

THE CUNY SCHOOL OF LABOR  
AND URBAN STUDIES

# JOSEPH S. MURPHY SCHOLARSHIP FOR DIVERSITY IN LABOR

RECEPTION AND AWARDS



INTRODUCING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS  
FOR THE 2025-26 ACADEMIC YEAR

*RECOGNIZING LABOR'S RISING LEADER*



# 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, 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 one of CUNY's newest self-standing schools, 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 1,600 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 23 labor unions and community organizations currently serve on its Advisory Board.

# PROGRAM

## Welcome

Elizabeth Sergile  
Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs/  
Chief Academic Officer

## Dean's Remarks

Gregory Mantsios  
Founding Dean

## Guest Speaker

Murad Awawdeh, President and CEO  
New York Immigration Coalition

## 2025 RISING LEADER

Odetty Tineo, Political and Legislative Director  
District Council 37

*Presented by Henry A. Garrido  
Executive Director, District Council 37*

## 2025 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

*Presented by CUNY SLU Faculty*

*Ellen Dichner, Distinguished Lecturer, Labor Studies; Stephanie Luce, Department Chair,  
Professor, Labor Studies; Samir Sonti, Assistant Professor, Urban Studies*

Tara Borth, SEIU John Reid Award  
Terence Pyle, Albert Neumann Scholarship Award  
Brianna Rodriguez, Morton Bahr Scholarship Award  
Katie Schools, David Livingston Memorial Scholarship Award  
Nicholas Simmons, 1199SEIU Basil Paterson Scholarship Award  
Mohammad Sultan, Jay Mazur ILGWU Memorial 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 Cheliotos, Business Manager

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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  
[Vacant]  
(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. Bruce Giddings, 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)  
Marco Carrion, President  
(alt. Deborah Buxton, Deputy Director of Education)

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Stuart Applebaum, President

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Manny Pastreich, President  
(alt. Lenore Friedlaender, Assistant to the President)  
(alt. Linda Nelson, Director, Training Fund)

Transportation Workers Union (TWU) Local 100  
[Vacant]  
(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  
Anthony Lackhan, President  
(alt. vacant)

Professional Staff Congress (PSC)  
James Davis, President

Writers Guild of America, East (WGAE)  
Sam Wheller, Executive Director

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

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Charlene Obernauer, Executive Director

Community Voices Heard  
Juanita Lewis, Executive Director

New York Immigration Coalition  
Murad Awawdeh, Executive Director

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Richard Winsten, Esq

\* denotes Advisory Board Chair

**LOCAL 1180**

6 Harrison Street



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Dear Colleagues and Friends:

Welcome to the 2025 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. These ideals are being callously attacked by the present administration. The Scholarship is our commitment to educating a new generation of labor and community leaders who will stand up for working-class communities and a diverse 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.

Together, the unions and community organizations on our Board represent millions of workers and working-class families. For our constituents—largely women and people of color—education is critical to professional advancement and a better quality of life. Through SLU, our members have earned college degrees as well as professional certificates. Going forward, SLU is committed to expanding its liberal arts programs in Labor and Urban studies and creating more workforce programs for economic mobility. Across the board, education for leadership is fundamental to the mission of our 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; and I urge new donors to reach deep into their pockets to sustain this Scholarship for the long haul.

Sincerely,

Arthur Cheliotas  
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 2025 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 2025-26 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.

As we gather tonight, our nation faces unprecedented challenges to democracy and to the fundamental principles of equality, freedom of thought, and compassion for those in need. In the face of these challenges, we remain committed to the principle that guides our Diversity Scholarship: to prepare a new generation of diverse leadership in the labor movement and in other institutions that stand for workers' rights and economic equality.

I am very proud of the accomplishments that have brought us to this moment. 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 Cheliotis; 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,

Gregory Mantsios  
Founding Dean



# Guest Speaker



## Murad Awawdeh

President and CEO

New York Immigration Coalition

Murad Awawdeh is a strategist, organizer, and advocacy expert currently serving as the President and CEO at the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC). The son of Palestinian immigrants, Murad has dedicated his life to fighting for low-income communities of color across New York State and the nation.

He grew up organizing to stop dangerous and hazardous developments in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, and engaging community residents to build power and bring transformational change to their neighborhoods.

At the helm of NYIC, he has worked to welcome tens of thousands of recent arrivals, advocate for their needs, and strengthen the ecosystem of community organizations serving immigrant communities. He's successfully led electoral, legislative, and policy campaigns at the federal, state and local levels, and mobilized hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers at demonstrations against anti-immigrant policies. As the Executive Vice President of NYIC Action, the NYIC's sister 501(c)4 political advocacy and action organization, he has led grassroots electoral campaigns to elect progressive candidates.

Murad has been honored with a U.S Congressional Recognition, and public service awards from the New York State Senate and Assembly. He serves as a Trustee of the New York University Family Health Centers Board, a member of the Justice 2020 Committee, and as Commissioner of the New York City Civic Engagement Commission.

# 2025 Rising Leader Award Recipient



## Odetty Tineo

Political and Legislative Director  
District Council 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO

Odetty Tineo knows a thing or two about fighting – and winning. Especially when it comes to the rights of working people and their families. She leads the Political Department for AFSCME District Council 37, the largest municipal union in New York City, where she coordinates the union’s legislative agenda, lobbying statewide and local elected officials on legislative items that impact her members. In just a few years, Odetty has already helped DC 37 win numerous key political victories statewide and in all five boroughs that have benefited New York’s public employees.

There have been other victories, too. Before DC 37, Odetty organized hundreds of non-union workers for SEIU 32BJ, where she served as lead organizer for five years. Then, as Downstate Political Director at the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA), she coordinated statewide legislative drives, including campaigns for the acclaimed “Safe Staffing Act” and “NY HERO Act,” helping nurses win more favorable staffing levels.

Odetty was born and raised in New York City and graduated from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. She sits on the board of Eleanor’s Legacy, a statewide organization that works to recruit, train, and support pro-choice Democratic women at the state and local level in New York.

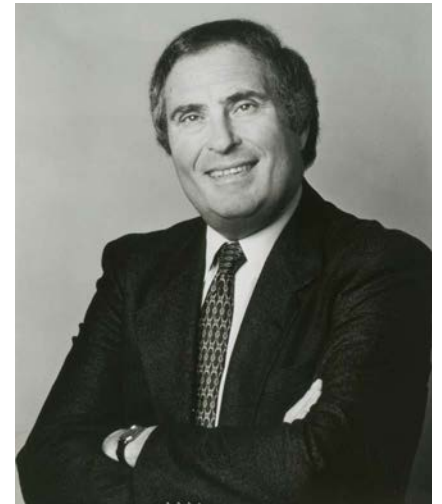
Behind all the victories is passion, Odetty’s passion for helping working people and underrepresented communities find their voice in the political sphere.

# Scholarships Honor Morton Bahr, Jay Mazur, 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.

**Jay Mazur**, 1932–2025, was the last president of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union (ILGWU), serving from 1986 to 1995. He then served as the first president of its successor, the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE), from 1995 until his retirement in 2001. Born in the Bronx to immigrant parents, with his father working as a presser in a garment factory, Mazur’s journey from humble beginnings to the leadership of a storied union was extraordinary. After graduating from Theodore Roosevelt High School, he joined the ILGWU as staff, enrolled in the union’s training program and rose through its ranks to become the president. In a career that spanned seven decades, he fought for human rights, labor rights, civil rights, and social justice. He was especially renowned for championing immigrants’ rights and global labor solidarity.



**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

## 2025 RECIPIENTS



**TARA BORTH**  
SEIU John Reid  
Award

MASTER'S IN LABOR STUDIES



**TERENCE PYLE**  
Albert Neumann  
Scholarship Award

MASTER'S IN LABOR STUDIES



**BRIANNA RODRIGUEZ**  
Morton Bahr  
Scholarship Award

MASTER'S IN LABOR STUDIES



**KATIE SCHOOLS**  
David Livingston Memorial  
Scholarship Award

MASTER'S IN LABOR STUDIES



**NICHOLAS SIMMONS**  
1199SEIU Basil Paterson  
Scholarship Award

MASTER'S IN LABOR STUDIES



**MOHAMMAD TIPU SULTAN**  
Jay Mazur ILGWU  
Memorial Scholarship Award

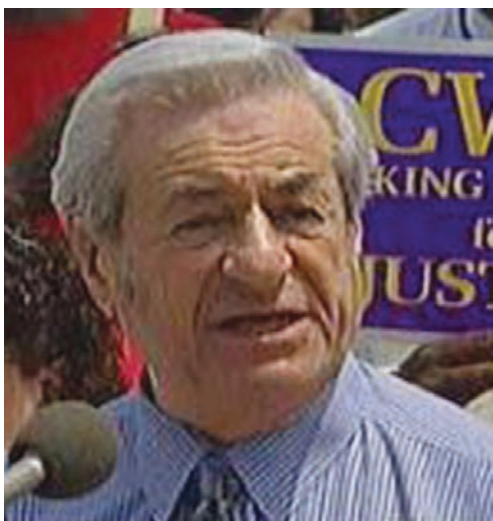
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1926-2019

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.

**CWA Stronger Together**



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*Congratulations*

### 2025 RISING LEADER

Odetty Tineo

DC 37 Political and Legislative Director

& the 2025 Diversity Scholarship Recipients

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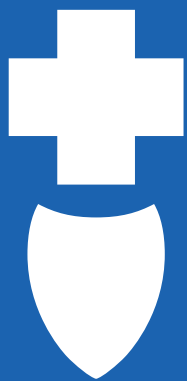
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## ***Quality Care & Good Jobs For All***

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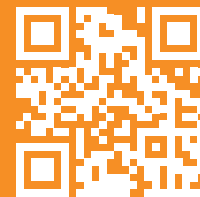
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and to the  
Chair, Advisory Board and Staff  
of  
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# newLabor Forum

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covering the full range of challenges that confront workers and working-class communities, including: the growth of low-wage service and precarious work • labor and social movement organizing strategy • surveillance capitalism • Black Lives Matter and Police Unions • U.S. and global political trends • carceral labor • immigration policy • organized labor and the #metoo movement • pay inequity • LGBTQ workplace discrimination • labor's relationship to the American empire • labor's role in mitigating the climate crisis • tech worker organizing in China • organized labor in post-Apartheid South Africa • the Chinese belt and road initiative • the ebb and flow of the pink tide in Latin America • organizing among informal workers in the global south • efforts to establish an Asia floor wage • the rise of economic nationalism in Europe

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IN WORKERS'  
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