Columbia Partnership Moves Local Job Seekers to the “Front of the House”  

By Ernest Beck

Alisha Mithu was a student at Borough of Manhattan Community College and, like many students, was uncertain about her career path. She was studying art, but her parents wanted her to go into nursing. Her real goal was to find a profession that would let her engage with people, perhaps in hospitality. The problem was she didn’t have any experience in the field. So when Mithu, who is 21, heard about a restaurant-training program called the Hospitality Project, she jumped at the chance to learn about the profession. “This program changed my life,” says Mithu, who now has a full-time job as an assistant server at Café 2, a Danny Meyer restaurant at the Museum of Modern Art.

The restaurant business is booming in Upper Manhattan. Yet while culinary programs abound to train chefs and line cooks in the back of the house, the industry lacks training and job placement opportunities for critical “front of the house” jobs like host.

The Hospitality Project director Beatrice Stein and the program’s first class of participants


Courtesy of the David N. Dinkins Archive

Columbia Celebrates the Completion of the Dinkins Archive

By Gary Shapiro

The life and career of New York’s first African-American mayor, David N. Dinkins, is one for the history books. Now, there will be no better place than Columbia for scholars looking to write them. The David N. Dinkins Papers and Oral History Project, housed at Columbia University Libraries, is now complete, offering researchers a wealth of material to study the 106th mayor’s contributions to politics and society.

Dinkins has been a professor of public policy at Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) since his mayoral term ended in 1994. For 18 years, he has hosted the annual David N. Dinkins Leadership and Public Policy Forum, which invites prominent figures to campus to discuss current events. Last April’s forum featured as its keynote speaker Hillary Clinton, who delivered a major address on criminal justice reform and race.

“I know people who have taken your courses, the people you bring in, and the conferences you put on,” Columbia President Lee C. Bollinger told Dinkins at a celebration of the archive’s completion. “I’ve been privileged to be part of them. The way you have expressed your voice about major public issues always gives one a great feeling of hope.”

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**In the Know**

**ERIC HOLDER AWARDED COLUMBIA COLLEGE’S HIGHEST HONOR**

Former U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. was awarded the 2015 Alexander Hamilton Medal, the highest honor paid to a member of the Columbia College community, at a black-tie dinner in the Low Library Rotunda.

Holder, who is an alumnus of Columbia College and Columbia Law School, is the third-longest-serving attorney general in U.S. history and the first African American to hold that office. “During an era when many in our public life have tried to argue that we live in a post-racial society despite all the stark evidence to the contrary, Eric Holder has played a unique role as our nation’s attorney general in forcefully standing up to defend our iconic civil rights and voting rights laws,” said Columbia President Lee C. Bollinger at the event. The Alexander Hamilton Medal is awarded annually by the College’s Alumni Association for distinguished service to Columbia College and accomplishment in any field of endeavor.

**COLUMBIA’S JAMAL JOSEPH HONORED FOR ARTS, COMMUNITY ACTIVISM**

Jamal Joseph, professor of professional practice in film at Columbia’s School of the Arts, received the 2015 Purpose Prize from Encore.org, a nonprofit that seeks to tap the skills and experience of people in middle and beyond to improve communities. Joseph was recognized for cofounding the IMPACT Repertory Theatre, a nonprofit performing arts group for teenagers that blends theater and community activism and has performed at Lincoln Center and in forcefully standing up to defend our iconic civil rights and voting rights laws.”

S **Nontraditional Career Paths Lead Women to Manhattanville**

By Columbia University Facilities

S tacy Knutt’s path to her current job on Columbia’s Manhattanville development site began when she spotted a newspaper ad in 2009. At the time, Knutt was unemployed after the sudden closure of her employer at Time Warner Cable, where she had worked for many years. Knutt’s future seemed uncertain, but the ad for Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW) opened her eyes to new career possibilities she had never considered before.

NEW seeks to bring more women into the skilled construction, utility, and maintenance industries—jobs traditionally dominated by men. When Knutt signed on, she found herself among other career-minded women taking part in an intensive pre-apprenticeship training program that provided exposure to the various construction trades. After graduating from NEW, Knutt learned that the Local 79 mason tenders union was seeking applicants for apprenticeships. She applied in 2011, and by February 2012 she was onsite at Columbia University’s Manhattanville development, where she has been employed ever since.

At Manhattanville, Knutt is a laborer for Lendlease, the construction manager for the first phase of the development. Her team’s focus is on maintaining a safe construction zone as work at the site evolves. “Now, over three and a half years into her tenure, Knutt has witnessed the transformation of the site and seen two buildings—the Jerome L. Greene Science Center and the Levitt Center for the Arts—rise from the ground. The work has given Knutt a real appreciation for the commitment to professionalism and safety that is paramount on the site.”

“Working here gives me a real sense of pride,” Knutt said of her experiences working in Manhattanville. “When I first arrived, the site had nothing. Soon the doors to the first building will be open, and I’ll be able to say that I was part of it from the start.”

A version of this story was originally published in Growing Together, September 2013.
You might not think that civil rights and graphic novels go together, but following the example of Dr. Martin Luther King, who personally edited a 16-page comic book on the Montgomery bus boycott more than a half century ago, Georgia congressman John Lewis has turned to the popular literary form in a series of highly regarded books chronicling his early years of Freedom Rides, sit-ins, and marches with King in the 1960s.

Lewis came to Columbia to discuss the series, titled March, and the events that inspired them, in a panel sponsored by the Center for American Studies and the Double Discovery Center. Speaking from the stage at the Italian Academy, Lewis told the audience of nearly 200 about growing up in his segregated hometown of Troy, Alabama, where signs marked “Whites” and “Colored” kept water fountains, waiting rooms, and even the public library racially separate. “I came home and asked my parents, ‘Why?’ and they said, ‘Don’t get in the way, don’t get in trouble.’”

Then, in 1955, he heard of Rosa Parks, who had been arrested for refusing to give up her seat on the bus. He listened to King speaking on the radio and became inspired. “I got in the way, I got into trouble—what I call good trouble, necessary trouble,” he said.

The first book describes the events leading to the 1965 journey from Selma to Montgomery, when tens of thousands of people marched in support of voting rights for African Americans. The second describes the 1963 March on Washington, D.C., at which King gave his “I Have a Dream” speech. Lewis was a leader at both and at Selma was nearly beaten to death on the first attempted march, which became known as “Bloody Sunday.”

Although Lewis had written an autobiography, he hadn’t addressed the marches on their own until one of his staffs, March coauthor Andrew Aydin, suggested writing a graphic novel. Others scoffed at the idea, but Lewis recalled King’s comic book, Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story, which sold for 10 cents in 1958.

“Columbia President Lee C. Bollinger welcomed the congressman, saying, ‘I’m here to pay tribute to John Lewis, and the many themes he expressed are ones I believe in deeply. I have enormous respect and admiration for his extraordinary courage and capacity that changed American society not just with respect to civil rights but countless other areas . . . including free speech.’

In that first Bloody Sunday march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma in 1965, the future congressman carried two books in his backpack. One was by the great Catholic writer and Columbia graduate, Thomas Merton (CC’38), the other, The American Political Tradition, was written by Columbia historian Richard Hofstadter (GSAS’42).

“If I am Merton and Hofstadter had no idea they were joining forces inside that backpack,” said Casey Blake, director of the University’s Center for American Studies. “But the religious and political values they upheld certainly came together in the actions that the man carrying them in his backpack took on that fateful day.”

A version of this story was originally published in The Record, Vol. 41, No. 04.

Columbia Joins White House Initiative to Advance Equity for Women and Girls of Color

Columbia University has become a founding member of the White House-sponsored Collaborative to Advance Equity through Research, a national effort to engage colleges, universities, and other mission-driven organizations in meaningful action to support research and improve public policy affecting women and girls of color. Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies Aleonda Nelson will lead Columbia’s participation together with Farah Jasmine Griffin, William B. Ramford Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African-American Studies.

“In the fall, the White House Council on Women and Girls hosted a daylong forum focused on empowering and increasing opportunity for women and girls of color and their peers. It also released a progress report on advancing equity and announced independent commitments to close opportunity gaps for women and girls, including those of color.

Nelson, an authority on the sociology of science and medicine, is author of a new book, The Social Life of DNA: Race, Reparations, and Reconciliation after the Genome.

‘Columbia will be a great partner in this initiative,’ said Nelson. ‘Ongoing and new research and programming here about women and girls of color will contribute to a critical public policy dialogue about barriers to racial and gender equality and will be a catalyst for change.’

Professor Griffin, an expert on American and African-American literature, music, history, and politics, is most recently author of Harlen Nettums: Women Artists and Progressive Politics during World War II.

‘Faculty and students across Columbia are already engaged on a range of efforts to advance equity for women and girls of color,’ said Griffin. ‘As part of an iconic and diverse community in New York City, we are in an ideal position to bring not only our scholarship but also our first-hand experience to collaborating with the Obama administration and our academic colleagues around the nation.’

Among Columbia’s contributions to the collaborative will be a conference on issues of concern to African-American girls organized by Griffin and Carla Shedd, assistant professor of sociology and African-American studies. The meeting of scholars, activists, artists, and girls will be sponsored by the Office of the President, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the Division of Social Science, and the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, with support from the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality.

This summer, the Division of Social Science will continue a “Feminist Seminar for Girls,” launched last summer by Dean Nelson in partnership with the YWCA of New York City.
Picturing Northern Manhattan: Announcing Our Newest Feature

The Columbia Newsletter: News for Our Neighbors invites its readers to submit photographs from their travels in Northern Manhattan. Each issue will feature a new reader-submitted photo selected by the Government and Community Affairs staff. So, please e-mail your submission, along with your name and a brief caption, to communityaffairs@columbia.edu. Please attach no more than one high-resolution image file per submission. Photos must be received by August 15, 2016, in order to be considered for the Fall 2016 issue.

Columbia Celebrates the Completion of the Dinkins Archive

The event, at SIPA, coincided with the 25th anniversary of Dinkins’s historic inauguration and was held weeks after the city renamed the Manhattan Municipal Building at 1 Centre Street after him. As part of the program, Columbia professors Ester R. Fuchs and Alondra Nelson took part in a panel discussion along with Dinkins and Carl Weisbrod, a former member of the Dinkins administration who now chairs New York City’s Planning Commission.

On display was a letter signed by tennis great Arthur Ashe and Gloria Steinem supporting Dinkins’s successful 1985 run for Manhattan borough president, along with his handwritten victory speech for that race and a flier for Dinkins’s 1989 mayoral race featuring a photo of Muhammad Ali and the boast that the candidate “packs a wallop.”

His papers join a library already rich in holdings of other New York City mayors including John Purroy Mitchel (CC’1899) and Seth Low (CC’1870), who in 1901 resigned as president of Columbia to become the city’s top executive. They complement the University’s extensive collection on Harlem’s political, social, and cultural history, which includes the dancing great Arthur Mitchell’s archives and the papers of poet Amiri Baraka.

“Mayor Dinkins’s legacy extends the work of earlier black mayors in smaller cities in the 1960s that was an outgrowth of the electoral and litigation successes of the civil rights movement and, indeed, the emergence of a Black Power movement,” Nelson said. “It also prefigures and shapes what would become the Obama presidency.”

Toward the end of the program, Dinkins, looking out over a sea of friends and former colleagues, said, “What I hope people will understand and appreciate tonight—and I say this to students whom I am privileged to teach—nobody, but nobody, gets anywhere alone. Everybody stands on the shoulders of others.”

A version of this story was originally published in The Record, Vol. 41, No. 04.

Columbia Partnership Moves Local Job Seekers to the “Front of the House”

server, busser, and runner. That was a complaint that Flores Forbes, an associate vice president in Columbia University’s Office of Government and Community Affairs, had often heard from local restaurateurs. “There is a demand on the job side, but you’re usually on your own to be trained and get a job,” he explains. With that in mind, he brought together the Columbia-Harlem Small Business Development Center, the New York City Hospitality Alliance, and Workforce1, and, with a $25,000 grant, created the Hospitality Project to provide training for front-of-the-house restaurant jobs.

Beatrice Stein, a restaurant consultant, was recruited to be the founder and director of the Hospitality Project and to teach the four-week class. “To take students and give them skills and place them is a big thing, because it launches them into a career in hospitality and customer service,” says Stein, who previously ran two Harlem restaurants. Only very large hospitality companies can afford front-of-the-house training, she explains, which means newcomers to the profession have to get their foot in the door on their own and learn on the job, or they often end up in minimum-wage jobs in fast food.

The training for the first class of 12 students was rigorous. Students learned everything from life skills to CPR, and about food and cocktail culture, as well as “engraining the idea of hospitality,” Stein says. Guest speakers included restaurant owners and industry experts, and once a week the class went to lunch at a restaurant to experience dining as guests. With this training, graduates were able to find front-of-the-house positions not only at MoMA’s Café 2 but also at Carmine’s in Times Square and at French Roast.

Now, the goal is to keep the Hospitality Project going. “We want to turn this into a real program, to institutionalize it,” says Forbes. “We work with disconnected youth and need a place for them to go, and this type of training leads to jobs,” he adds. “It’s part of our community outreach, and it helps keep the Harlem community vibrant.”

A version of this story was originally published in The Record, Vol. 41, No. 04.
In the Mix

(1) Winners of the White House National Teen Media Contest with West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC) Executive Director Kofi Boateng at the WHDC’s annual Community Holiday Celebration. The event, which was attended by actress Rosario Dawson and celebrity chef Marcus Samuelson, was held in Miller Theatre on the Columbia University campus.

(2) Columbia Nursing School Dean Bobbi Berkowitz joined members of the Columbia community in signing the final beam of the school’s new building before it was lifted into place.

(3) Columbia professor David Henry Hwang and actor George Takei at the opening of “Colors of Confinement,” the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race’s exhibition on the internment of Japanese Americans.

(4) Columbia Football’s new head coach Al Bagnoli has revived an old University tradition: holding pregame walk-through practices on the lawn where the Lions once played home games before the construction of Baker Field in the 1920s.
Community Services

As part of the University’s ongoing commitment to the local community, Columbia has dedicated a portion of the website to community resources and services currently available. For a comprehensive listing of programs and services, as well as participant eligibility, please visit:

manhattanville.columbia.edu/community-services

Outreach to Disconnected Youth

Columbia University has initiated an outreach to identify and engage disconnected youth ages 16-24 in the local community who have not completed high school or obtained a GED in order to enroll them at no cost in New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) high school programs or GED programs. Upon completion of a high school diploma or GED, participants will be referred for skills training, internships and work-based learning opportunities through community based organizations. Columbia will make a good faith effort to place participants in positions with Columbia University. For more information on how to access the program, please contact 212-854-1116.

Columbia Employment Information Center

The Columbia Employment Information Center (CEIC) (the “Center”) serves as the central community-based resource for local residents to apply for open positions at Columbia University. The Center provides a wide range of services to the local community including in-person and online job readiness training programs, one-on-one job search counseling and assistance, and access to online job opportunities at Columbia.

You are welcome to call our 24-hour hotline at 212-851-1551; it provides general information about the Center, information on Columbia University job opportunities, information on construction activities and information on construction related job opportunities.

Summer Sports Camp Scholarships for Children

Columbia University offers 25 need-based scholarships for children ages 6-12 from the Manhattanville area to attend Columbia’s Roar-ee’s Cubs Summer Camp. One scholarship is equal to one week of camp. All scholarship applications must come to Columbia University through the West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC). For more information, please contact the WHDC at 646-476-3394.

Dental Health Screenings for Senior Citizens

Columbia University offers free dental health screenings for senior citizens throughout Northern Manhattan via the ElderSmile Program. As part of Columbia University’s College of Dental Medicine Community DentCare Network, the ElderSmile Program offers free dental screenings and referrals for further dental treatment at senior centers throughout Washington Heights/Inwood and Harlem, including New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents in Manhattanville Houses and General Grant Houses.

Mobile Dental Center for Preschool Children

Columbia University offers free dental care for preschool-age children from the Manhattanville in West Harlem area through the Mobile Dental Center. The Mobile Dental Center is a program of Columbia University’s College of Dental Medicine Community DentCare Network, which aims to reduce dental decay and improve the oral health of Northern Manhattan’s underserved children, through comprehensive dental treatment and oral health education.

Scholarships for Lifelong Learners

Columbia University provides scholarships for 50 residents of Manhattanville Houses, Grant Houses, and the local community who are 65 years of age and older to audit up to two courses per year. Administered through Columbia’s School of Continuing Education, the Lifelong Learners Program is designed for individuals committed to the principles of lifelong education.

For more information on the program, please call 212-854-0419.

Columbia Community Scholars Program

Columbia University offers independent, community-based scholarships from Northern Manhattan to a range of University services and resources not usually afforded to non-affiliated residents. Services and resources shall be provided at no cost to participants and shall include access to all of University libraries — including online access, course auditing privileges, dialogue with scholars in their field of study, and the ability to participate in seminars and social events developed specifically for the group.

For more information, please direct inquiries about the Community Scholars Program to 212-854-4289 or communityaffairs@columbia.edu.

Space Provisions for Non-Columbia-Affiliated Local Artists and Cultural Organizations

Columbia University, consistent with current practice, makes good faith efforts to accommodate requests by local artists and cultural organizations not affiliated with Columbia for access to its indoor or outdoor spaces for programming that may include, but is not limited to, information sessions, performances, special events or presentations. Payment for such space will be in accordance with then current University protocols. Columbia University space is generally awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to Columbia and student activities, followed by local community activities.

Athletics Clinics

Columbia University’s varsity sports programs and coaches of football, volleyball, basketball, soccer, swimming, track and field, and tennis sponsor and participate in seasonal sports clinics for local community children between the ages of 5 and 13 in University facilities and throughout Harlem and Washington Heights.

Course Auditing

Columbia University funds up to 50 courses per year through Columbia’s Continuing Education Auditing Program for residents (25 residents from NYCHA Manhattanville Houses and Grant Houses and 25 residents from the local community). The Auditing Program provides adults not currently enrolled in college with the opportunity to attend up to two selected lectures drawn from Columbia University’s offerings in the Arts and Sciences during the academic year.

Housing Legal Assistance

For the period from January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2030, Columbia University provides funding for two attorneys at a legal assistance provider acceptable to NYC Housing Preservation & Development Office (NYCHPD).

Shuttle Bus Service for the Elderly and Disabled

Columbia University provides a shuttle bus service free of charge to members of the local community who are disabled or who are senior citizens (including their attendants) via the ADA-accessible Inter-campus Shuttle. The shuttle bus service complies with ADA specifications to connect the Project Site to subway stations at:

- 96th Street and Broadway
- 116th Street and Broadway (Morningside campus)
- 125th Street and Broadway
- Harlem Hospital Center (135th Street and Lenox Avenue)
- Columbia University Medical Center (168th Street and Broadway)

The shuttle bus service runs on a regular schedule throughout the day on every weekday, except on state and federal public holidays.

Undergraduate Scholarships for Aid-Eligible Students From the Local Community

In an effort to encourage local students to attend Columbia College and the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, Columbia University undertakes a targeted recruitment effort for qualified students from the local community. Columbia University has established a scholarship fund to serve up to 40 aid-eligible undergraduate students per year who are admitted to Columbia College and/or the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, with funding made available to meet their fully demonstrated financial need.
Our Elected Officials and Community Boards

FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

Sen. Charles E. Schumer
575 Third Ave., Ste. 17-62
New York, NY 10017
Phone: 212-486-4430
FAX: 212-486-7803
www.schumer.senate.gov

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand
780 Third Ave., Ste. 6201
New York, NY 10017
Phone: 212-688-6262
FAX: 212-688-7444
http://gillibrand.senate.gov/

Rep. Jerrold Nadler (District 10)
163 W. 125th St., Ste. 737
Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-663-7350
FAX: 212-663-7357
Rep. Charles B. Rangel (District 13)
(212) 663-3900
Fax: 212-663-8390

State Capitol
Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
www.house.gov/rangel
Fax: 212-663-4277
Phone: 212-663-3900

Albany, NY 12224
163 W. 125th St., Ste. 737
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-688-3000
Fax: 212-688-2460
http://council.nyc.gov/d8

STAte elected Officials
Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
1800 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10223
Phone: 212-788-3000
Fax: 212-788-2460
www.neighbors.columbia.edu

Phone: 212-788-3000
Fax: 212-788-2460
New York, NY 10007

Local elected Officials
Mayor Bill de Blasio
Cory Hall
New York, NY 10007
Phone: 212-788-1000
Fax: 212-788-2460
www.nyc.gov/mayor

Public Advocate Letitia James
1 Centre St., 15th Flr.
New York, NY 10069
Phone: 212-667-2700 (General)
Fax: 212-667-7250 (Ombudsman)
Fax: 212-667-4701
www.ombudsman.nyc.gov
www.publicadvocate.nyc.gov

Manhattan Borough President
Gale A. Brewer
431 West 125th Street
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hrosenthal@council.nyc.gov
http://council.nyc.gov/d6

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http://council.nyc.gov/d10

Assemblymember Daniel J. O’Donnell
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245 W. 104th St.
New York, NY 10027
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Fax: 212-866-9256
odonnell@assembly.state.ny.us

Assemblymember Keith L.T. Wright
District 70
250 W. 141st St.
New York, NY 10031
Phone: 212-866-5909
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Assemblymember Herman D. Farrell Jr.
District 71
New York, NY 10039
Phone: 212-234-1430
Fax: 212-234-1450
farrellh@assembly.state.ny.us

Community Boards

Community Board 7
Represents the community between the Hudson River and Convent Park West from 110th Street to 110th Street; general meetings are held the first Tuesday evening of the month at the CB 7 office.

250 W. 77th Street
New York, NY 10024
Phone: 212-367-7350
Fax: 212-722-6378
info@cb7.org
Board Chair: Padmore John
District Manager: Penny Ryan
www.nyc.gov/html/mancb7

Community Board 9
Represents the community between the Hudson River and Morningside/Edgemoor avenues from 110th Street to 110th Street; general meetings are held the third Thursday evening of the month at the CB 9 office.

16-18 Old Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-864-8400
Fax: 212-862-7396
info@cb9.org
Board Chair: Padmore John
District Manager: Eutha Prince
www.nyc.gov/html/mancb9

Community Board 10
Represents the community between Fifth Avenue and Morningside/Edgemoor avenues from 110th Street to 110th Street; general meetings are held the first Wednesday evening of the month at the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Harlem State Office Building, 165 W. 125th St., 2nd Flr.

215 W. 125th St., 4th Flr.
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-749-3805
Fax: 212-662-4215
mancb10@nyc.gov
Board Chair: Henrietta Lyle
District Manager: Andrew Lanalle
www.nyc.gov/html/mancb10

Community Board 12
Represents the community between the Hudson River and the Harlem River from 110th Street to 110th Street; general meetings are held the fourth Tuesday evening of the month at the CB 12 office.

530 W. 166th St., 6th Flr.
New York, NY 10032
Phone: 212-568-2180
Fax: 212-749-3805
mbank@nyc.gov
Board Chair: Shababudin A. Aliy
District Manager: Ebenseer Smith
www.nyc.gov/html/mancb12

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She represents you...

City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito

B orn and raised in Puerto Rico, New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito received her bachelor’s degree from Columbia University and a master’s degree from Baruch College. She has previously served as a member of Manhattan Community Board 11 and held numerous leadership positions in advocacy and nonprofit organizations, including the Hispanic Education and Legal Fund, ASPIRA of New York, and Local 1199 of the Service Employers International Union (SEIU).

In 2005, Mark-Viverito was elected to the City Council, representing the 8th District of New York City, which includes East Harlem and the South Bronx. Throughout her tenure in the Council, Mark-Viverito has prioritized immigrants, tenants, and other populations that are often marginalized. She has introduced several bills that protect vulnerable groups of people and promote public safety, sustainability, and community development. She served as chair of the Committee on Parks and Recreation and as founding cochair of the Progressive Caucus, and is a member of the Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus. In 2011, she was one of four council members to pioneer the newly enacted Participatory Budgeting process.

In 2014, Mark-Viverito was elected as speaker of the City Council. She is the first Latina to lead the Council and the first Puerto Rican woman to represent her district.

www.neighbors.columbia.edu
THE COLUMBIA NEWSLETTER: NEWS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS