



Workforce Systems Leadership Program

MEET THE 2023-24 COHORT

We are excited to introduce the 2023 Workforce Systems Leadership Program (WSLP) cohort! WSLP has brought together a group of senior leaders to help them meet the challenges in the workforce development field while fostering the kind of cross-sector collaboration that will be even more critical to New York City in the months and years to come.



Adam Vieira

SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, THE BROOKLYN NAVY YARD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Adam Vieira is the Senior Project Manager for Workforce Development at the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation (BNYDC). Adam manages industry partnerships and work-based learning for the Brooklyn STEAM Center, a career and technical training school immersed within the Brooklyn Navy Yard's industrial environment that supports a diverse student body from high schools across Brooklyn. Prior to his role at BNYDC, Adam managed various operational and technical product teams in the private sector supply chain at McMaster-Carr Supply Company. Adam later helped build the Community Resilience Prize and Samvid Scholars programs while as a Senior Associate at Samvid Ventures.



Alanna Kelly

PROGRAM MANAGER OF JUSTICE THROUGH CODE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Alanna Kelly is the Program Manager of Justice Through Code at Columbia University (JTC), a three time Columbia University Change Agent awardee, and a graduate of the School of General Studies at Columbia University, having majored in Sociology. Her passion and dedication to JTC's vision of creating a world where every person, regardless of past convictions or incarceration, can access life-sustaining and meaningful careers stems from her experience of incarceration in 2019. She believes that access to education and career pathways provide the ability for returning citizens to heal from the trauma that leads to and is often reinforced through the experience of incarceration. Alanna is deeply passionate and motivated by increasing access to opportunities.



Alex Geyzburg

SENIOR PROGRAM DESIGN MANAGER OF PROJECT BASED LEARNING, COOP CAREERS

Alex Geyzburg is the Senior Program Design Manager of Project Based Learning at COOP Careers. He works with underrepresented recent college grads, small businesses, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit organizations, as well as digital marketers and data analysts. He is an immigrant from Ukraine who was raised by a single mother and grandmother in NYC. He is fluent in Russian and Ukrainian. He graduated from Baruch College and then joined COOP Careers as an apprentice, which led to his first digital marketing job at an agency. After working in Display Advertising for about five years, he wanted to find a career path that felt more impactful. He has been with COOP Careers for the past 2.5 years, where he oversees Project Based Learning on a national level.



Christina Xenos

DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, PER SCHOLAS

Christina Xenos is the Director of Strategic Partnerships at Per Scholas New York. Per Scholas offers free hands-on technology training, career services, learner support, and job placements to adult learners at locations in all five boroughs. She moved to the U.S. from Sweden in 2017 and has continued to work in the workforce sector here in New York City. She has been employed by both private and public stakeholders, and during her last eight years in Sweden, she worked for The Way Out! Cooperatives leading the nonprofit franchise organization. She studied at the University of Gothenburg and Universite III Aix-Marseille, France. She speaks Swedish, English, and French.



Eliza Loehr

ADVISOR OF PATHWAYS INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIP, NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Broadly, Eliza's role focuses on developing her team's strategy for workforce development, employer engagement, and overall partnerships to support New York City public school students. Before this, she was the Executive Director of the Food Education Fund, a culinary education nonprofit supporting students across New York City. She speaks English, some Spanish, and a tiny bit of French. She is a graduate of Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon, and Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Institute in Paris, France, and is currently pursuing a Master's of Public Administration at the Marxe School of Public and International Affairs. She was recently awarded the Partner of the Year Award by the United Federation of Teachers and the Leadership Award from Food & Finance High School.



Florencia Giordano

SENIOR ADVISOR, THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Florencia Giordano is a Senior Advisor at the Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity, where she manages a portfolio of initiatives, projects, and evaluations across a range of issue areas that are ultimately focused on increasing equity and reducing poverty with evidence-based, innovative solutions. Her current work targets various communities and populations, including immigrants, opportunity youth, and individuals with legal system involvement. She has over a decade of experience working in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. She is originally from Argentina but has called NYC home for over a decade. She speaks Spanish and some French.



Joseph DiCosta

DIRECTOR BROOKLYN CAREER ADVANCE, GRANT ASSOCIATES

Joseph "Joel" DiCosta is the Director at Brooklyn Career Advance at Grant Associates. They provide Educational, Training, and Job Placement services to individuals in Public Assistance. He is married and a proud father of a 17-year-old son and a 12-year-old daughter. He resides in Verona, NJ, and is originally from Newark, NJ. He has been working at Grant Associates for the past ten years, starting as an Account Manager and working his way up to Director.



Joshua Steckel

SENIOR DIRECTOR, COLLEGE AND CAREER ADVISING, NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Joshua is currently the Senior Director for College and Career Advising in the Office of Student Pathways at the New York City Department of Education. For the first part of his career, he worked as a community coordinator and then as a school counselor supporting students and families with college and career planning at schools in Brooklyn. During that time, he began work as a writer and advocate for policy and programs that made access to high-quality college and career advising a fundamental part of the school experience for New York City students. In the last seven years, he has been working inside the central administration of New York City Public Schools with the ambition of developing policies and programs that make good on that commitment.



Justina Sharrock-Brown

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SUCCESS, THE ISAACS CENTER

Justina currently serves as the Director of Community Engagement and Success at The Isaacs Center, overseeing recruitment, engagement, and retention efforts, working to develop and execute educational and career advancement programming. Transitioning from working with a younger population to adolescents and adults was a refreshing change and solidified her commitment to the growth and development of people who are often underrepresented.



Kevin Ly

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL POPULATIONS, THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

Kevin Ly is a dedicated workforce development leader with experience in national training programs, grant writing, and partnerships with organizations such as Google and the NFL. He currently serves as the Director of Special Populations at the National Urban League, overseeing portfolios on Apprenticeship grants and Reentry Grants. Kevin has a track record of managing workforce development programs across multiple cities in the United States. With expertise in nonprofit management, strategic planning, and capacity building, he aims to contribute to areas such as education and training, grant writing, and urban policy. Kevin is a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and The New School.



Melinda Garrett

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR ECONOMIC MOBILITY, NEW YORK CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Melinda Garrett is the Assistant Vice President for Economic Mobility at the New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC). Her portfolio includes developing EDC's workforce strategy, placing New York City talent as a central tenet of inclusive economic development efforts for our priority industries, as well as our vast real estate portfolio, investments, and capital projects. Throughout her Economic and Urban Development work, Melinda has focused on strategies and approaches that help private sector actors leverage investments and programs for the public good, previously working at the intersection of public and private affordable housing in the Inclusionary Housing Department at the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development.



Michelle Rosa

DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT, NEW YORK CITY MAYOR'S OFFICE OF TALENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Michelle has over 18 years of experience working in City Government and the nonprofit sector. She is a passionate professional with experience in youth development and is driven by the power of community. She has spent most of her career in the intersection of schools and communities, working to improve educational outcomes and create opportunities for young people in traditionally underserved neighborhoods. Her expertise, experience, and relationships very much add to and complement her existing team.



Nariman Heikal

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF HIGHER ED PARTNERSHIPS, IMENTOR

Nariman Heikal is the Senior Director of Higher Ed Partnerships at iMentor. She supports first-generation college students to reach their highest postsecondary and career aspirations through the power of mentorship in collaboration with higher ed institutions and workplace partners. She has been with iMentor since 2015. Before iMentor, she was a middle school teacher in Newark, NJ, through Teach For America. She is the first college graduate and American in her family and had the privilege of graduating debt-free from the University of North Carolina through a need-based scholarship. She speaks Arabic and Spanish and is honored and excited to be learning alongside this group!



Priya Ramanathan

VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT AND WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIPS, GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Priya is the Vice President of Government and Workforce Partnerships at General Assembly, building innovative training opportunities for underrepresented talent to access General Assembly's industry-leading digital skills training. Prior to General Assembly, Priya was the Vice President of Growth and Strategy at Per Scholas, leading expansion efforts and significantly scaling program operations nationally. She has also held operations and strategy roles at the New York City Department of Small Business Services and the Brooklyn Navy Yard.



Ramone Davis

WORKFORCE MANAGER, KIPP FORWARD, NYC

Ramone Davis is the Manager of Workforce Advisement at KIPP Forward in New York City. For over a decade, Ramone has been highly effective in providing college readiness, career advisement, counseling, and instruction in the nonprofit sector. In his current role, he establishes programming and processes for Career & Technical Education (CTE) bound high school students and alumni. During his tenure managing the Workforce Team at KIPP NYC, the scope of his team's postsecondary work expanded from solely serving KIPP NYC alumni to supporting recent graduates interested in CTE pathways from other KIPP regions and charter networks in Connecticut, New Jersey, and Philadelphia.



Saki Mori

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS, PERCH ADVISORS LLC

Saki Mori contributes over 15 years of program delivery, operations, and executive management in New York City and national nonprofit organizations. Saki worked at Workforce Professionals Training Institute from 2012 to 2020, overseeing its day-to-day operations. She is the Director of Special Projects at Perch Advisors, managing workforce and economic development projects. Saki volunteers as the President of the New York chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League. She is a graduate of Trinity College with a dual degree in Political Science and French Language & Literature. She is also an alumna of Columbia Business School's Executive Education - Developing Leaders Program.



Shawn Pilgrim

DIRECTOR OF STAFF LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT, WEST SIDE FEDERATION FOR SENIOR AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Shawn Pilgrim is the Director of Staff Learning and Development at West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing (WSFSSH) with buildings in Chelsea, Upper West Side, Harlem, and The Bronx. He is fluent in English and Spanish.



Stephanie Klocke

DIRECTOR OF CAREER SERVICES, GREEN CITY FORCE

Stephanie Klocke is the Director of Career Services at Green City Force (GCF). She leads a team supporting more than 100 young adults annually through career exploration, training, and job placement, allowing them to connect to and maintain employment in the sustainability sector. Prior to joining GCF in 2017, Stephanie led the Corporate Work Study Program at Cristo Rey Brooklyn, where she matched low-income high school students with paid internships at leading corporate firms throughout New York City. Stephanie started in the workforce field through AmeriCorps in Pittsburgh, PA, where she guided newly resettled refugees to find employment in their new city.



Travis Fox

HEAD OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, THE MARCY LAB SCHOOL

Travis is the Head of Strategic Partnerships at the Marcy Lab School, working with tech companies in New York City to create inclusive talent pipelines that open doors for all students. Prior to Marcy, Travis led corporate partnership efforts at the New York City Tech Talent Pipeline, served on the founding team of Washington Leadership Academy, and worked in a number of startup and education organizations. He is an alumnus of the University of Southern California. In his free time, Travis enjoys being the favorite uncle to two adorable nieces, exploring his home, Brooklyn, NY, and making nerdy podcasts.



Trey Michael Reid

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, THE HOPE PROGRAM

Trey Michael Reid has worked in workforce development as an Account Manager at Grant Associates, as Assistant Director of Strategic Partnerships and Business Services at The Hope Program, and as Director of Construction Services at PINCC for Human Resources Administration. He has recognized the urgent need to uplift those with limited resources to training opportunities. Born to immigrant parents, he empathizes with their struggle to access opportunities. Now, he passionately leverages his expertise and platform to make a compelling impact, empowering my community for a better future.



Unzila Chowdhury

DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS STRATEGIST, LAAL NYC

Unzila Chowdhury is the Development and Operations Strategist at Laal NYC, serving underserved Bengali women in the Bronx.