.

PROGRAM

Welcome

Gladys Palma de Schrynemakers
Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

Dean's Remarks

Gregory Mantsios, Founding Dean
CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies

Guest Speaker

Milly Silva, Secretary-Treasurer
1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East

2023 RISING LEADERS

Presented by Samir Sonti, Assistant Professor of Urban Studies

Michelle Gonzalez, RN, ICU Nurse at Montefiore Medical Center and
Executive Committee member, New York State Nurses Association

Nashanta Lamont, Associate Director of Governmental & Political Affairs
Council of School Supervisors & Administrators

Diversity Scholarship Alumni Speaker

Tamara Robinson, MA Labor Studies, 2016
Introduced by Stephanie Luce, Professor of Labor Studies

2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Presented by Ruth Milkman, Labor Studies Department Chair

Toffee Clark, Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship Award
Prarthana Gurung, Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship Award
Lucia Gomez, Morton Bahr Scholarship Award
Naima Rock, SEIU John Reid Scholarship Award
Taylor Savary, David Livingston Memorial Scholarship Award
Kaarthika Thakker, Albert Neumann Scholarship Award
Charlie Uruchima, 1199SEIU Basil Paterson Scholarship Award



The Chancellor

205 E 42nd Street, 18th floor
New York, NY 10017
646 664-9100 tel
646 664-3868 fax

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to welcome you to this year's celebration of the Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship for Diversity in Labor. This is a particularly important event not just for the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies, but for CUNY as a whole. That's because of our shared commitment to serving students who are as diverse, talented, and full of promise as our great city.

For nearly forty years, the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies (SLU) has been educating and empowering new generations of labor leaders and social justice advocates who reflect one of New York City's greatest strengths: its wonderful diversity of communities. Just as CUNY has demonstrated, decade after decade, its remarkable capabilities as a beacon of opportunity and an engine of economic mobility, SLU's diversity scholarship program is enabling future leaders dedicated to the advancement of working-class New Yorkers. You will meet seven of them tonight.

This year we also salute some rising stars in the labor movement, individuals who are making their mark through organizing and political action. I want to congratulate them on their recognition, and thank them for the many contributions they are making in the name of advocacy, public service and social justice.

Thank you for your support of the Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship for Diversity in Labor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Félix V. Matos Rodríguez'. The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Félix V. Matos Rodríguez
Chancellor



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THE MURPHY INSTITUTE

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Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Welcome to the 2023 Diversity Scholarship Awards of the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies (SLU). This evening we reach a milestone in the history of this unique scholarship. The recipients for academic year 2023-24, whom we recognize tonight, are the tenth cohort of Diversity Scholars since our program was launched in 2013.

The Diversity Scholarship represents SLU's commitment to preparing a more diverse leadership for the future of labor and other social movements that stand for workers' rights and economic equality. I am very proud of the accomplishments that have brought us to this 10th anniversary moment. It is my hope that the Scholarship recipients we welcome tonight, as well as our Rising Leader awardees, will be part of a broad movement to eliminate all forms of racism and bigotry, and—ultimately—to preserve our democracy.

We have many people to thank for building and sustaining our School. These include SLU's magnificent faculty and staff; its Advisory Board and chair, Arthur Cheliotis; and of course our students, who are the soul of this program. On this 10th anniversary milestone for the Diversity Scholarship, I want to express my profound gratitude to them and to all the donors and supporters whose contributions have made the Diversity Scholarship a signature program of our School.

Very best wishes,

Gregory Mantsios
Founding Dean

GUEST SPEAKER

Milly Silva

Secretary-Treasurer

1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East

Milly Silva serves as Secretary-Treasurer of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, the nation's largest healthcare union. A Bronx native, her work in the labor movement began when she became a long-term care organizer for 1199 — unionizing thousands of home healthcare workers throughout New York City. Tapped by the union leadership to build power for healthcare workers across the Hudson, she then relocated to New Jersey where she transformed 1199SEIU into the leading union for nursing home workers in the state, winning groundbreaking contracts that include living wages, high-quality health insurance for workers and their families, and the strongest nursing home safe staffing law in the nation. In 2013, she was the Democratic candidate for New Jersey Lieutenant Governor.

From 2016–2022, Milly directed 1199SEIU's nursing home division covering New York City, Long Island, the Hudson Valley, and New Jersey. She led negotiations for some 45,000 nursing home workers in Greater New York and secured master union contracts that maintain the highest job standards anywhere in the nation. In both NY and NJ, Milly has mobilized front-line healthcare workers to win major increases in state Medicaid funding, spearheading labor-management partnerships as part of this effort.

Elected Secretary-Treasurer by the membership in April 2022, Milly today holds the second-highest position within 1199SEIU, building out unionwide strategy and overseeing the finances of the largest union local in the United States.



RISING LEADERS 2023

Michelle Gonzalez

*Medical ICU Nurse Montefiore Medical Center,
Executive Committee, New York State Nurses
Association*

Since 2013, Michelle Gonzalez has worked as a registered nurse at the Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, delivering critical care at the Moses Medical ICU. Michelle was born and raised in the borough, and she currently lives in the same Norwood neighborhood where the hospital was built. As a child, Michelle says, she saw first-hand how her uncle experienced shortcomings in the healthcare environment, and she knew then she wanted to do something to change that. Joining Montefiore was the fulfillment of Gonzalez's dream. But, from the moment she started as a nursing assistant in 2011, senior staff told her she'd joined at a turning point in the hospital's history: nurses were receiving far less support than they had in the past. And over the years, she says, she witnessed this institutional neglect firsthand. Yet, she also saw how the New York State Nurses Association, a union of frontline nurses, was advocating to protect both nurses and the hospital patients. So Michelle got involved. Today, she is a lead organizer for NYSNA, an executive committee member of the Montefiore Bronx NYSNA team, and a part of the negotiating committee that participates in bargaining talks with management at Montefiore. "I always think of the quote from Ghandi," says Michelle. "Be the change that you wish to see in the world.' That's why I became a nurse, so I could be that change."



Nashanta Lamont

*Associate Director of Governmental & Political Affairs
Council of School Supervisors & Administrators*

Nashanta Lamont, a Queens native and Adelphi University and Brooklyn College alumnus, got her start in the labor movement with the New York City Department of Education, where, as a family support coordinator, she facilitated workshops for parent coordinators and principals. While she was at the DOE, Nashanta got active with District Council 37 and organized members to get a shop steward at her location. In 2018, she enrolled in CUNY SLU's Labor Relations Certificate Program. "I credit that program," she says, "with providing labor's untold story and the importance of unionism in our history, and sparking my political action. It inspired me to be more involved." So when a job opened at the Council of School Supervisors & Administrators (CSA), a union that represents principals and other administrators in the New York City public school system, she seized the opportunity. "It was divine intervention," Michelle says. "All my interests aligned in one role, and it satisfied my itch to be involved in politics." Now in her fourth year as CSA's Associate Director of Governmental & Political Affairs, Nashanta has been working to establish a political liaison program matching CSA union reps with New York City Council members. "It's a tough time to be a principal," she says, "but our members are so resilient and dedicated to the work." And that motivates Nashanta. "The ever-changing nature of our environment requires us all to reflect, reimagine, regroup and grow better," she says. "Better is what I always strive for."



Scholarships Honor Morton Bahr, Albert Neumann, Basil Paterson, John Reid, and David Livingston



Morton Bahr, Former President Emeritus of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), served as union President from 1985–2005. Under President Bahr’s leadership, CWA evolved to become one of the most powerful labor unions in the United States and internationally. Today, CWA, with its roots in the communications industry, is a leading union for professional, technical, media and information-age workers. A native New Yorker, Bahr emerged from humble beginnings to lead a successful organizing drive for CWA among his coworkers at Mackay Radio in 1954. From that campaign, the concept and role of unions in reaching out to “new economy” workers would eventually expand. He promoted new bargaining and campaign strategies to deal with the fragmented and newly competitive telecom industry. Bahr also expanded CWA’s jurisdiction into new areas, such as health care, the public sector, and higher education.

Albert Neumann was born in 1886 in the Austro-Hungarian town of Sopron. A teaching post brought him to Nyiregyhaza, in the Northeast portion of Hungary, where he lived until he was deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp sometime in the spring of 1944. He died there, a holocaust victim, at the age of 58. Neumann was the principal of the Jewish School in Nyiregyhaza. He was also a writer whose tales about Rabbi Eizik, the founder of the Hasidic movement in Hungary, were published between 1935 and 1942. In English translation some of these stories appear in *Rabbi Eizik: Hasidic Stories about the Zaddik of Kallo*, edited by Andrew Handler and published by Associated University Presses in 1978. A scholarship donation in his name comes from the estate of his daughter, Magda Neumann Weiss.



Basil Paterson, 1926–2014, was the son of Caribbean immigrant parents. Raised in Harlem, he attended Fordham University, where he earned a B.A. and a law degree. Becoming active in Democratic Party politics, Paterson famously forged ties with Charles Rangel, David Dinkins, and Percy Sutton. In 1965, he was elected to the State Senate, where he earned a reputation for championing progressive legislation and for strong support of organized labor. He later served as deputy mayor and New York's first African-American Secretary of State. After serving in elected posts, Paterson became a prominent labor relations expert, representing the hospital workers union as well as the TWU and the teachers' union. He lived to see his son, David Paterson, serve as Governor of New York State. The Basil Paterson Scholarship was established by 1199SEIU.



John Reid, 1947–2015, served as a Vice President and Executive Vice President of 1199SEIU for 26 years. Working out of the Maryland-D.C. area, Reid oversaw the union's efforts to expand healthcare access for thousands of Maryland residents, raise wages and improve benefits for hardworking families, and bring good jobs to the Maryland-D.C. region. Among Reid's many notable achievements was the implementation of a joint labor-management education fund for union members. He also led the fight for an historic union contract at Johns Hopkins Hospital, raising standards for healthcare workers in Baltimore and throughout the state. Born in Gastonia, N.C., he was drafted into the Army after high school and served as a marksman in the Vietnam War; he was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries he received in combat. The John Reid Scholarship was established by SEIU International.

David Livingston, 1915–1995, was the president of District 65 of the United Auto Workers and a longtime proponent of civil rights. At its height, District 65 had a membership of more than 40,000 workers and became particularly active in organizing women and minorities. Livingston was a confidant of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., among other civil rights leaders, and, in 1960, right before the election, he arranged a meeting between Dr. King and John F. Kennedy. Under his leadership, District 65 forged a strong relationship with the women's movement, dealing with issues like equal pay, sexual harassment and the need for day care. The union was also a leader in labor's participation in efforts to end the Vietnam War. The David Livingston Memorial Scholarship was established by UAW Region 9A, Julie Kushner, Director. Remembering David Livingston, Kushner says, "In the hours before my first strike at Barnard College in 1984, David gave me this great advice: 'Go in there, act crazy, fight like hell and then call me.'"



Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship for Diversity in Labor

Fostering diverse leadership in the labor movement and in the academic discipline of labor studies

The Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship for Diversity in Labor is committed to fostering diversity in the next generation of labor leaders and labor scholars. This scholarship was created for women and students of color who wish to pursue undergraduate or graduate studies at CUNY SLU, and is one of the only scholarships offered in the nation that supports diversity and excellence in labor leadership and the Labor Studies academic discipline. It is available to students nationwide and covers the full cost of an undergraduate or graduate degree.

Over the past 50 years, the demographics of the U.S. labor force have changed significantly, with dramatic increases in the number of women and people of color. The racial and gender composition of national union leadership, however, continues to lag behind the demographics of the workforce. The academic field of Labor Studies reflects a similar imbalance.

In supporting women and students of color, the Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship for Diversity in Labor program seeks to make a significant contribution toward redressing existing imbalances in these fields.

Each year since 2013, the City University of New York has supported the Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship for Diversity in Labor by providing an annual challenge-grant, encouraging yearly donations from numerous outside supporters. As a result, this scholarship program is able to provide generous scholarships to students pursuing their degrees at the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies.

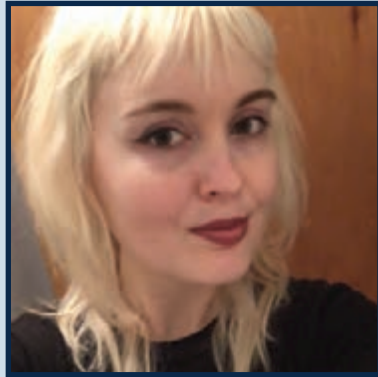
Naming opportunities allow donors a special way to endow a scholarship by honoring an individual. You'll see these endowed scholarships noted in the journal.

Joseph S. Murphy

The Diversity Scholarship is named in honor of Joseph S. Murphy, the son of a labor organizer and a champion of the working class who rose to become Chancellor of the City University of New York. A former administrator in both the Peace Corps and the Department of Health Education and Welfare in Washington, Murphy was known for his ability to combine a practical knowledge of politics with an enduring commitment to the poor and the working class. Highlights of his tenure as Chancellor included the introduction of childcare services for working students and the expansion of adult literacy and collaborative programs with the public schools. In an effort to make the administration more reflective of student enrollment, he sought out members of minority groups for top positions.

Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship for Diversity in Labor

2023 RECIPIENTS



Toffee Clark

Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship
Master's in Labor Studies



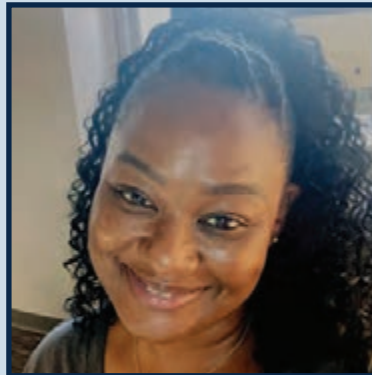
Lucia Gomez

Morton Bahr
Endowed Scholarship
Master's in Labor Studies



Prarthana Gurung

Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship
Master's in Labor Studies



Naima Rock

SEIU John Reid
Endowed Scholarship
Bachelor's in Urban
and Community Studies



Taylor Savary

David Livingston Memorial
Endowed Scholarship
Master's in Labor Studies



Kaarthika Thakker

Albert Neumann
Endowed Scholarship
Master's in Labor Studies



Charlie Uruchima

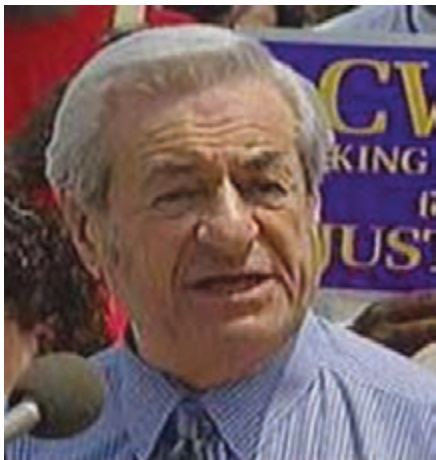
1199SEIU Basil Paterson
Endowed Scholarship
Master's in Labor Studies



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for Diversity in Labor



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Communications Workers of America – International President Chris Shelton, District 1 Vice President Dennis Trainor, and Local 1180 President Gloria Middleton – are honored to name a graduate scholarship, **The Morton Bahr Award**, for International President Emeritus Morton Bahr who is remembered for his progressive leadership for social justice.

Known for his dedication to worker education, Bahr negotiated nationally-recognized worker education programs with major employers. In 1996, then-President Bill Clinton appointed him to head the Commission for a Nation of Lifelong Learners.

CWA Stronger Together



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Congratulations **2023 RISING LEADERS**

Michelle Gonzalez, RN

ICU Nurse at Montefiore Medical Center
& Executive Committee Member
New York State Nurses Association

Nashanta Lamont

Associate Director of Governmental
& Political Affairs
Council of School Supervisors & Administrators

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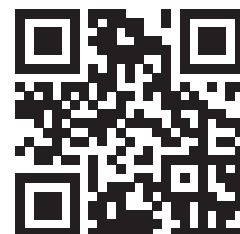
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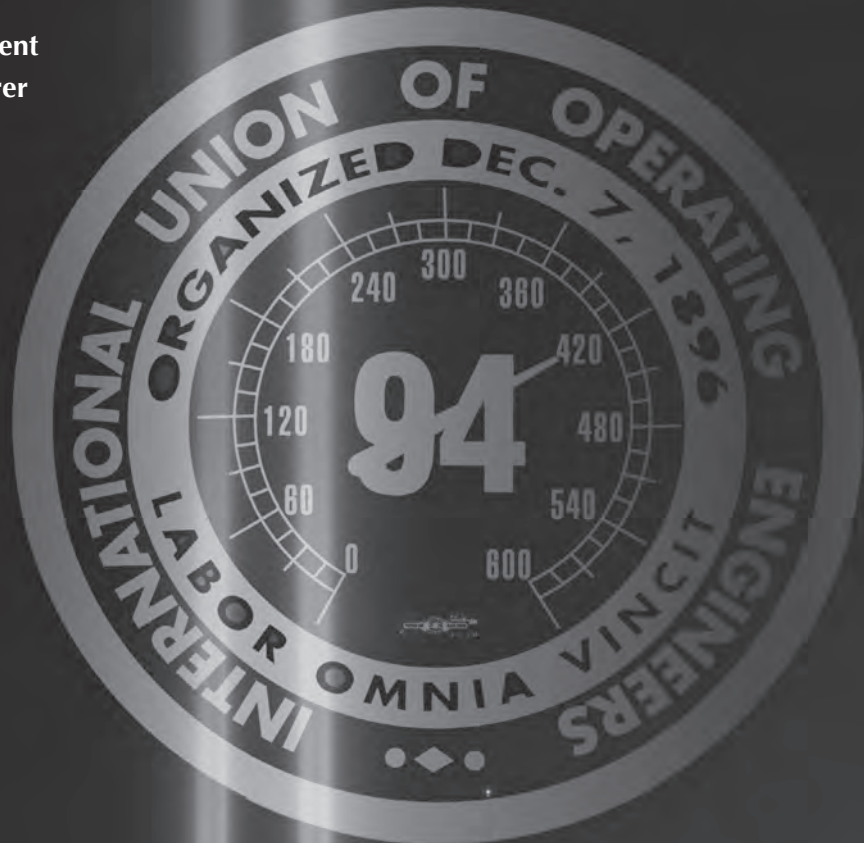
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of  
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RN, Montefiore Medical Center
New York State Nurses Association

Nashanta Lamont
Associate Director of Governmental & Political Affairs
Council of School Supervisors & Administrators

The Writers Guild of America, East is proud to support the Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship for Diversity in Labor.

To all of this year's scholarship recipients and rising leaders:
Thank you for your tireless and fierce dedication to building
a stronger labor movement.



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New Labor Forum is a national labor journal from the Murphy Institute, CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies, published by SAGE Press and appearing 3 times a year.

New Labor Forum provides a place for labor and its allies to consider vital research, debate strategy, and test new ideas.

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Workers of America (CWA)

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Local 100

Community Voices Heard

Workers United (SEIU)

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