



Workforce Systems Leadership Program

MEET THE 2025 COHORT

We are excited to introduce the 2025 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.



Alexandra Feldhausen (she/her)

FORMER DIRECTOR OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT, ALL TECH IS HUMAN

Alexandra (Ali) Feldhausen is a workforce development professional dedicated to creating equitable pathways to technology careers. She previously worked as the Director of Career Development at All Tech Is Human where she oversaw the careers vertical of the organization. Prior to this, she served as the Director of Insights and Engagement at the Tech Talent Pipeline (TTP) overseeing outcomes research and industry engagement for TTP's CUNY 2X Initiative. She is passionate about addressing the network gap within employment outcomes and finding equitable solutions that translate to more just hiring practices for all New Yorkers.



Amrika Francisco (she/her)

CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER, OPPORTUNITIES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Amrika Francisco is the Chief Program Officer at Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow, where she oversees youth and adult programs, providing transformative job training, industry-recognized credentials, and job placement support to thousands of participants. Through her work with Shared Lane, she partners with schools and organizations to connect students to in-demand careers. As William M. Bristol Fellow, she conducted international research on women and poverty across six countries, exploring how women respond to economic challenges within their unique cultural contexts. Amrika's achievements include launching a high school-to-workforce program and receiving the Business Council of New York State's Workforce Innovation Award. As a first-generation college graduate, she is passionate about building equitable career pathways through quality training, mentorship, and workforce development initiatives that drive lasting social impact.



Andy Collado (he/him) [in](#)

DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS, RISEBORO COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Andy Collado is the Director of Economic Empowerment Programs at RiseBoro Community Partnership. RiseBoro Community Partnership's vision is to build a city where your zip code does not determine your health outcomes, housing stability, or economic power. Andy manages a team of financial and career coaches dedicated to increasing the financial security and mobility of Central Brooklyn residents and beyond. He is a first-generation American of Dominican descent who has devoted his life to helping families work toward the financial freedom they deserve. He is an Accredited Financial Counselor (AFCPE) and Master Credit as an Asset Trainer (Credit Builders Alliance).



Angela Son (she/her) [in](#)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, THE GREEN LAUNCHPAD

Angela is the Founder & CEO of The Green Launchpad, dedicated to empowering workforce developers who prepare communities for the green economy. Her accelerator equips practitioners to better understand and connect with local green job opportunities. She also advises on a DOE national lab's heat pump workforce initiative and a trades-focused edtech initiative and is a member of JobsFirstNYC Green Economy Network's Green Career Council. With over a decade of experience in early-stage startups, data/AI, climate tech, and business strategy, Angela holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and a BComm from the University of British Columbia in beautiful Vancouver.



Angelo Cabrera (he/him) [in](#)

DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRANT STUDENT CENTER FOR RESOURCES AND RESEARCH, CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK - CUNY

Angelo Cabrera will be leading a new initiative at City College of New York to ensure immigrant students (documented and undocumented) have access to Workforce Development, Career Pathways, Know Your Rights workshops, scholarships, immigration services, and academic support. He is the founder of MASA and a Founding Board member of The American Dream Charter School and has dedicated his life to education and immigrant advocacy. After immigrating to the U.S. at 15, he championed in-state tuition for undocumented students and promoted higher education access for Mexican youth and undocumented students in New York. Angelo has collaborated with CUNY, the Mexican Consulate, BUAP, and many other governments, NGOs, and universities on community initiatives and study-abroad programs. A former columnist and recipient of numerous awards, his story has been featured in media and a documentary.



Belinda Liang (she/her) [in](#)

CAMPUS PROGRAM DIRECTOR, CHINESE-AMERICAN PLANNING COUNCIL

Belinda is the Campus Director at Chinese-American Planning Council's ACE program at New Utrecht High School, providing academic support and college and career-readiness education to low-income and immigrant students. She is a member of CPC's Advocacy Leaders Fellowship, collaborating with the Policy Team to expand organizing efforts, promote voter engagement, and empower the community through advocacy. In 2023, she received the CPC Service Star Award, which recognizes an individual that exemplifies care across the community. Belinda received her B.A. in Media Studies from Hunter College. Passionate about continuous learning, she earned certificates in digital marketing, UX/UI design, augmented reality design, and web development, aiming to inspire youths to pursue their passions.



Brian Colon (he/him) [in](#)

DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE, GREENWICH HOUSE

Currently pursuing a Bachelor of Administration in Business Management and Entrepreneurialism at CUNY School of Professional Studies, Brian continues to enhance his expertise while leading Greenwich House's Lifelong Skills and Opportunity Center, focusing on creating meaningful employment pathways for older adults and other targeted populations.



Carolyn Nobles (she/her) [in](#)

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER, LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE- CUNY

Carolyn Nobles, MSW is the Senior Director of the Career Development Center and the Career and Technical Education Assistance Center for the Adult and Continuing Education Division of LaGuardia Community College. She has been at LaGuardia for 11 years starting as a Career Counselor assisting students in various workforce training programs to find gainful employment that would change their career trajectories. In addition to assisting students finding employment opportunities, she also oversees an ACE to credit pipeline which assists students from Pre-College and Workforce training programs enroll into the college. She leads these centralized offices with pride in educating and helping students explore their career goals. Watching them enroll, persist, complete programs to find gainful employment and/or graduate from a degree program.



Charlie Jaya (he/him)

D.L.W.I. MANAGER, LA COLMENA

Charlie Jaya-Rivadeneira supports immigrant communities as manager at La Colmena, a Staten Island-based nonprofit, overseeing the Day Labor Workforce Initiative. Born to immigrant parents and raised in Queens, his early experiences shaped his commitment to equity. He brings a unique perspective through his military service as a U.S. Army Reserve Military Police Officer, discipline honed from overcoming systemic barriers, and years of workforce development expertise. Charlie has spearheaded initiatives to address the digital divide and create pathways to employment, empowering marginalized New Yorkers to thrive in today's economy.



Christian Pappas (he/him)

DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/ADA, BEDFORD STUYVESANT RESTORATION CORPORATION

Christian has designed and implemented programs that provide essential resources, targeted support, and clear career pathways, enabling participants to achieve stability and long-term success. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Vassar College and a Master's degree from Columbia University Teachers College. Outside of his professional endeavors, Christian is passionate about creative writing and independent cinema, reflecting his commitment to storytelling and exploring diverse perspectives. He remains devoted to leveraging workforce development as a powerful tool for advancing social and economic equity.



Dario Peña (he/him)

REENTRY & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Dario Peña is the Recruitment and Community Partnerships Manager for Justice Through Code at Columbia University. A Magna Cum Laude graduate with a degree in Behavioral Science from Mercy University, and a Masters in Professional Studies from New York Theological Seminary, he serves as Vice President of Rising Hope, Inc., a prison education program, and consults with the Manhattan Reentry Task Force. He worked as a Community Engagement Specialist with the Test & Trace Corps at NYC Health & Hospitals. He is actively involved in and supports social impact organizations, such as Freedom Agenda, Drama Club, and Rehabilitation Through the Arts.



Dorothy Dobson (she/her)

DIRECTOR, WORKFORCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS, CUNY, LEHMAN COLLEGE, SCPS

Dorothy Dobson is an accomplished workforce professional with over 15 years of experience in adult and higher education, specializing in program development and client relations. As Director of Workforce Education Programs in the School of Continuing & Professional Studies at Lehman College-CUNY, Ms. Dobson manages significant workforce grants and contracts with Bronx based unions, community organizations, and businesses. Recognized for her expertise in curriculum development and fostering collaboration to create career pathways for underserved populations, Ms. Dobson holds a Master's and BA (Summa Cum Laude) in History from Lehman College, as well as an Associate's in Fashion Design from FIT.



Dwayne Norris (he/him)

CO-FOUNDER & COO, SOULFUL SYNERGY

Dwayne's dedication to community service and economic empowerment has been recognized widely. He was honored as a recipient of the 2020 Clean & Healthy New York's Bold Vision for Environmental Justice award. He is a 2021 Business Council of Westchester 40 Under 40 Rising Stars award recipient, a 40 Under 40 Young, Gifted, and Green award winner from Black Millennials for Flint in 2023, and the New York Energy Consumers Council's Justice Equity Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI) award winner in 2024. Dwayne's ongoing contributions have earned him a respected place as a Business Council of Westchester (BCW) Ambassador.



Glennis Gomez (she/her)

DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, NYC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Glennis's commitment to public service is also evident in her academic pursuits. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with a minor in speech pathology from Herbert Lehman College in the Bronx. This educational background has equipped her with a deep understanding of human behavior and communication, which she applies in her work to create economic opportunities and ensure equity for all. Glennis is a proud mom of two loving, fun, and talented boys who are the joy of her life.



Jennifer Mongiori (she/her) [in](#)

DIRECTOR, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION, PARTNERSHIP FOR NEW YORK CITY
Jennifer Mongiori is a Director at the Partnership for New York City. She began working in corporate affairs at the Partnership in 2016 and currently sits on the Research and Policy team, focusing on education and workforce development policy. Jennifer received her bachelor's degree in marketing from Fordham University's Gabelli School of Business in 2016 and her Master's Degree in urban policy and Leadership with a concentration in workforce development and immigration policy from Hunter College.



Johanna Ramirez (she/her)

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH EMPLOYMENT, HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT

Johanna Ramirez is the Director of Youth Employment at Henry Street Settlement, where she leads several programs that provide teens and young adults with hands-on work experience and career exploration opportunities. With over ten years of experience in youth development, Johanna is passionate about empowering youth through skill-building and exposure to new opportunities. She has partnered with over 350 employers to curate internships in various industries such as social service, healthcare, law, real estate, fashion, e-commerce, and more. Her dedication and passion for youth employment have played a key role in connecting over 8,000 youth with internship opportunities. Johanna recently piloted a youth homelessness prevention program alongside Point Source Youth, where she successfully issued over \$150,000 to 52 young adults at risk of homelessness. Committed to making a lasting impact, Johanna remains dedicated to creating pathways that help youth build a foundation for success.



Juanito Vargas (he/him) [in](#)

VICE PRESIDENT OF ADULT PROGRAMS, COMMONPOINT

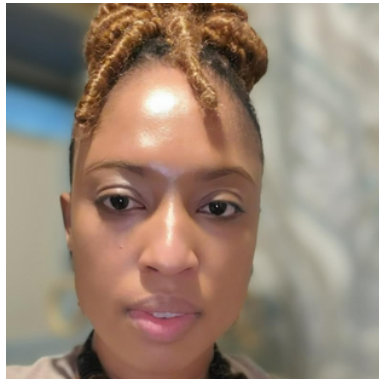
Juanito Vargas is the Vice President of Adult Programs at Commonpoint. He has 30 years of experience in the social services field. Currently, Juanito oversees programs focusing on older adult services, workforce development, refugee resettlement, and mental health services. Juanito works with diverse communities, including young adults who have disengaged from school and need guidance on educational or vocational opportunities, asylees seeking to establish themselves in the U.S., older adults in retirement looking to re-enter the workforce for second or third careers, and individuals who are under- or unemployed in search of meaningful work opportunities.



Kaila Wilson (she/her) [in](#)

CLEAN ENERGY AND TECH WORKFORCE MANAGER, CON EDISON

Kaila Wilson is the Clean Energy and Tech Workforce Manager at Con Edison. With over 15 years of experience, she has worked with rural and urban communities on workforce development, renewable energy, and equity-focused planning. Kaila previously served as Director of Energy Development at the RETI Center, where she launched green jobs training programs, and as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Zambia, advancing climate-resilient farming and education initiatives. She holds an M.S. in City and Regional Planning from Pratt Institute and a B.A. in Political Science and International Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison



Keon Pitter (she/her) [in](#)

DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT FOR COMMUNITY HIRING, MAYOR'S OFFICE OF TALENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Keon Pitter is the Director of External Engagement for Community Hiring in the Mayor's Office of Talent and Workforce Development. A proud native New Yorker, Keon's career in public service began in college and has flourished over 15 years in both the public and private sectors. Holding dual bachelor's degrees in Communication and Political Science from SUNY Buffalo State and a Master's degree from CUNY Hunter, Keon has led impactful community management efforts, including overseeing Workforce1 Career Centers across the city. Keon is dedicated to empowering low-income New Yorkers by spearheading programs that uplift and upskill their lives.



Kibel Manzano (she/her) [in](#)

PROGRAM MANAGER, WOKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, NEW WOMEN NEW YORKERS

Kibel Manzano is a dynamic Learning & Development leader with over eight years of experience empowering immigrant women through transformative workforce programs. At New Women New Yorkers (NWNKY), a nonprofit advancing economic empowerment and higher education access, Kibel has supported the professional growth of over 600 women in nearly three years. She creates safe, inclusive spaces where women build community and leads partnerships with city leaders and corporate stakeholders to forge meaningful employment pathways. Kibel is bilingual in English and Spanish and holds a Master's in Human Resources Management and a Bachelor's in Psychology, combining expertise and passion for impactful change.



Louisa Tatum (she/her) [in](#)

MANAGER OF CAREER SERVICES, THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Louisa Tatum is a passionate career and professional development coach who currently serves as the manager of the Career Services department at The New York Public Library. Her talent lies in connecting with youth and adults to address career development, transition, and goal-setting questions. To date, she has successfully coached thousands of people in developing a career plan for the future, trained organizational professionals on effective workforce programming strategies, and has been requested as a speaker for Idealist.org and WNYC Radio. Louisa has been featured in The New York Times and CNBC.com. She received her Bachelor's degree in Public Justice & Spanish from SUNY Oswego State University and is an avid marathon runner.



Luis Aristud (he/him) [in](#)

MANAGING DIRECTOR, YOUTH WORKFORCE, PHIPPS NEIGHBORHOODS

Luis Aristud is a dedicated workforce and project management professional passionate about empowering the Bronx community. As the Managing Director of Youth Workforce at Phipps Neighborhoods, he leverages his team's strengths and skills. He cultivates a welcoming workplace culture to run successful Department of Youth & Community Development programs. Luis earned a BA in Criminal Justice and Sociology from SUNY Plattsburgh, initially pursuing law enforcement before AmeriCorps inspired his nonprofit career. He holds an MPA from CUNY John Jay, specializing in Human Resource Management, where he discovered his talent for optimizing organizational structures and workflows to drive impact.



Mavreen White (she/her) [in](#)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CENTER BASED PROGRAMS, NYC DEPARTMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS SERVICES

Driven by an unyielding passion for equity and empowerment, Mavreen White is a trailblazer in workforce development, tirelessly working to fortify New York City's economic future and unlock the limitless potential of its diverse communities.



Nikki Tourigny (she/her) [in](#)

DIRECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS SERVICES, THE HOPE PROGRAM

Nikki Tourigny joins CORO with over a decade of experience in NYC's workforce development field. Driven by a vision for transformative economic justice, Nikki seeks to align impact with values through strategic partnerships, client-led programming and collaborative leadership. In her current role as Director of Employment and Business Services at The HOPE Program, Nikki oversees career coaching, job placement and employer partnerships. Prior to HOPE, Nikki worked with Hot Bread Kitchen, Seedco, and served as a Career Coach at NYC Parks. She holds a BA from Beloit College and an MSW in Social Policy from CUNY-Silberman School of Social Work.



Ryan Rodrigues (he/him) [in](#)

SENIOR PORTFOLIO DIRECTOR, STUDENT PATHWAYS, FUND FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ryan is a Senior Portfolio Director at the Fund for Public Schools (FPS), where he works with the NYCPS Office of Student Pathways to raise philanthropic support for initiatives that ensure every student graduates on a pathway to a rewarding career and long-term economic security. Before FPS, Ryan led fundraising and geographic expansion efforts for TEACH, a nonprofit focused on bringing new and diverse talent into the teaching profession. Prior to TEACH, Ryan was a Director at Charter School Growth Fund. He began his career as a consultant at Boston Consulting Group. Ryan is an Education Pioneers Fellow and serves as a National Alliance on Mental Illness advocacy ambassador to expand access to mental health care and services for New Yorkers.



Selman Kurtoglu (he/him) [in](#)

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR, HAUGLAND GROUP LLC

Selman first served as a public servant at the Suffolk County Department of Labor as a Workforce Communications Coordinator, where he learned about the foundations of Government and Community Workforce Initiatives. Selman managed and coordinated outreach campaigns for state and federal services amounting to \$19.1 million, including WIOA and TANF-funded programs. In-time, he shortly joined the Suffolk County Legislature and focused on impact studies and grant opportunities related to small business growth in Suffolk County's underserved communities. Now, Selman is a part of Haugland Group, which, as a team, continues to simultaneously build physical infrastructure and build up the communities by removing barriers and developing on-ramps to careers with good wages for individuals and growth opportunities for businesses.