



FOUNDED BY AUDREY COHEN IN 1964

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 20 23

## CELEBRATING THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE



# Our Mission

To provide a superior, experientially-based education that fosters personal and professional development, promotes social justice, and encourages positive change in workplaces and communities.



# Our Values

## **Integrity**

Establishing and maintaining the highest standards.

## **Innovation**

Identifying and implementing creative opportunities to provide quality programs and services.

## **Empowerment**

Assisting ourselves and others to become more effective and productive.

## **Diversity**

Actively promoting and supporting a community of different people and ideas.



# Message from the Board Chair



Dear Metropolitan College of New York Community,

As we approach the end of an era, I write to you with both a heavy heart and a sense of anticipation for the future. After six years of dedicated service and transformative leadership, President Joanne Passaro has announced her retirement from Metropolitan College of New York this summer 2024.

Under President Passaro's guidance, MCNY has experienced many transformations leading us into the future. Her unwavering commitment to our mission of providing a superior education that promotes social justice and positive change has shaped the very fabric of our institution. From expanding academic programs to fostering partnerships with local organizations and advocating for the needs of our students, President Passaro's impact on MCNY cannot be overstated.

As we bid farewell to President Passaro, we also look ahead with optimism and excitement for the future of MCNY. The Board of Trustees is committed to ensuring a smooth transition and selecting a successor who will continue to uphold our core values and lead MCNY with integrity and vision.

We are confident that with the dedication of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni, MCNY will continue to thrive as a beacon of excellence in higher education. Together, we will build upon our Founder, Audrey Cohen, and President Passaro's legacy and chart a course for continued growth, innovation, and success.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to President Passaro for her outstanding leadership and tireless dedication to the Metropolitan College of New York Community. We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to MCNY. Together, we will continue to shape the future of education and make a lasting impact on the lives of our students and the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary P. Jenkins". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Gary P. Jenkins**

Board Chair



# Message from the President



Dear Metropolitan College of New York Community,

As I reflect on my six years at this great college, I am most inspired by the powerful connections among the members of the MCNY community that are forged by their mutual commitment to the success of our students. The superpower of MCNY is its people—the learners, educators, trustees and staff members who go the extra mile every day to ensure that our amazingly talented and resourceful students succeed and achieve their personal and professional goals.

It has been an enormous privilege to serve as president of such an important and transformative college. MCNY occupies a unique position in the higher education landscape of New York City. The majority of our undergraduate students transfer to MCNY from larger colleges; at MCNY they thrive in personal campus environments that provide individualized support. MCNY empowers adult students to graduate at many times the national average for adults. These graduates join with our more than 12,000 alumni to bring the power of Purpose-Centered Education to life through their work in businesses, government agencies and social service organizations across New York City, where more than 90% live and work. MCNY's impact has been palpable across the city for 60 years through the ongoing work of our alumni to promote constructive action and lead positive change in our communities.

MCNY is poised for an exciting future, with a new era of growth and deeper community connections on the horizon. A new president will take office over the summer, and that person will have the honor of continuing to advance MCNY's mission to promote social change through transformational higher education. Stay tuned!

It has been my great privilege to work with the incredible people of the MCNY community. Every day, your dedication and commitment to our students has inspired and energized me. I will miss all of you, as I will miss the interactions with students, supporters and alumni that renewed my optimism for a better future. I hope all of you will stay connected to this great college as MCNY blazes a new and exciting trail to extend Purpose-Centered Education to new student populations.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanne Passaro".

Joanne Passaro  
President





# Power of Purpose Social Impact Awards

## MCNY Honors Three Alumni at Inaugural Impact Awards

On November 16, 2024, MCNY hosted the inaugural Power of Purpose Social Impact Awards Luncheon, a major fundraising event designed to recognize the remarkable contributions of alumni and business and community leaders addressing vital issues within New York City. Held at the breathtaking lower Manhattan venue, Manhatta and MC'd by Doctor Bob Lee, three alumni received the MCNY Social Impact Award for their service to the community and commitment to the mission and values of MCNY. Among the distinguished honorees was MCNY alumnus Gary P. Jenkins, who rose from adversity to ascend to the position of New York City's Commissioner of Human Services, concurrently serving as the Chair of MCNY's Board of Trustees.

Larry Scott Blackmon, another luminary alumnus who has left an indelible mark on NYC, was the second honoree. From enhancing urban green spaces and bringing health issues to light to combating food insecurity, Blackmon's tireless efforts have uplifted communities.

Completing the inaugural class of recipients of the MCNY Social Impact Award was Dr. Jocelynn Rainey, who epitomizes an unwavering commitment to social justice and equity. Through her advocacy and leadership, Rainey has expanded the reach of nonprofit organizations, amplifying the voices of marginalized communities.

The collective efforts of these individuals not only exemplify the MCNY spirit of purpose, but underscore MCNY's mission to empower graduates who are dedicated to strengthening governmental agencies, community-based organizations, and businesses, thus shaping a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

*Relive the moments. Explore the [Flickr album](#).*



# MCNY Celebrates Public Leaders at 46th Commencement Ceremony

New York City Council Speaker, Adrienne Adams and Department of Sanitation Commissioner, Jessica Tisch received honorary degrees at MCNY's 46th Commencement ceremony at the Jacob Javits Center in June. President Passaro conferred Doctor of Humane Letters degrees in recognition of their significant contributions to positive change in New York City.



Adrienne Adams and Jessica Tisch, both esteemed figures in their respective fields, have played pivotal roles in shaping the landscape of the city and advocating for meaningful progress. Their dedication to public service and community empowerment serves as an inspiration to MCNY graduates as they embark on their own journeys. The recognition of Adams and Tisch emphasizes the college's commitment to those who lead by example and strive to make a lasting impact on society.

## MCNY President Joanne Passaro Named 2023 Education Power Player

Congratulations to President Joanne Passaro for being recognized as one of this year's Education Power Players by amMetroNY and PoliticsNY. Her inspiring leadership drives MCNY's mission of providing superior education for social justice and positive change. Thanks to Schneps Media for highlighting her dedication.





# Academic Master Plan



## **MCNY Successfully Executes Academic Master Plan (2023-2028), Focusing on Innovation and Student Success**

MCNY embarked on a transformative journey to develop its Academic Master Plan for the years 2023-2028. This ambitious plan aimed to elevate academic excellence while championing equity, social justice, and Purpose-Centered Education as fundamental principles.

**Under the leadership of the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA), three dynamic working groups were established to spearhead the development of the Academic Master Plan:**

- Curriculum Re-design & Innovation:** This group was tasked with shaping the future of academic pathways in Business, Human Services & Education, and Public Affairs and Administration. Their mission was to ensure the curriculum remained forward-thinking, socially responsive, and grounded in purpose-centered education.
- Teaching Excellence & Scholarship:** With a focus on enhancing teaching effectiveness, ensuring quality assurance, and supporting scholarly endeavors, this group aimed to raise the bar for teaching and research within the institution. They also coordinated grants, research, and scholarly pursuits across disciplines.
- Student Engagement & Success:** Recognizing the pivotal role of students, this group developed strategies to enhance student success in areas such as retention, completion, transfers, and career progression.

**The development of the Academic Master Plan followed a meticulously planned timeline:**

- Spring 2023:** The OAA gathered top priorities through comprehensive data collection.
- Summer 2023:** A thorough SWOT analysis was conducted, and working groups were formed and appointed. Faculty surveys were administered, and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were defined.
- Fall 2023:** The drafting, finalization, and endorsement of pivotal Academic Master Plan documents took place, accompanied by the launch of a dedicated website for OAA's Strategic Priorities & Initiatives.

This initiative underscored MCNY's unwavering commitment to academic excellence and inclusivity, with the aim of shaping a future characterized by innovation and student success. Visit [Academic Master Plan](#) to learn more.

# Black Maternal Health Initiative

## The Black Maternal Health Initiative Remains Committed with TD Grant



The MCNY Black Maternal Health Initiative (BMHI) is a student and community engagement project responding to the existential crisis of Black maternal health in the U.S., New York City, and most specifically, in our Bronx community. It has been developed and stewarded by the MCNY Library.

In February of 2023, MCNY received a TD Bank Ready Commitment grant from the TD Charitable Foundation aimed at advancing awareness of the Black Maternal Health crisis, the health equity crisis in maternal care for birthing people of color and supporting NYC advocacy

efforts for change. The TD Ready Commitment Grant funded 2023 BMHI activities including The Black Maternal Health Fair at MCNY's Bronx campus on October 7th, 2023. Admission was free and the event was open to the public featuring panel discussions with Black Maternal Health leaders Helena A. Grant and Odessa Fynn, Blood Pressure and Diabetes Screenings, Health Insurance Information, Doula and Midwifery programs, Holistic Medicine, Nutrition and more.



The crisis is a hot topic throughout New York and has brought city leaders together on a united front. MCNY has been the lead College on the topic and a platform for the Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson along with Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and NYC Council Speaker Adrienne Adams, who have all joined the Black Maternal Health Zoom discussion to share their personal experiences and thoughts on systemic racism and our healthcare system. In addition, MCNY Librarian Tina Callender was invited to join a city-wide panel of experts hosted and presented by NYC Council Speaker Adrienne Adams, "Birth & Beyond Brunch and Discussion" to raise awareness of the crisis.



# School for Business Hosts Global Conference on Economic Outlook



Metropolitan College of New York's School for Business presented a groundbreaking virtual/hybrid conference, providing students and alumni with unparalleled insights into the global business landscape. Titled "*Current Global Economic Outlook and Prospects*," the conference, moderated by the esteemed Dr. Setareh Sharif, covered macroeconomic growth and the array of challenges and opportunities it presents.

Distinguished leaders of corporations and organizations from across the globe (India, Germany, United Kingdom, Rwanda and Belgium) lent their expertise to the conference, which spanned two days in July, attracting participants from the MCNY community and beyond. Through interactive sessions, attendees gained invaluable insights into the current economic landscape and explored avenues for growth and development on a global scale.

The MCNY School for Business continues to pioneer innovative platforms for learning and networking, reaffirming its commitment to preparing students for success in an ever-evolving global economy and shaping the future leaders of the business world.



# Score Four U.S. Presidential Accolades for MCNY Professors

The MCNY community celebrates Dr. Greta Strong, an alumna and adjunct professor, who was honored with a 2023 United States Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award. With degrees in both BBA'02 and MPA'04 from MCNY, Dr. Strong's exemplary dedication and leadership serve as a source of inspiration to students and colleagues alike.



Heartfelt congratulations to Teri Coaxum, MBA'09, another alumna and adjunct professor, on receiving a 2023 United States Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award. Teri Coaxum is renowned as an accomplished leader, executive, manager, instructor, and business advocate, blazing trails across media, business and human services.



Dr. Emmanuel N.A. Tetteh, a distinguished member of the MCNY faculty, was honored with a 2023 United States of America Presidential Lifetime Achievements Award. This prestigious accolade recognizes Dr. Tetteh's outstanding contributions to community service and volunteerism.



Dr. Michael O. Akintayo adds to the College's list of honorees, having received both the United States Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award in 2022 and the 2023 US Presidential Volunteer Service Award Medallion. Dr. Akintayo's unwavering commitment to community illustrates the transformative impact of volunteerism.



MCNY faculty represents excellence in education and service to society. Congratulations to all honorees for their well-deserved recognition.



# MCNY Bronx Pantry Extends Support to Local Community

The MCNY Bronx Pantry is fostering community connections and providing vital support to residents in need, thanks to collaborative efforts and generous grants.

With assistance from grants awarded by The Thomas Family Foundation, the New York City Council and holiday contributions from Trinity Wall Street, the MCNY Pantry has expanded its outreach beyond only serving students to offering essential groceries to families in the nearby Bronx neighborhood of Melrose when extra supplies are available during the holidays. Partnership with local churches and community groups has allowed MCNY to extend a helping hand to families facing food insecurity.

The initiative has not only provided tangible support, but has also served as a platform for introducing the college to individuals previously unaware of our presence. Many recipients of the pantry's assistance have expressed interest in learning more about MCNY's programs, particularly those seeking high school equivalency diplomas. Now, the Pantry is not just about groceries; it's about connecting people with educational pathways and empowering them to pursue their goals.

As the MCNY Pantry continues its mission of service and community engagement, it remains committed to leveraging partnerships and resources to make a meaningful impact on the lives of students and to residents whenever possible.



# MCNY Emergency Management Students Excel in JFK Airport's Full-Scale Exercise

The Emergency and Disaster Management Programs at MCNY are redefining experiential learning through their participation in high-impact exercises. In a remarkable collaboration, MCNY students showcased their skills and dedication during a full-scale exercise at JFK Airport. The exercise, designed to simulate a crisis scenario, featured MCNY students actively involved, playing roles as crash victims. Their participation contributed to the realism and effectiveness of the training, providing invaluable hands-on experience in emergency response management.

The collaboration with the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey demonstrates the importance of partnerships in preparing future emergency responders and the College's dedication to providing innovative and practical education in disaster preparedness and response.



## 1st International Cybersecurity Symposium with Local and International Partners

In December 2023, Metropolitan College of New York, in collaboration with SUNY Westchester Community College's Robert R. Wiener Center of Excellence in Cybersecurity, made history by hosting the inaugural International Cybersecurity Symposium. Spearheaded by George Contreras, DrPH, a professor at MCNY and the Dean of the School of Health Careers, Technology, and Applied Learning at SUNY Westchester, along with the support of Ali Gheith, Director of the Emergency and Disaster Management MPA program at MCNY, the event was a resounding success.

Bringing together a consortium of local and international academic institutions, as well as the esteemed United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the symposium provided a platform for experts and stakeholders from across the globe to address the critical challenges facing cybersecurity. Through insightful discussions and presentations, attendees collaborated to enhance understanding and cooperation in combating cyber threats on a global scale.

The symposium not only marked a significant milestone in advancing cybersecurity education but also revealed the importance of international collaboration in safeguarding our digital landscape.



# Alumni Activities

## Bringing Alums Back to Campus

The Mingle After Jingle, Alumni Summer Jam and Fall Back events brought alumni back to campus with opportunities to network with fellow alums from all three schools, reconnect with their cohort and make further connections with former and new professors.

Alumni events offer a chance to revisit campus, reminisce about shared experiences, and witness the growth and changes of MCNY. Alums who have attended the events shared that being back on campus among their peers evokes a sense of nostalgia and pride in the College.

In an informal survey, some of the thoughts shared by alumni included the desire to give back in some way including mentorship for students and other alumni, a need for opportunities for socializing and building relationships with graduates who share common experiences and interests, and for the College to offer stackable certificates, workshops, panel discussions, and seminars geared toward career advancement and skill-building. The alumni relations office as well as academic departments have heard the voices of our MCNY alumni and working to make these desires a reality. Stay tuned for future events and new program offerings to be announced in the coming months!



# MCNY MBA Alums Champion Social Equity in Cannapreneurship

MCNY MBA Media Management alumnae Shana Melius and Tiffani Hilton are leading the charge in promoting social equity within the blossoming cannabis industry.



With a focus on education and awareness of disparities, their initiative, March For Equity- Cannapreneur Summit, aims to establish a more inclusive and equitable landscape for entrepreneurs. The summit served as a platform for dialogue and collaboration, bringing together stakeholders from various sectors to address issues of social justice and equity within the cannabis space.

At the MCNY Manhattan campus, the featured lineup of speakers, panel discussions, and networking opportunities with industry influencers included award-winning hip-hop artist and renowned cannapreneur Styles P.

Melius and Hilton exemplify the MCNY spirit of Purpose-Centered Education by fostering inclusivity and social equity within the cannabis industry. Their efforts highlight the transformative potential of education and entrepreneurship in driving social equity and justice.



## MCNY Alums Get A Firm HandShake

In 2022, MCNY implemented HandShake, a space specific to MCNY students to find current job postings, employer hiring events and create networking opportunities. In 2023, the College launched a soft campaign to bring alumni into the fold. HandShake offers alumni and students the opportunity to connect and network with over 850,000 employers and 13 million other HandShake users representing 1400 educational institutions in the US. It is a powerful job search and networking tool and is cost-free for our students and alumni.



Since implementation, there are over 300 students and alumni signed up and using the platform. Those who are using it are impressed with the opportunities available to them. The value of HandShake stands firm! While current students are automatically enrolled in the system, alumni must reactivate their mcny.edu emails to use the platform. Alumni who would like more information about Handshake can reach out to the MCNY Career and Professional Development Team at [careerservices@mcny.edu](mailto:careerservices@mcny.edu).



# Donors 2023

## Giving Societies

### 1964 Society

\$50,000 – 99,999

New York City Council  
The Thomas Family Foundation

### Change Makers

\$30,000 – 49,999

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### Empowerment

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What's Next?





# Donors 2023

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