



McSILVER INSTITUTE
FOR POVERTY POLICY AND RESEARCH

THE
**McSILVER
AWARDS**
2013
2014
2015
2016
PAST HONOREES



NYU SILVER SCHOOL
OF SOCIAL WORK

2016



David Gómez, EdD
President, Eugenio María de Hostos Community College, City University of New York
Dr. David Gómez was appointed President of Hostos Community College by the CUNY Board

of Trustees in June 2015 after having served as Interim President since July 2014. Previously, Dr. Gómez was a longtime senior administrator at Kingsborough Community College and a Professor in Kingsborough's Department of Behavior and Social Sciences. Dr. Gómez also served as a consultant, locally and nationally, assisting community college leaders to improve the quality of services at their institutions. No stranger to Hostos, Dr. Gómez spent more than a decade in senior administrative positions at the College from 1974-1986, including Dean of the College, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs, Associate Dean of the College, and Special Assistant to the President.

Dr. Gómez's publications and research interests have focused on the community college movement. In recent years, he has examined critical practices that can move institutions "from good to great," the importance of student support services in advancing student success, and aligning the objectives of the institution's main divisions to achieve common goals.

Born and raised in New York City, Dr. Gómez is a proud product of New York City public schools. He holds a BA from The State University of New York at Albany, and both a master's and doctoral degree from Teachers College, Columbia University.



Phillip A. Saperia
Former CEO, The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, Inc.
From October 1994 through April 2016, Phillip Saperia served as Executive Director of The Coalition of Behavioral Health

Agencies, the umbrella advocacy organization of New York's behavioral health community, representing over 130 non-profit community based behavioral health agencies that serve more than 350,000 clients.



Throughout his tenure at the Coalition, Mr. Saperia was immersed in mental health public policy, government support of community mental health, the evolution of public managed care programs for people living with mental illness and the emerging area of employment for people with psychiatric disabilities. He oversaw the Coalition's program of education advocacy and technical assistance to the diverse community-based behavioral health providers of New York City.

Mr. Saperia has been in the fields of community and government relations for over 20 years. Before coming to the Coalition, he was a consultant to several not-for-profit agencies on matters related to community siting of special care housing and on the development of local community advisory boards. During the mayoral administration of David Dinkins, he served as Director of the Mayor's Office of Jewish Community Affairs. Mr. Saperia graduated with a BA in Politics from Brandeis University. He holds an MAT from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education where he was elected to Phi Delta Kappa, the National Honorary Education Society.



Linda Sarsour
Activist and Executive Director, Arab American Association of New York

Linda Sarsour is a working woman, racial justice and civil rights activist, a mother of

three, and in her own words, "every Islamophobe's worst nightmare." Ambitious, outspoken and independent, Ms. Sarsour shatters stereotypes of Muslim women while also treasuring her religious and ethnic heritage. She is a Palestinian Muslim American and a self-proclaimed "pure New Yorker, born and raised in Brooklyn!" She is the Executive Director of the Arab American Association of New York and co-founder of the first Muslim online organizing platform, MPOWER Change.

Ms. Sarsour has been at the forefront of major civil rights campaigns including calling for an end to unwarranted surveillance of New York's Muslim communities, and ending police policies like stop-and-frisk. In the wake of the police murder of Mike Brown, she co-founded Muslims for Ferguson to build solidarity amongst American Muslim communities and encourage work against police brutality. She is a member of the Justice League NYC, a leading NYC force of activists, formerly incarcerated individuals, and artists working to reform the New York Police Department and the criminal justice system.

In August 2015, The New York Times dubbed her "A Brooklyn Homegirl in a Hijab" and explained, "Mixing street smarts, activism and her Muslim identity, Linda Sarsour has become a political force."



Reverend Al Sharpton
Founder and President, National Action Network

Internationally renowned civil rights leader, founder and President of National Action Network (NAN), the Rev. Al

Sharpton has dedicated his life to the fight for justice and equality. As head of NAN, which currently operates over 100 chapters across the country, Rev. Sharpton has taken the teachings of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and applied them to a modern civil rights agenda.

He has been a tireless advocate for everything from police reform and accountability to protection of voting rights and education equality. Connecting the dots between domestic challenges in a global context, Rev. Sharpton often addresses international audiences and issues impacting people around the globe.

Rev. Sharpton often says, "We have progressed tremendously as a nation since the days of slavery, but discrimination and inequality saturate society in modern ways. Though racism may be less blatant today, its existence is undeniable and our job is to keep pushing for justice and the truth." Rev. Sharpton does precisely that in all aspects of his life. From anchoring the weekly MSNBC show "Politics Nation," to hosting the national radio shows "Keepin' it Real" and "The Hour of Power," as well as a weekly Saturday rally broadcast live from his NAN headquarters, he utilizes his multiple platforms to highlight issues and stories that would otherwise fall under the radar.



Sheena Wright
President and CEO, United Way of New York City

Sheena Wright was named President and CEO of United Way of New York City (UWNYC) in October 2012, the first woman

to lead the organization in its 75-year history. UWNYC is a non-profit, community service organization with a long and rich history of helping people build more self-sufficient lives. As one of the best-known nonprofits and part of

the worldwide United Way brand, UWNYS mobilizes our communities to eradicate barriers and create opportunities that improve the lives of low-income New Yorkers for the benefit of all. Under Ms. Wright's leadership, UWNYS focuses on implementing strategies in the areas of education, income, health, and strengthening non-profits.

Prior to joining UWNYS, Ms. Wright served as President and CEO of the Abyssinian Development Corporation, where she was responsible for leading and managing one of the nation's premiere community and economic development organizations. She serves on the board of trustees of the Vera Institute for Justice and the New York City Regional Economic Development Council.

Ms. Wright is a graduate of Columbia University, which she entered at age 16, received her law degree from Columbia Law School, and is a member of the New York State Bar. She was born and raised in the South Bronx and now lives in Harlem, New York with her three sons.



Mary McKernan McKay, PhD
Professor and
Inaugural Director,
McSilver Institute for
Poverty Policy and
Research, NYU Silver
School of Social Work

Dr. Mary McKernan McKay joined New York University Silver School of Social Work in September 2011 as Professor and Director of the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research. Prior to joining Silver, she served as the head of the Division of Mental Health Services Research at Mount Sinai. Working with colleagues in the field and with community stakeholders, she has developed a substantial body of research findings around meeting the mental health and health needs of children, youth, and families in poverty-impacted urban areas.

Dr. McKay has significant expertise in services and implementation research methods, as well as more than 15 years of experience conducting HIV prevention and care-oriented studies, all of which has been supported by continuous NIH funding. In addition, she has collaborated with the National Institute of Mental Health, the New York State Office of Mental Health, and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to create evidence-based engagement interventions and to test models of dissemination and training for mental health professionals in engagement best practices.

She has published over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles on mental and behavioral health, HIV/AIDS prevention and behavior modification, and other urban health issues, and she is a member of New York State's Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Oversight Panel.



Carolina Cordero Dyer
Associate Executive
Director and Chief
Financial Officer, The
Osborne Association
Carolina Cordero Dyer is the
Associate Executive Director
and Chief Financial Officer for

the Osborne Association, the oldest and most experienced organization in New York State serving men and women involved with the criminal justice system. During the 20 years she has led the organization's finance and resource management, the Osborne Association has grown more than four-fold and established a strong foundation to undertake groundbreaking innovation. The ABLE program on Rikers Island, funded by the nation's first social impact bond, offers cognitive behavioral therapy to nearly every adolescent in New York City jails. Osborne's Children, Youth, and Family Services and its NY Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents provide family reunification and advocacy opportunities for those who are too often impacted but forgotten by the criminal justice system.

Ms. Cordero Dyer has used her substantial real estate development expertise and financial acumen in service of Osborne's mission. She has been instrumental in the purchase and renovation of Osborne's Bronx headquarters and the acquisition and emerging transformation of the closed Fulton Correctional Facility into a welcoming reentry center, ensuring second chances not only for Osborne's participants but for the community's infrastructure as well.

Ms. Cordero Dyer is responsible for Osborne's social enterprises that employ more than 100 people in living-wage jobs. She spearheaded the creation of the Osborne Career Center to offer career-focused job opportunities to people with criminal records, and is a leading voice in the effort to pass the Fair Chance Act to remove unfair employment barriers for qualified job candidates who have a prior criminal conviction. She lives with her wife and twin children in White Plains, NY.



Tracie M. Gardner
Assistant Secretary of
Health, New York State
Executive Chamber,
Office of Governor
Andrew M. Cuomo

Tracie M. Gardner was
appointed Assistant Secretary

of Health by New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo on January 11, 2015. In this capacity she works under the Deputy Secretary of Health to provide oversight for the state's mental hygiene agencies, including the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, the Office of Mental Health, the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, and the newly formed Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs.

Ms. Gardner previously served as Co-Director of Policy for the Legal Action Center, where for 14 years she conducted and coordinated the Center's New York State public policy advocacy in the areas of substance use disorders, criminal justice, and HIV/AIDS. Among other important victories, she led advocacy campaigns that resulted in a multi-million dollar, permanent funding stream for New York State alternative-to-incarceration and reentry programs, secured landmark HIV confidentiality and testing legislation, and won comprehensive reform of the Rockefeller Drug Laws. Since 1989, she has worked on a wide array of city, state, and federal health and social service policy issues at agencies including Gay Men's Health Crisis, and the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies. The founder and long-time coordinator of the Women's Initiative to Stop HIV (WISH-NY), Ms. Gardner served on the New York State AIDS Advisory Council from 2001 until her appointment as Assistant Secretary of Health. She is the proud mother of two sons, ages 14 and 18.



Reverend Dr. Jacqui Lewis
Senior Minister and
Minister for Vision,
Worship, and the Arts,
Middle Collegiate Church;
and Executive Director

and Co- Founder, The Middle Project
The Reverend Dr. Jacqui Lewis is Senior Minister and Minister for Vision, Worship, and the Arts at the Middle Collegiate Church, a 900-member multiracial,

multicultural, and inclusive congregation in New York City. She is also the Executive Director and co-founder of The Middle Project, an institute that trains ethical faith leaders for a more just society.

As an activist, preacher, speaker, writer, and teacher, Dr. Lewis advocates for racial equality, gun control, economic justice, and equal rights for all sexual orientations and genders. She has traveled the country speaking on the power of multicultural and multiracial congregations to address racism and discrimination. In addition to teaching at Union Theological Seminary, Dr. Lewis has served as an adjunct faculty member at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, the Wesley Theological Seminary, and the Graduate Theological Union. She has preached at the Festival of Homiletics and at the Proctor Institute's Great Preachers Series at the Children's Defense Fund's Haley Farm, and has taught workshops at Haley Farm on multiracial and multicultural ministries.

Prior to joining Middle Collegiate Church in January 2004, Dr. Lewis was a Senior Consultant at the Alban Institute, leading a project on negotiating cultural boundaries. Her doctoral dissertation was published as a book entitled, The Power of Story: A Guide for Leaders in Multiracial/Multicultural Congregations, and she is also the author of a children's book, You Are So Wonderful! a rhyming celebration of diversity. Together with her husband, the Rev. John Janka, co-founder of The Middle Project, she offers consulting services to congregations and religious institutions and trains the next generation of young professionals in social justice and community building.



Margarette Purvis
President and Chief
Executive Officer,
Food Bank For New
York City

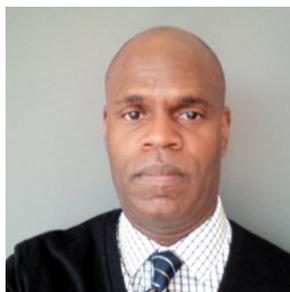
Margarette Purvis leads Food
Bank For New York City, the
country's largest food bank

serving one out of every five New Yorkers. Ms. Purvis leads and oversees the strategic vision for all of Food Bank's operations, philanthropy, and programming, including the organization's citywide food distribution system and member network of over 1,000 charities and schools.

Ms. Purvis has more than 20 years of experience in service to the nation's most vulnerable. Prior to becoming Food Bank's President and CEO in 2011, Ms. Purvis was CEO and Principal of PCG Services, an Atlanta-based firm that developed and implemented

social and philanthropic programming and branding strategies. She was previously Vice President of National Programming at the Points of Light Foundation, where she directed the launch and implementation of multimillion dollar programs and civic engagement units and oversaw large scale disaster initiatives in response to Hurricane Katrina. Earlier in her career, as Food Bank's Vice President of Programs and Services, she developed national award-winning programs, including the Education Institute and Kids Café. Ms. Purvis' leadership also includes director and management level positions with Bailey House, the country's oldest HIV/AIDS program, and government programs including the USDA's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the City of New York's Human Resources Administration.

In 2014, the NonProfit Times named Ms. Purvis to its annual Power and Influence Top 50 national list. That same year, Governor Andrew Cuomo asked her to chair the New York State Anti-Hunger Task Force, and Mayor Bill de Blasio appointed her to the Community Schools Advisory Board.



Carlton Whitmore
Director, Office of
Consumer Affairs, New
York City Department
of Health and Mental
Hygiene

Carlton Whitmore is a
consumer/survivor and

Director at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Office of Consumer Affairs, responsible for assuring that the voices of mental health, developmental disabilities, and chemical dependency consumers are heard at all levels of city government. Mr. Whitmore's primary function in this role is to support recovery and advocacy activities for the city's consumers and to ensure consumer perspectives are included in all areas of system planning.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Whitmore was a supervisor at Goodwill Industries' Peer Advocacy Leadership program, a consumer-run mental health program where people living successfully with psychiatric disabilities assist others living with mental illness. His responsibilities there included providing support for consumers reentering the workplace. Over the years he has facilitated groups on both recovery and advocacy for the community. His peer perspective has

provided him with a unique opportunity to identify and implement effective supports to promote and sustain individual recovery. In both his personal and professional capacities, he has been an inspiration to countless other consumers/survivors and has helped foster a new generation of peer specialists.

Mr. Whitmore is a past recipient of the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services Brendan Nugent Award and a 2012 recipient of the NYC Coalition for Behavioral Health Leadership Award for inspiring consumer leadership and promoting the empowerment of New Yorkers with psychiatric disabilities.

2014



Pedro A. Noguera, PhD
Peter L. Agnew
Professor of
Education, New York
University

Pedro Noguera is the Peter L.
Agnew Professor of Education
at New York University. He

holds tenured faculty appointments in the departments of Teaching and Learning and Humanities and Social Sciences at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Development at NYU. He is also the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools. Dr. Noguera is the author of eight books and over 150 articles and monographs. His most recent books include *School for Resilience: Improving the Life Trajectory of African American and Latino Boys*, *Creating the Opportunity to Learn*, and *Invisible No More: Understanding and Responding to the Disenfranchisement of Latino Males*. Dr. Noguera appears as a regular commentator on CNN, MSNBC, National Public Radio, and other national news outlets. From 2009 – 2012, he served as a Trustee for the State University of New York (SUNY) as an appointee of the Governor. He serves on the boards of numerous national and local organizations including the Economic Policy Institute, the Young Women's Leadership Institute, The After School Corporation, and The Nation Magazine. In 2013, he was appointed to the Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society, and in 2014 he was appointed to the National Academy of Education and received an award for exemplary scholarship on urban education from the Advanced Center for Behavioral Sciences.



**Commissioner
Rosemonde Pierre-
Louis**

**Commissioner, Mayor's
Office to Combat
Domestic Violence**

Ms. Pierre-Louis was appointed
by New York City Mayor Bill

de Blasio as the Commissioner of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV) in January 2014. From 2006-2013, she served as Manhattan Deputy Borough President and was responsible for overseeing several of the Office's key initiatives related to transportation, domestic violence, food justice and security, sustainability, the environment, criminal justice, and the unprecedented reform of Manhattan's twelve Community Boards. Ms. Pierre-Louis spent twenty years as a public interest and legal services attorney representing low-income and working poor litigants as well as survivors of domestic violence throughout the New York State court system. She has been widely recognized as an advocate, educator, and attorney for women's and immigrant's rights, underserved communities, and survivors of domestic violence. Ms. Pierre-Louis completed her undergraduate studies in political science at Tufts University and earned a law degree at Case Western University School of Law. In 2013, she became the first recipient of the YWCA New York City Community Leadership Award in recognition of her work on behalf of women and children.



**Ruben Diaz Jr.
Bronx Borough
President**

Ruben Diaz Jr. first entered
public office as a member of
the New York State Assembly
in 1997 and is currently serving
his second full term as Bronx
Borough President. As borough

president, he has led the implementation of a "New Bronx" agenda on economic development, housing, education, and public safety. The Bronx has seen over \$5.7 billion in new development since Borough President Diaz took office in 2009. This includes more than \$600 million in housing and nearly 13,000 new units. Borough President Diaz has proven himself to be a fearless and tireless advocate for justice and equality for all. A staunch defender of the environment, he is a leading voice against environmental racism and injustice and helped lead the fight to restore the Bronx River.

The borough president has also implemented several bold health initiatives, including the Bronx CAN - Changing Attitudes Now - program, which aims to make small changes leading to greater health improvements in the long term. He graduated from Lehman College, City University of New York, with a B.A. in political theory. Borough President Diaz is also the recipient of honorary doctoral degrees in civil law from Berkeley College and Mercy College, and a doctoral degree in humane letters from the Metropolitan College of New York. A lifelong resident of the Bronx, Borough President Diaz lives in the Southeast Bronx with his wife and their two sons.



**Jonathan P. Edwards
Training Specialist,
Parachute NYC**

Jonathan P. Edwards is
the Training Specialist for
Parachute NYC, a federally-
funded project within the NYC
Department of Health and
Mental Hygiene. Through his

advocacy and involvement in the behavioral health field for over ten years, and driven by his personal experience with the mental health system, Mr. Edwards has played an integral role facilitating individual and system-wide change through programming and planning, clinical practice, training, and supervision. In his recent position as Director of Peer Services and Assistant Director of Wellness, Recovery, and Community Integration at Kings County Hospital Center (KCHC), he oversaw daily operations of peer services and supervised an unprecedented 24 peer counselors in a single NYC hospital. He has been instrumental to developing and facilitating multi-family groups to support the relatives and friends of individuals who utilized inpatient services. He earned Green-level certification in Lean methodology and served as team leader for a rapid improvement event to define, operationalize, and implement wellness and recovery principles and practices within behavioral health services at KCHC. He is also involved with the Community Access Howie the Harp Advocacy Center as a Peer Training Program instructor. Mr. Edwards has presented nationally and internationally on supervision, culture change, and recovery-oriented practice. He is a NYS Licensed Master Social Worker and a Doctoral Candidate in the social welfare program at Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College.



Andrea Elliott
Investigative Reporter,
The New York Times

Andrea Elliott is an investigative reporter for The New York Times. Her three-part series, "An Imam in America," was awarded the 2007 Pulitzer

Prize. In 2013, Ms. Elliott published "Invisible Child," a five-part series that chronicled the life of an 11-year-old homeless girl, winning the George Polk award for local reporting and the Scripps Howard award for human interest reporting. Ms. Elliott has reported extensively on Islam in a post-9/11 America and wrote in-depth stories on the black-immigrant divide, the radicalization of Somalis in Minneapolis, and the rise of the anti-shariah movement. One of her cover stories for The New York Times Magazine on Moroccan suicide bombers was a finalist for the 2008 National Magazine Award. Ms. Elliott has received honors from the Overseas Press Club, the American Society of Newspaper Editors, the Society of Professional Journalists and the New York Press Club. Her work has been featured in "Best Newspaper Writing" and "Islam for Journalists: A Primer on Covering Muslim American Communities in America." Ms. Elliott was raised in Washington, D.C., by a Chilean mother and an American father. A graduate of Occidental College, she graduated from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism in 1999, where she was class valedictorian. Before joining The Times, Ms. Elliott spent three years as a reporter at the Miami Herald. She and her husband, Tim Golden, live with their two daughters in New York City.

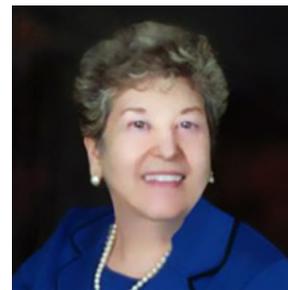
Business" by Crain's in 2007. She has also served as an adjunct professor for the Brooklyn College Program for Arts Administration. She has worked extensively to make music, art and theater accessible to all residents of New York City, including children, low-income adolescents, and senior citizens. She has published a widely-read book entitled Successful Fundraising for Arts & Cultural Institutions. Ms. Brooks received her Bachelors degree from the University of Maryland and a Masters in Fine Arts from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.



Thelma Dye, PhD
Executive Director,
Northside Center for
Child Development

Dr. Thelma Dye has been the executive director of the Northside Center for Child Development since 1994. This

is one of New York's oldest and most respected mental health agencies, serving over 1,500 children and their families each year. She has worked extensively as a clinical psychology consultant for schools, foster care agencies, mental health clinics and hospitals. Dr. Dye is a strong advocate for young people and their families, and is a board member of Covenant House, The Coalition of Voluntary Mental Health Agencies, and the Citizen's Committee for Children of New York, Inc., among others.



Rosa Gil, PhD
Founder, President and
CEO, Comunilife, Inc.

Dr. Rosa Gil is the Founder, President, and CEO of Comunilife, Inc, a multi-service non-profit organization committed to assisting

vulnerable New Yorkers, including those living with HIV/AIDS and mental illness, and the homeless, achieve self-sufficiency. Dr. Gil serves as a Commissioner on the Commission of Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century, and on Mayor Bloomberg's Commission on Women's Issues. She has experience consulting with a wide range of governmental task forces and panels on the city, state, and federal level and is the former Chairperson of the New York City Health and Hospital Corporation. She is the former Dean for Health Sciences at the City University of New York. In addition, Dr. Gil is a co-founder of several commissions on Latinos and is the co-author of The Maria Paradox, a book on self-esteem and Hispanic women. She is considered a pioneer in the field of social work.

2013



Karen Brooks Hopkins
President, Brooklyn
Academy of Music (BAM)

Ms. Hopkins has been the president of the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) since 1979, overseeing all facets of the Academy. She has served

as the Chair of The Cultural Institutions Group of NYC and the Mayor's Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, and is currently on the board of NYC & Company and the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership. A recipient of a multitude of art management awards, she was named one of the "100 Most Influential Women in New York City



Heather C. McGhee, JD
Vice President of
Policy and Outreach,
Demōs

Ms. McGhee is the Vice President of Policy and Outreach of Demos, a public policy organization committed to

promoting democracy, diversity, and equality. She is a vocal advocate on issues of democracy reform, economic opportunity, racial equity and financial regulation, and has provided commentary on numerous major news networks, including MSNBC, Fox, CNN, and National Public Radio. She is a regular contributor for “Countdown with Keith Olbermann” on Current TV. She has worked extensively to alleviate poverty and utilizes public media as an avenue for social change and awareness. Ms. McGhee holds a Bachelor of the Arts in American Studies from Yale University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley School of Law.



Lorie Slutsky
President, New York
Community Trust

Ms. Slutsky has been the President of New York Community Trust since 1990. She began at the Trust as a grant-writer focusing

on education, housing, neighborhood revitalization, and government and urban affairs. She moved to the position of Vice President in 1987, taking responsibility for strategic planning, personnel, budget management, and departmental oversight. Since becoming President, she has worked endlessly to fund nonprofits in New York City which implement programming for low-income families. In addition to her work at New York Community Trust, Ms. Slutsky serves on the Chief Judge’s Task Force to Expand Access to Civil Legal Services in New York State, and is a chair on the Task Force’s RFP Work Group. Additionally, she is a board member of the Independent Sector and co-chairs its Panel on the Nonprofit Sector. Ms. Slutsky received her Bachelors of the Arts from Colgate University and her Masters of the Arts from The New School.



**Chancellor Dennis
M. Walcott**
Chancellor, New York
City Department of
Education

Mr. Walcott is the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, overseeing

over 1,700 schools within the NYC educational system. Utilizing Mayor Bloomberg’s “Children First” reforms, he has committed himself to encouraging teacher talent, expanding individualized options for children and families in their school choices, fostering strong partnerships with parents, and preparing students for postsecondary and career success. Prior to his appointment at Chancellor, Mr. Walcott served as Mayor Bloomberg’s Deputy Mayor for Education and Community Development, through which he collaborated with community based organizations throughout NYC and shaped policies regarding youth programs and adult education. Mr. Walcott began his career as a kindergarten teacher, and in 1975 founded a peer mentoring program for young boys: Frederick Douglass Brother-to-Brother. Mr. Walcott earned his Bachelor’s Degree and Master of Education Degree from the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut, and later received his Masters of Social Work Degree from Fordham University.