



WOMEN IN EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

MEET THE 2026 COHORT

We are excited to introduce the 2026 Women in Executive Leadership (WEL) cohort! The participants will sharpen critical leadership skills and deepen their civic engagement through hands-on exploration of challenges facing women leaders in New York City. Over three months, this cross-sector cohort of accomplished senior women executives will strengthen their leadership capacity, broaden their influence, and connect with a thriving community of women leaders and changemakers committed to generating impact, affecting change, and advancing New York.



Amy Latorres (she/her)

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND CAREER SERVICES, CHINESE-AMERICAN PLANNING COUNCIL

Amy Latorres is the Director of Education and Career Services at the Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC), where she leads youth development and workforce initiatives across New York City. With over 20 years of experience in youth and community development, Amy has designed and scaled programs that support youth, families, immigrants, and low-income communities in accessing educational opportunity and economic mobility. Her work emphasizes cross-sector collaboration to address systemic inequities, with civic interests spanning youth leadership, immigrant advocacy, and community-centered systems change. Through the Women in Executive Leadership program, she hopes to deepen her strategic leadership practice, strengthen her executive voice, and learn alongside women leaders committed to lasting social impact.



Arianne Saxton (she/her)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND FOUNDER, A SOLUTION

Arianne Saxton is the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of A Solution, a program management consulting firm where she serves as a Fractional Chief Program Officer to mission-driven organizations. With more than 15 years of experience in the social justice and impact sector, she leads complex portfolios that drive measurable impact, strengthen financial performance, and position organizations for long-term stability. Her work spans social justice to health equity, bringing strategic leadership, operational rigor, and a focus on sustainable growth. She sees Coro as an opportunity to deepen her executive presence, expand her leadership capacity, and grow within a community that challenges and inspires collective progress toward sustainable, long-term change.



Dr. Carla Smith (she/her) [in](#)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, THE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER

Dr. Carla Smith is the Chief Executive Officer of The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center in New York City, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering and advocating for LGBTQ+ communities. With nearly 30 years of experience in social services and nonprofit leadership, she oversees the organization's financial, programmatic, and operational functions, supporting close to 300,000 LGBTQ+ New Yorkers each year. Prior to joining The Center, Dr. Smith served as Deputy Chief Executive Officer at Urban Resource Institute, where she helped expand the organization's budget from \$18 million to more than \$100 million in eight years while advancing trauma-informed and survivor-centered programs. She holds a Doctorate of Education in Executive Leadership from Saint John Fisher University and is a recognized voice on issues impacting marginalized communities.



Cheryl Williams, Esq. (she/her) [in](#)

EXECUTIVE DEPUTY COUNSEL, NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Cheryl N. Williams, Esq., is a servant leader who operates through an equity lens, providing clear solutions to complex problems. As an Executive Deputy Counsel in New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) she guides multidisciplinary teams, delivering powerful change management for legal processes. Cheryl has held several roles in NYCPS including Senior Executive Director of the Impartial Hearing Office. She began her legal career at the Legal Aid Society of New York City engaging in individual and federal class action litigation, training, community outreach, and legislative lobbying. Cheryl received her Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies with a double minor in English and Anthropology from John Jay College, and her Juris Doctor from Quinnipiac University. A proud Brooklynite, Cheryl engages in many community activities and is active in her church.



Hildalyn Colon Hernández (she/her) [in](#)

CHIEF OPERATIONS AND STRATEGIC OFFICER, NEW IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Hildalyn Colon Hernandez is the Chief Operations and Strategic Officer at New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE), where she leads the organization's strategic vision and programs to empower immigrant workers across New York City, including launching PreAPLW, a first-of-its-kind workforce development initiative for immigrant workers. A seasoned advocate for worker rights, she played a key role in securing landmark labor protections for app-based delivery workers through Los Deliveristas Unidos and previously co-lead efforts at the New York County District Attorney's Office to hold corporations accountable for wage theft and unsafe working conditions. Her advocacy has contributed to transformative legislation, including the Wage Theft Accountability Act and Carlos' Law. She holds a Master's degree in Labor Relations from Rutgers University and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Puerto Rico.



Kate Slevin (she/her) [in](#)

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION

Kate is Executive Vice President at Regional Plan Association, a century-old urban planning nonprofit advancing equitable economic growth and environmental resilience for the NYC metropolitan region, overseeing programs across New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

Since joining RPA in 2016, Kate has led work on congestion pricing, advocated for the Interborough Express, established the Healthy Regions Planning Exchange, and built coalitions to address the affordable housing crisis. Over two decades, she has helped secure billions of dollars in funding for transit, cycling, walking, and sustainable development. Previously, Kate served as Assistant Commissioner at the NYC Department of Transportation and Executive Director of the Tri-State Transportation Campaign. She received the 2025 City and State Above and Beyond Award: Women. Kate holds a master's in urban planning from NYU and a bachelor's from Wesleyan University. She has two children and two dogs, and can often be found on her e-bike, gardening, or cheering on her kids from the soccer sidelines.



Lynette Battle (she/her) [in](#)

FOUNDER & STRATEGIST, EMPOWERED VENTURES LLC

Lynette Battle is a nonprofit strategist and founder of EmpowerED Ventures, with more than 25 years of experience in community development focused on economic empowerment and capacity building within historically excluded communities. She specializes in sustainable economic development, fundraising, and board development. Previously, as Director of Economic Development at Bridge Street Development Corporation and Interim Executive Director of the Bed-Stuy Gateway Business Improvement District, she led community revitalization initiatives and secured vital resources for local businesses during the pandemic. A passionate advocate for education, Lynette has led multiple PTAs and advanced governance and accountability reforms as PTSA President for Elmont Memorial High School. Lynette currently serves as a Trustee for the Elmont Union Free School District, the Sewanhaka Central HS District, and is a proud member of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women Long Island Chapter. She resides in Valley Stream with her son Quincy and their dog, Starr. Her commitment to transparency, vision, and integrity continues to inspire and effect positive change within her community.



Perla Rodriguez (she/her)

NATIONAL DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS, THE HISPANIC FEDERATION

Perla Rodriguez is a lifelong educator, reader, and writer who serves as the National Director for Education Programs at the Hispanic Federation (HF), the nation's premier Latino nonprofit membership organization. With decades of experience in education and community development, she is dedicated to expanding opportunity and advancing educational equity for Latino and underserved students. In her role, Perla leads a national portfolio of initiatives that strengthen pathways to higher education, support first-generation students, and build partnerships with schools, colleges, and community organizations. Her expertise includes program development, strategic planning, and stakeholder engagement, and she has led numerous initiatives that address educational disparities and promote student success. Perla holds a Master's in Secondary English Education from the City College of New York (CUNY) and an MFA in Creative Writing from The New School. She was named City & State's Higher Education Power 100 in 2022 and 2023.



Tiffany Bostic (she/her)

CHIEF OF SUPPORT SERVICES, ACHIEVEMENT FIRST

Tiffany Bostic serves as Chief of Support Services at Achievement First, a multi-state charter school, where she leads strategy for special education, multilingual learner support, mental health, family engagement, and inclusive services across 39 schools, 150,000 students. She is also the Founder and Principal Consultant of Heart Educator & Healer, a clinical consultancy dedicated to helping people and organizations heal and thrive by creating cultures where authenticity, well-being, and high performance coexist. Passionate about education equity and public health, Tiffany is committed to redesigning youth-serving systems through a healing-centered and equity driven lens. Through the Coro Women in Executive Leadership Fellowship, she hopes to strengthen her executive leadership and cultivate cross-sector partnerships that advance youth and community well-being.