# CUNY SCHOOL DURBAN STUDIES JOSEPH S. MURPHY SCHOLARSHIP FOR DIVERSITY IN LABOR





































## Recognizing CUNY SLU's 2024 Rising Leader In Labor

Introducing Scholarship Recipients for the 2024–25 academic year



### **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, workplace democracy and cooperative ownership, 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 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 Adrienne Adams, Speaker New York City Council

#### **2024 RISING LEADER**

Justice Favor, Director of Strategic Partnerships Greater New York LECET (Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust)

> Presented by Dave Bolger Business Manager, Mason Tenders District Council

#### **2024 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

Presented by CUNY SLU Faculty Ellen Dichner, Distinguished Lecturer, Labor Studies; James Rodriguez, Assistant Professor, Urban Studies; Samir Sonti, Assistant Professor, Urban Studies

Jefferson Charles, Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship Award Bernadette King Fitzsimons, Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship Award Shavelle Knox, Morton Bahr Scholarship Award June Lei, Albert Neumann Scholarship Award Marcia Matheson, Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship Award Latisha McNeill, 1199SEIU Basil Paterson Scholarship Award Rudolph Rodriguez Quamina, David Livingston Memorial Scholarship Award

### CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies Labor and Community Advisory Board

The Labor and Community Advisory Board provides counsel to the Dean on issues regarding the School's policies, practices, and strategic planning initiatives. It also provides guidance to ensure that the curriculum stays current and relevant to the labor movement and urban communities.

New York State AFL-CIO Mario Cilento, President

New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO Vincent Alvarez, President

Local 1180, Communications Workers of America (CWA) Gloria Middleton, President \*Arthur Cheliotes, Business Manager

#### District Council 37, American Federation of State, County, & Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

Henry Garrido, Executive Director (alt. Barbara Ingram-Edmonds, Dir. of Field Operations) (alt. Stephen Johnson, Administrator, Education Fund)

Workers United (SEIU) Edgar Romney, Secretary-Treasurer

1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East George Gresham, President (alt. Samantha Morales, Dir. Education/Leadership Dev)

1199SEIU Training and Upgrading Fund Sandi Vito, Executive Director

#### United Federation of Teachers (UFT) Michael Mulgrew, President (alt. Mary Vaccaro, Vice President of Education)

Public Employees Federation (PEF) Wayne Spence, President (alt. Darlene Williams, Vice President)

**Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA), Region 2** Lester Crockett, President (alt. Matthew D'Amico, Political Action Coordinator)

Local 237, International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) Gregory Floyd, President (alt. Shanell Grayson, Director of Education)

**Consortium for Worker Education (CWE)** Joseph McDermott, Executive Director (alt. Deborah Buxton, Deputy Director of Education)

Local 32BJ, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Manny Pastreich, President (alt. Lenore Friedlaender, Assistant to the President) (alt. Linda Nelson, Director, Training Fund) Transportation Workers Union (TWU) Local 100 Richard Davis, President (alt. Charles Jenkins, Director, Training/Upgrading Fund)

Local 94, International Union of Operating Engineers Kuba Brown, Business Manager/Financial Secretary (alt. David Hawkins, Director of Training)

Local 1549, NYC Clerical-Administrative Employees James Howell, Administrator (alt. Benjamin Borges-Hernandez, Deputy Administrator)

Professional Staff Congress (PSC) James Davis, President

#### Writers Guild of America, East (WGAE)

- Region 9A, United Auto Workers (UAW) Brandon Mancilla, Director (alt. Ken Lang, Sub-Regional Director for New York City)
- Local 371, Social Service Employees Union (SSEU) Anthony Wells, President
- District 1, Communications Workers of America (CWA) Dennis G. Trainor, Vice President, CWA District 1

New York State Nurses Association Nancy Hagans, President

NewsGuild of New York Susan DeCarava, President

New York Committee on Occupational Safety and Health Charlene Obernauer, Executive Director

Community Voices Heard Juanita Lewis, Executive Director

New York Communities for Change Jonathan Westin, Executive Director

New York Immigration Coalition Murad Awawdeh, Executive Director

State & Broadway, Inc. Richard Winsten, Esq

\* denotes Advisory Board Chair



### **COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA**, AFL-CIO

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Dear Colleagues and Friends:

Welcome to the 2024 Diversity Scholarship celebration. On this happy occasion, I want to thank all who have supported the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies (SLU) and its Diversity Scholarship. The list of supporters is long, including the 23 unions and community organizations who serve on SLU's Advisory Board, the leadership of CUNY, our fabulous faculty and staff, and numerous elected officials in the State Legislature and New York City Council.

The Diversity Scholarship is a shining example of what SLU stands for —a commitment to social justice and a vision of economic equality for all. It is dedicated to educating a new generation of labor and community leaders who reflect the composition of our workforce. The scholarship recipients—whom we recognize tonight—have been selected not only for their academic achievements but also for their commitment to movements for social change. As Chair of SLU's Advisory Board, I want to congratulate them as well as the Rising Leader we honor today. Together, they represent a new generation of leaders in the fight for a better world.

The unions and community organizations on our Board represent workers and working-class communities—largely women and people of color. For our constituents, education is critical to professional advancement and a better quality of life. Through SLU—and the Murphy Institute before it—thousands of our members have attended college, earning degrees as well as certificates in areas of specialization. Going forward, SLU is committed to expanding these opportunities through liberal arts programs in Labor and Urban Studies and creating more workforce programs for economic mobility. Leadership education across the board is fundamental to the mission of the School.

The Diversity Scholarship supports the aspirations of our School and its students in every way. Again, I want to thank those who have already made generous donations to the Scholarship fund. I urge those who haven't to reach deep into your pockets to sustain this Scholarship for the long haul.

Sincerely,

Rotter Chelister

Arthur Cheliotes Chair, CUNY SLU Advisory Board President Emeritus and Business Manager Local 1180, Communications Workers of America





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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the 2024 Diversity Scholarship Awards Presentation hosted by the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies (SLU). Tonight, we introduce the next cohort of Diversity Scholarship recipients, who will enter SLU in the 2024-25 academic year. We also honor this year's Rising Leader, whose efforts on behalf of workers and working-class communities serve as a model not only for our Scholarship recipients but for all who dream of a more just and equitable society.

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 moment. As we gather tonight, our nation faces grave challenges to basic principles of peace, democracy, freedom, equality, and compassion for those in need. More than ever, I hope that the Scholarship recipients we welcome tonight, as well as our Rising Leader honoree, will fulfil their promise to be leading participants in the broader movement for social justice.

We have many people to thank for building and sustaining our Diversity Scholarship and our School. These include SLU's Advisory Board and chair, Arthur Cheliotes; its magnificent faculty and staff; and, of course, our students, who are the heart of this program. On this occasion, 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,

Drey Mantsios

Gregory Mantsios Founding Dean



# **GUEST SPEAKER**



# **ADRIENNE E. ADAMS** Speaker of the New York City Council

Adrienne Eadie Adams leads the most diverse and the first women-majority Council in New York City history as the first-ever African American Speaker. Elected to the City Council in November 2017, she is also the first woman to represent District 28, which encompasses the Queens neighborhoods of Jamaica, Richmond Hill, Rochdale Village, and South Ozone Park.

Under the leadership of Speaker Adams, the Council has tackled long-standing inequities in the city's workforce, passing legislation that helps address systemic pay disparities disproportionately impacting women and people of color. Speaker Adams also helped establish the CUNY Reconnect program that has helped thousands of working-age New Yorkers to return to college in pursuit of a degree after leaving school.

Speaker Adams has led the lawmaking body to advance women's health by passing legislative packages to address persistent racial disparities in maternal health and expand access to abortion and reproductive healthcare. The Council, under Speaker Adams' leadership, directed the largest amount of municipal funding of any city in the nation to support direct access to abortion healthcare for those without an ability to pay.

Speaker Adams was raised in Hollis, Queens, as the daughter of two proud union workers. She attended St. Pascal Baylon Elementary School and Bayside High School. After briefly studying at CUNY's York College, she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, minoring in Early Childhood Development. She is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the first sorority for Black college-educated women. She is also a longstanding member of the NAACP and the National Action Network.

Speaker Adams is a wife, mother, and grandmother ("cool Nona") within her beloved blended family.

# **2024 RISING LEADER AWARD RECIPIENT**



# **Justice Favor** Director of Strategic Partnerships Greater New York LECET

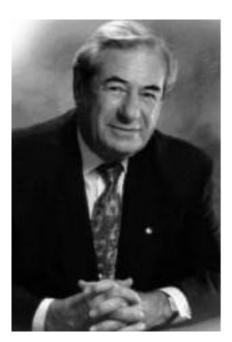
Justice Favor creates partnerships. Bringing together developers, contractors, officials, and workers, Justice builds pro-labor coalitions that are committed to increasing the number of union worksites and jobs in New York City and the surrounding areas – jobs that put worker safety and workplace justice first.

Before working at LECET, Justice worked for General Building Laborers Local 79 as an Organizer where he empowered construction workers from disadvantaged communities to fight for better wages and better working conditions. He started his career in construction as a Local 79 apprentice, and went on to become a shop steward and foreman. Justice has a bachelor's degree in labor studies from SUNY Empire State College, where he received the prestigious Chancellor Award for Academic Excellence and the Student Service Award. He is also a graduate of the Cornell University Union Leadership Institute.

"I stumbled upon something I love, which is labor," says Justice. "I want to be the best labor leader I can be."

Justice grew up in Far Rockaway, Queens, where he remains active with elected officials and the community, working to bring economic opportunities to the people who live there.

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



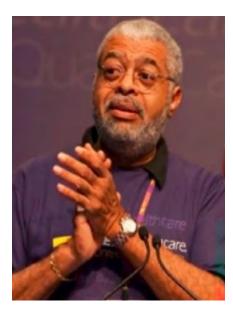
**Morton Bahr**, Former President Emeritus of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), served as union President from 1985–2005. Under President Bahr's leadership, CWA evolved to become one of the most powerful labor unions in the United States and internationally. Today, CWA, with its roots in the 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 2024 RECIPIENTS



Jefferson Charles Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship Master's in Labor Studies



Bernadette King Fitzsimons Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship Master's in Labor Studies



**Shavelle Knox** Morton Bahr Endowed Scholarship Bachelor's in Labor Studies



June Lei Albert Neumann Endowed Scholarship Master's in Labor Studies



Marcia Matheson Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship Bachelor's in Labor Studies



Latisha McNeill 1199SEIU Basil Paterson Endowed Scholarship Bachelor's in Labor Studies

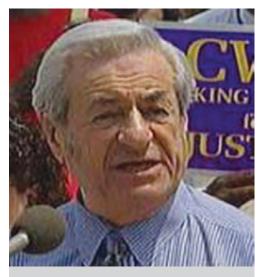


Hermala Rodriguez Quamina David Livingston Memorial Endowed Scholarship Master's in Labor Studies



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Communications Workers of America — International President Claude Cummings, Jr., 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.





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Annual Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship for Diversity in Labor



# **2024 RISING LEADER**

**Justice Favor** Director of Strategic Partnerships, Greater New York LECET

& the 2024 Diversity Scholarship Recipients

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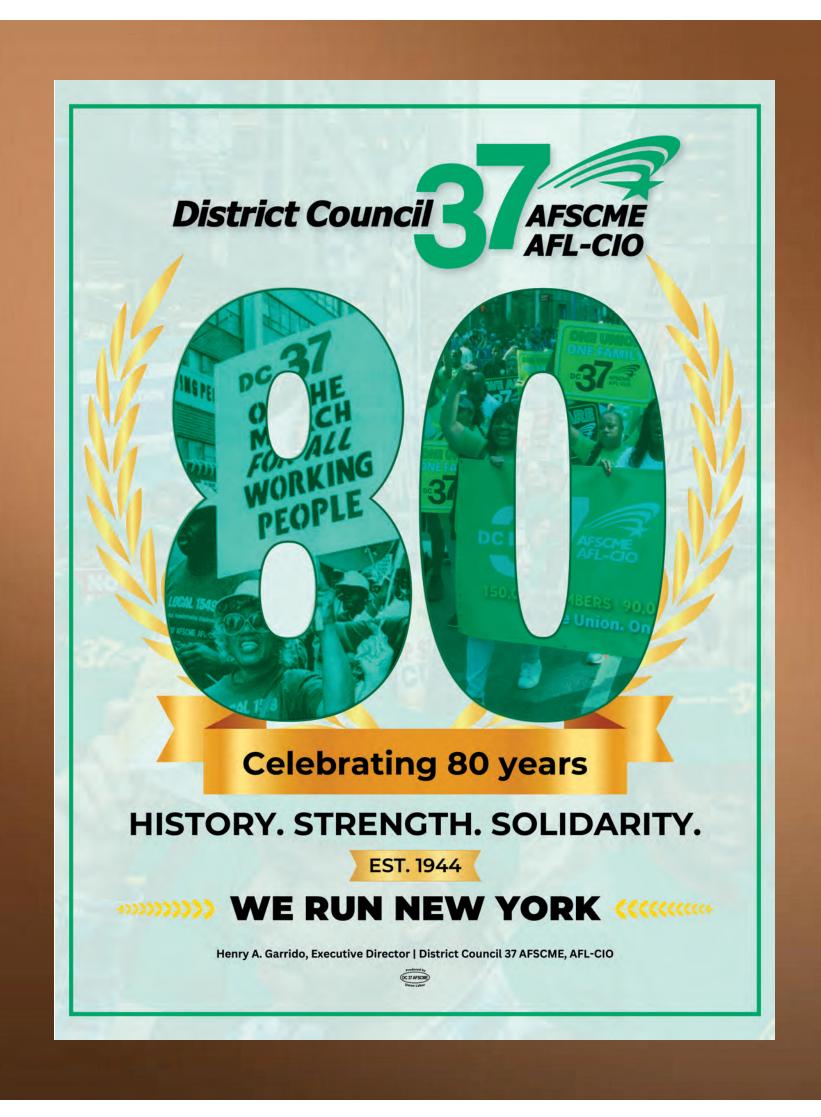


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> Congratulations to The 2024 Scholarship Recipients



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And we salute this year's Rising Leader

Justice Favor

Greater New York LECET

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We Applaud the Efforts of Our Friends CWA Local 1180 President Gloria Middleton and Past President Arthur Cheliotes In This Important Endeavor.

> Alicia and Steven Gordon MIRKIN & GORDON, P.C.



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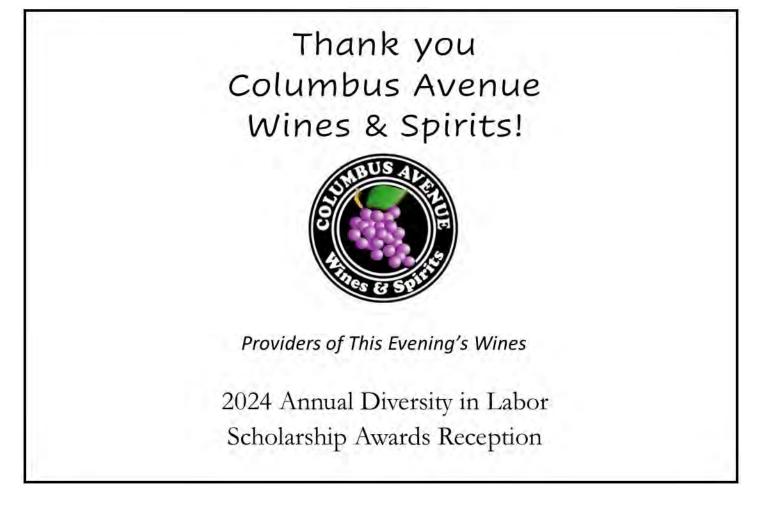
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