

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK P.O.I.S.E.D. FOR SUCCESS* PROGRAM



TENTH ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM

*“Celebrating Ten Years of Helping Mothers Create a Legacy of
Success for Themselves and their Families”*

The City College of New York
Northern Academic Center (NAC)
West 138th Street and Convent Avenue
April 9, 2010
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



* Perfect Opportunity for Individual Skills and Educational Development



The CUNY POISED for Success Program UNIVERSITY DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

As the founding and current Director of the CUNY POISED for Success Program, I am delighted to welcome you to the POISED SYMPOSIUM, "Celebrating Ten Years of Helping Mothers Create a Legacy of Success for Themselves and their Families."

The POISED for Success Program (www.cuny.edu/poised) is designed for women who are either pregnant or have very young children and who receive Family Assistance benefits. The program offers three components: POISED I is available to women with children under the age of three, and offers instruction in basic skills, computer literacy, parenting and health and job preparation; POISED II provides intensive job search and a supervised work experience; and POISED-at-Home provides basic skills and parenting instruction to pregnant women who are medically exempt from participation in POISED and mothers of infants under 12 weeks old.

Created in partnership with and funded by The City of New York Human Resources Administration (HRA) Family Independence Administration, POISED has come a long way since its inception in 1999. When the program began operations at 4 CUNY campuses (Bronx Community College; The City College of New York; Medgar Evers College; and York College), there were just a handful of students and the program was geared towards women who were between 3 and 6 months pregnant. Over the years, the program has continued operating at Bronx Community College, The City College of New York, and Medgar Evers College, and has expanded participation to include women who have a child less than 3 years of age, added a work experience and job search component, and extended services to homebound pregnant women and new mothers through the POISED at Home program. To date, more than 1,650 women have become employed, thousands have improved their academic skills and computer skills and/or have earned their GEDs, and hundreds have enrolled in college at CUNY or elsewhere. Moreover, nearly all have left the program with tangible improvements in their understanding of how to care for their own and their children's health, discipline and improve their relationships with their children, find and evaluate child care arrangements, search for and retain a job, access benefits to supplement their incomes, and balance work and family life. In short, they have left the program "POISED for Success", ready to progress to the next level in creating a legacy of success for themselves and their families.

There are literally hundreds of people to thank for their contributions to the success of this program. Time and space do not permit me to name them all but I would be remiss without thanking Senior University Dean John Mogulescu for his vision, encouragement, support and insistence on high standards; HRA/FIA Deputy Commissioner Seth Diamond for seeing the need for the program's creation and continuation; CUNY staff John Garvey and Leslee Oppenheim who helped create the curricula foundations of the program; HRA staff Perla Morris and Mia Simon who nurtured the program in its fledgling years; founding campus POISED directors Assuanta Howard, Gerald White Davis, Joan Wilson, and Linda Arnold and their staffs; current campus POISED directors Jacqueline Ravenell, Lindsay Pierre, and Diane Washington, and their staffs; current HRA POISED Director Leonel Meyers and his entire staff, in particular Diane McAulay and Marina Kogan; and my own CUNY POISED staff, Senior University POISED Coordinator Joan Delaloye, POISED at Home University Coordinator Linda Arnold, and Program Assistant Natasha Williams. My apologies to anyone I have inadvertently omitted.

Finally, special thanks is due to The City College for hosting this Symposium, to Oilda Martinez for her support, to workshop presenters for sharing their knowledge, and to the many staff, faculty, and students at the campuses who have helped make this event possible and who work diligently every day to achieve the objectives of the POISED for Success Program. Thanks to all for joining us today to celebrate this important milestone. I hope that you all have a wonderful day and look forward to seeing many of you at our fifteenth anniversary celebration!

Best wishes,

Deborah Douglass

LETTER FROM PERLA MORRIS,
FIRST HRA DIRECTOR OF POISED FOR SUCCESS

March 15, 2010

Dear Debbie,

You are so kind to invite me to the 10th year celebration of the POISED program. I will not be able to attend in person but I will certainly be celebrating with you in spirit.

I would like to congratulate all the POISED graduates, students and those who have made the program a success, the CUNY POISED staff, under your able leadership, and the dedicated HRA staff. I would like to especially acknowledge Mia Simon, who was one of those who initially launched the program and Seth Diamond who supported the POISED program wholeheartedly.

10 years is a milestone! Everyone who cares about this program must feel very proud of what it has achieved. Seeing it taking baby steps and maturing to what it has become, you must feel gratified to have developed, supported and nurtured this program. I am so grateful for having been a part of this initiative, even for just a few years.

Do you remember the assignment of the first group of women to the program? The number was really, really small, 26 I think, and yet we were so excited because we believed we were offering an excellent program. We were “poised for success”! Now you can be proud of having hundreds, if not thousands of mothers who passed through the doors of the program claiming SUCCESS!

For me, the POISED program was never a “job”. It was a commitment to empowering women to gain self-respect, to be better parents and to become self-sufficient. We knew that it was important to support the mothers, not only for themselves, but also for their children, if they were to have any kind of future. My heart aches every time I hear of neglected or abused children and I wish their mothers could attend a program like POISED.

Congratulations and thanks to you, Debbie, for your inspiring leadership and dedication in making this program a huge success. It was such a pleasure and a privilege for me to work in partnership with you and your dedicated staff. My involvement in POISED has been the highlight of my time in New York.

My very best wishes to all the POISED graduates and participants. I hope the POISED program will help them achieve their goals in life.

Many greetings to Joan Delaloye and everyone I know.

Fondly,

Perla

CUNY POISED STAFF

Central Administration

Deborah Douglass, *Executive Director of Education and Training Opportunity Programs*
Joan Delaloye, *Senior University Coordinator, POISED for Success*
Linda Arnold, *University Coordinator, POISED at Home*
Natasha Williams, *Program Assistant*

Bronx Community College

Jacqueline Ravenell, *Director*
Sharon Wynn, *Program Assistant*
Alma Baez, *Attendance/Retention Monitor*
Alberta Bailey, *Computer Instructor*
Tara Carson Pace, *In-home Instructor*
Yvonne Dominguez, *Parenting and Health Instructor*
Samantha Elias, *Intake/Orientation Counselor*
Dora Ford, *Job Developer*
Octancia Francis, *Case Management Counselor*
Antonette Heyward, *Social Worker*
Katherine Lewis, *Classroom Instructor*
Keith Stewart, *Classroom Instructor*

The City College of New York

Diane Washington, *Director*
Kathia Brown, *Office Manager*
Ieola Bakr, *Parenting and Health and Basic Education Instructor*
Deborah Barksdale, *Intake Counselor*
Barbara Best, *Job Developer*
Alex Bodas, *Basic Education Instructor*
Nerissa Drew-Brown, *In-home Instructor*
Kirich Huell, *Attendance/Retention Monitor*
Jacqueline Hurt, *Social Worker*
Ken Hurtado, *Computer Instructor*
Nadia Persuad Ishwar, *Lead Basic Education Instructor*

Medgar Evers College

Lindsay Pierre, *Director*
Beverly Thomas, *Program Assistant*
Frances Barclay, *Attendance/Retention Monitor*
Sheila Brown, *Parenting and Health Instructor*
Judith Clark, *Classroom Instructor*
Regina Davis, *Social Worker*
Errol Emden, *Classroom Instructor*
David Friedman, *Classroom Instructor*
Rosalie Kahn Lustgarten, *Employment Specialist*
Camille McCall, *Case Management Counselor*
Christine Thompson Roberts, *Classroom Instructor*
Ashish Satyabhashak, *Computer Instructor*
Vinna Simon, *In-home Instructor*
Bernice Swinton, *Group Counselor*
Odette Tracey, *Intake/Orientation Counselor*

POISED Tenth Anniversary Symposium Schedule

8:30 a.m. **Registration/Continental Breakfast** North Academic Center
(NAC) Faculty Dining Room

9:15 a.m. **Welcome/Plan of the Day** NAC Faculty Dining Room
Diane Washington, POISED Director, The City College of New York
Deborah Douglass, University Director, POISED for Success

9:35 a.m. **Choice of Concurrent Workshops Session I** Shepard Hall

10:55 a.m. **Choice of Concurrent Workshops Session II** Shepard Hall

12:15 p.m. **LUNCH** NAC Faculty Dining Room

AFTERNOON SESSION Shepard Hall, The Great Hall

Officiating: **Diane Washington**, Director, CCNY POISED

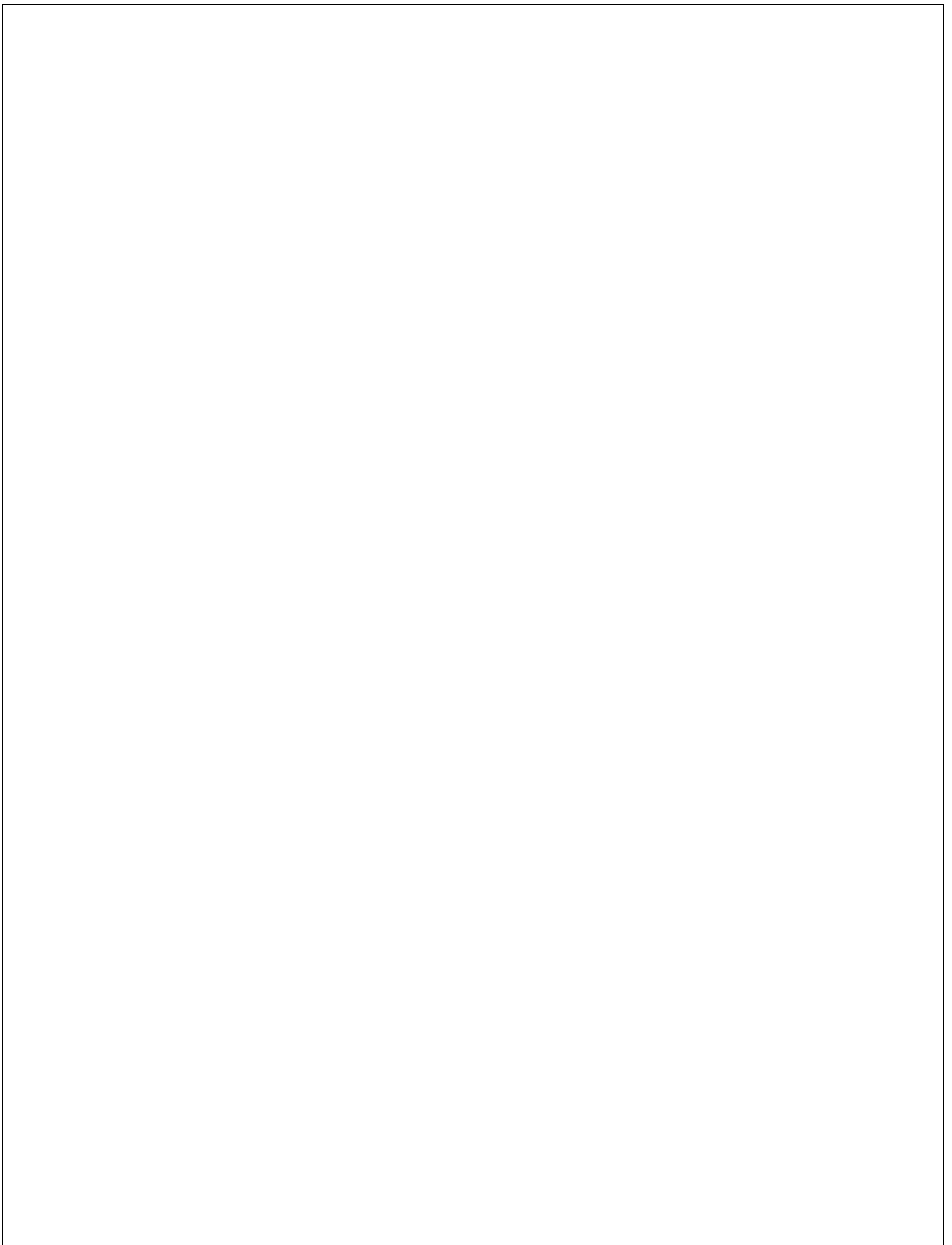
1:30 p.m. **Welcome and Greetings**
Dennis Shields, Vice President for Student Affairs, The City College of
New York
Deborah Douglass, University Director, POISED for Success
John Mogulescu, Senior University Dean of Academic Affairs and Dean of
the School of Professional Studies, CUNY
Gregory Gomez, Executive Regional Manager, Special Needs Region,
NYC HRA, Family Independence Administration
Leonel Meyers, Center Director, Union Square Job Center (39)

2:00 p.m. **Student and Alumna Recognition**
Joan Delaloye, Senior University Coordinator, POISED for Success
Jacqueline Ravenell, POISED Director, Bronx Community College
Diane Washington, POISED Director, The City College of New York
Lindsay Pierre, POISED Director, Medgar Evers College

2:30 p.m. **Keynote Speaker**
Reverend Doctor Cheryl G. Anthony
CEO/Pastor Judah International

3:00 p.m. **Edith's Place Fashion Show**
Carolyn Everett, Founder, Edith's Place

3:30 p.m. **Raffle Drawings/Closing Remarks**
Linda Arnold, Coordinator, POISED at Home
Deborah Douglass, University Director, POISED for Success



Concurrent Workshops Session I, 9:35 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

A. How To Get a Job/How To Keep a Job Shepard Hall, Room 374

Sweaty palms? Heart beating fast? Learn the secrets of developing a great resume, tips on interviewing and getting and keeping that job. You'll also be updated on the transitional benefits you're entitled to once you start working.

Barry Cohen, University Employment Coordinator, College Opportunity to Prepare for Employment (COPE)

B. Dress To Impress With Bottomless Closet Shepard Hall, Room 378

Hear from Bottomless Closet about that special outfit that will help you ace a job interview, as well as the proper attire once you've got the job.

Roberta Dougherty, Volunteer, Bottomless Closet
Virginia Gibbs, Volunteer, Bottomless Closet

C. Life After POISED – What are Your Options? Shepard Hall, Room 304

Yes, you can continue to work on your educational goals after completing POISED. Get the latest information on how to make your enrollment in education and training programs, including college, count toward your TANF work requirement.

Moderator: Maxine Henry, University Coordinator, COPE, CUNY

Brenda Felix- James, Deputy Director, Training, Evaluation, Assessment and Monitoring (TEAM), NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA)

Barbara Martin, Director, COPE, Bronx Community College

Oilda Martinez, Director of Continuing Education, The City College of New York

DeCarla Anderson, Alumna (2000), POISED for Success, Medgar Evers College

Shavon Reid, Alumna (2006), POISED for Success, Medgar Evers College

D. Get Control of Your Finances! Shepard Hall, Room 376

Chase Bank executives will show you how to open a checking account, balance your checkbook, overcome bad credit, live comfortably and safely with your current budget and have financial good health.

Salvatore Guercio, Branch Manager, Chase Bank

Yakov Kezerashvili, Assistant Branch Manager, Chase Bank

E. Self-Publishing 101: How to Turn Your Life Experience into a Memoir for Profit Shepard Hall, Room 377

This workshop will show you how writing about key events and personal experiences in your life can help motivate and inspire others to succeed and overcome life's challenges. Upon completion, you will have the tools to self publish and possibly gain additional income.

Assuanta Howard, Founder, Asta Publications

Concurrent Workshops Session II, 10:55 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

A. How To Get a Job/How To Keep a Job Shepard Hall, Room 374

Sweaty palms? Heart beating fast? Learn the secrets of developing a great resume, tips on interviewing and getting and keeping that job. You'll also be updated on the transitional benefits you're entitled to once you start working.

Barry Cohen, University Employment Coordinator, College Opportunity to Prepare for Employment (COPE)

C. Life After POISED – What are Your Options? Shepard Hall, Room 304

Yes, you can continue to work on your educational goals after completing POISED. Get the latest information on how to make your enrollment in education and training programs, including college, count toward your TANF work requirement.

Moderator: Maxine Henry, University Coordinator, COPE, CUNY

Brenda Felix- James, Deputy Director, Training, Evaluation, Assessment and Monitoring (TEAM), NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA)

Barbara Martin, Director, COPE, Bronx Community College

Oilda Martinez, Director of Continuing Education, The City College of New York

DeCarla Anderson, Alumna (2000), POISED for Success, Medgar Evers College

Shavon Reid, Alumna (2006), POISED for Success, Medgar Evers College

D. Get Control of Your Finances! Shepard Hall, Room 376

Chase Bank executives will show you how to open a checking account, balance your checkbook, overcome bad credit, live comfortably and safely with your current budget and have financial good health.

Salvatore Guercio, Branch Manager, Chase Bank

Yakov Kezerashvili, Assistant Branch Manager, Chase Bank

E. Self-Publishing 101: How to Turn Your Life Experience into a Memoir for Profit Shepard Hall, Room 377

This workshop will show you how writing about key events and personal experiences in your life can help motivate and inspire others to succeed and overcome life's challenges. Upon completion, you will have the tools to self publish and possibly gain additional income.

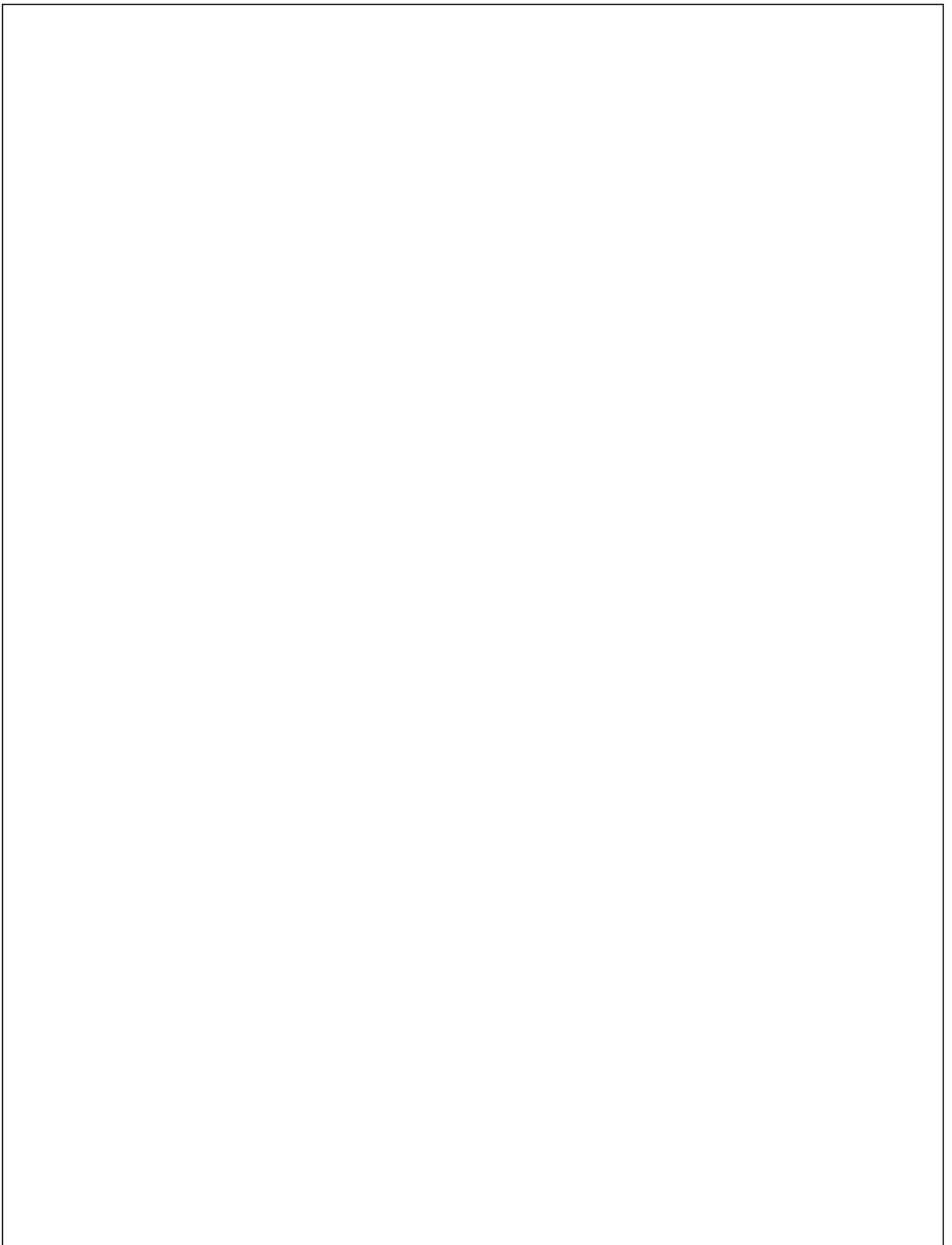
Assuanta Howard, Founder, Asta Publications

F. Parent Advocacy In The NYC Public School System Shepard Hall, Room 378

This workshop will teach you how to advocate for your child, avoid or handle student suspension, and become a proactive director of your child's education.

Esmeralda Simmons, Esquire, Executive Director, Center for Law and Social Justice, Medgar Evers College

Oseye Mchawi, Executive Assistant, Center for Law and Social Justice, Medgar Evers College





Reverend Doctor Cheryl Gwynn Anthony

Cheryl G. Anthony, Founder, Pastor and CEO, Judah International, is a nationally recognized leader on faith-based development and community empowerment.

JUDAH International Christian Center, Inc. (JUDAH), in Brooklyn, New York is renowned and awarded for its programs. A twenty-five year veteran committed to community and human development, Dr. Anthony and JUDAH have been nationally recognized by former President Bill Clinton, as well as, President George W. Bush as a progressive and cutting-edge leader and outstanding organization in the faith based community, addressing holistic faith-based development and empowerment.

An energetic leader of this diverse and multi-faceted urban community ministry, Dr. Anthony employs a holistic approach to serving people. This commitment for advancing people in need is translated by her ongoing active service and membership on several wide-ranging national and international boards.

Dr. Anthony held the exclusive distinction as the first woman elected as chair of the Central Brooklyn Churches, Inc. Clergy Caucus (consisting of 25 interracial and interdenominational congregations); past chair of the Bedford-Stuyvesant/Crown Heights HIV Care Network steering committee; member of the Board of Directors of the Fordham University Bertram M. Beck Institute on Religion and Poverty, vice president of the Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State and appointed member of the Coalition for Sustainable Success team founded by former Vice President Albert Gore. Her passion for addressing the needs of women and girls has led her to organize the newly formed “Women of Faith Advocating Change” partnership comprised of clergy, elected officials and community leaders in Brooklyn.

A visionary leader, Dr. Anthony is the creative force behind the “Wholistic Approach to Community Wellness Program” (WACW), a national faith-based best practice model, which assists religious leaders, government representatives and community stakeholders grappling with social challenges. WACW has garnered national praise and recognition in both media and national forums including ABC’s “This Week with Sam Donaldson”, The New York Times, Congressional Quarterly, The cover story of City Limits magazine, the White House Empowerment Conference and the New York State Governor's Dr. King Interfaith Summit.

Dr. Anthony has earned Masters’ Degrees in Theology and Religious Education, as well as a Doctoral Degree in Sacred Theology. She is an alumnus of Harvard University Divinity School Leadership Institute. Dr. Anthony is a much sought after preacher, keynote speaker, consultant and ecumenical liaison. She is the proud mother of two sons and grandmother of four darling girls.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**THE ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF OF THE CITY
UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK POISED FOR SUCCESS PROGRAM
WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR
SUPPORT OF OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM**

For Assistance and Services

Office of the President, The City College of New York

**Oilda Martinez, Ninive Gomez, and the
Office of Adult and Continuing Education, The City College of New York**

**City University of New York Office of the Senior University Dean of Academic Affairs and
Dean of the School of Professional Studies**

City of New York Human Resources Administration/ Family Independence Administration

Andre Beckles, University Relations, CUNY

Rudy Hurdle, Sr. and CUNY Central Receiving

Millard Barret and Franklyn Williams, CUNY Copy Center

**Elena Dimond, Maxine Henry and Education & Training Opportunity Programs, CUNY
Office of Academic Affairs**

For Gifts and Informational Materials

Esther Curenton, Children with Special Health Care Needs, DOHMH

Michelle DeGrasse, HRA Child Support

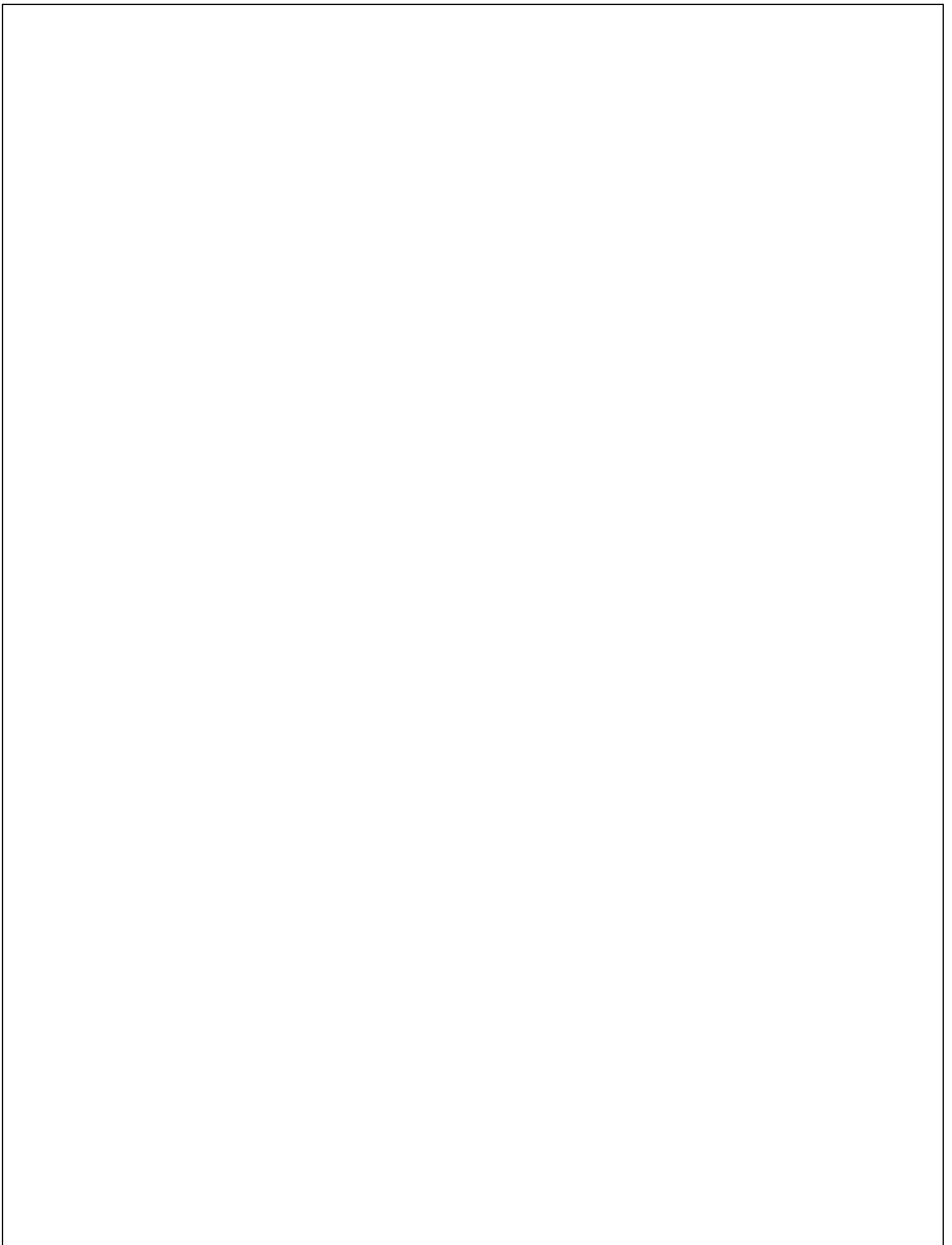
Leah Dweck, Vice President of Human Resources, A&E Stores, Inc

Carolyn Everett and the Everett Foundation

Pat Gray, Director, Corporate Relations and Special Events, CUNY

Per Scholas

***WE SINCERELY THANK ALL SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS WHO
PARTICIPATED IN THE SYMPOSIUM AND ESPECIALLY THANK ALL
PARTICIPANTS AND ALUMNA IN ATTENDANCE.***





www.cuny.edu/poised