Born After Brown
Imagining the Future of Equity in Education

Celebrating Forty Years
Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools
Welcome from the Dean

I am honored to salute the Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools (Metro Center) for 40 years of extraordinary work on behalf of students, teachers, families, and schools. The dream of achieving equity in education, and the vision and drive to examine and find solutions to the problems facing our schools, is at the very core of Steinhardt’s mission. Founded in 1890 as the first School of Pedagogy at an American University, Steinhardt exemplifies NYU’s commitment to public service and seeks to advance knowledge, creativity, and innovation at the crossroads of culture, education, and human development.

Metro Center’s leadership reflects that commitment to public service and the dream of an equitable education system. Dr. LaMar P. Miller, the founding executive director, began his career in the wake of the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision and launched Metro Center with a Teacher Corps grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Pedro Noguera joined NYU from Harvard University where he was the Judith K. Dimon Professor of Communities and Schools. Dr. Noguera was named Metro Center’s second executive director in 2004 and oversaw numerous funding and programmatic expansions, including a landmark Gates Foundation study on Black and Latino males in single-sex schools, as well as both an Asian and Spanish Bilingual Technical Assistance Center.

Dr. David E. Kirkland, the current Executive Director of Metro Center, joined us in 2015 from Michigan State, where he led the Center for Applied and Inclusive Teaching and Learning in Arts and Humanities. Dr. Kirkland has expanded Metro Center’s strategic partnerships and also piloted a resource center for school diversity with funding from the New York City Council.

We have members of Dr. Miller’s family joining Dr. Noguera and Dr. Kirkland for these anniversary celebrations. Congratulations, and thank you for your visionary leadership.

DOMINIC BREWER, Gale and Ira Drukier Dean
Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development
Welcome from the Executive Director

On behalf of NYU Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools, I’m honored to welcome friends, comrades, and partners who have joined us to celebrate 40 years of service in the cause of equity in education. I stand with each of you in this noble work. There is no higher distinction than to serve, and, after 40 years, to have that service recognized.

I would be remiss not to honor those who came before me. I thank Dr. LaMar Miller for planting his vision in this world. I thank Dr. Pedro Noguera for his dedication to making that vision grow. I stand representing them, their questions and their curiosities, but also the passion of their memories, of them never forgetting, always remembering that the best way to predict the future is to invent it.

We, at NYU Metro Center, commit ourselves to social justice and the elevation of youth, parent, and community voices, to advancing meaningful dialogue and interaction with others that achieves the collective end where people aspire to treat other people and communities with dignity, respect, and love. Our vision is radically grounded in action—in research that has an impact outside the academy, to helping educators and educational systems enhance learning, to advancing equitable access to opportunities to learn and higher outcomes, to creating spaces where all our children can thrive.

We achieve this by partnering with others to create light where there is none, recognizing and seizing the first opportunity for growth and expansion of the self through engagement with communities, students, parents, schools, and society. We do this by working with schools and districts to eliminate violence and (experience and outcome) disparities; in communities to mobilize residents for participatory decision-making; with teachers and school leaders to transform mindsets, practices, and policies; within systems to increase equity and promote opportunity. In so doing, we push the boundaries of what people have only typically thought possible, dreaming, creating, and achieving both the impossible and the unlikely.

Thus, NYU Metro Center is a purpose-driven organization, committed to increasing equity through joint problem solving and by honoring and validating our differences. We believe that our work and commitments to equity and the transformation of schools will expand opportunities that will lift all people up, as current systems are so often designed to maintain human oppression. To this end, we honor the past and advance a future scripted of dreams made real through collective action.

It is in this light that I recall to remembrance the passions I’ve shared, the same passions that fuel our great assembly, the same passions that make our common causes soar—to NYU Steinhardt, the #6 Graduate School of Education in the nation, to my invincible colleagues at NYU Metro Center, and to the many others with whom I’ve had the pleasure to toil, and to all of those who have supported our center through the years, I humbly and gratefully thank you.

DAVID E. KIRKLAND, Executive Director
The Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools
Born After Brown: 
*Imagining the Future of Equity in Education*

The history of the Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools (Metro Center) is rooted in the vision Dr. LaMar P. Miller, the first executive director and professor of education at NYU's Steinhardt School of Education, Culture, and Human Development. Dr. Miller’s career began in the wake of the 1954 Brown decision. “Brown has shaped and driven my career,” Miller stated in an article entitled, “Tracking the Progress of Brown” (Teachers College Record, Summer 1995).

Dr. Miller focused the Metro Center on issues of equity, access, and excellence in education and to bring about systemic change. Now, four decades later, Metro Center, under the superb leadership of Drs. Miller, Noguera, and Kirkland, has garnered over a quarter of a billion dollars of support for a remarkable array of innovative programs that collaborate on issues of equity with schools, school districts, teachers, students, parents, education departments, and government agencies at all levels.

These three exemplary leaders have raised Metro Center into a nationally recognized leader in educational equity. The center has strengthened its work with vital partnerships including; Alliance of Quality Education, Children’s Aid Society; Girls Incorporated; New York City, National Women’s Law Center; New Jersey and New York Education Departments; International Youth Leadership Institute; RMC Research Center; ORBIS; Native American Center; United Way of NYC; and The National Christina Foundation. The Center has partnered with corporations including Con Edison, IBM, Deutsche Bank and foundations including Ford, Kellogg, Spencer, Teagle, and W.T. Grant.
Our Programs

Metro Center has achieved impressive success with its programs. Below are highlights:

**Metro’s Upward Bound Program**, started in 1983, was the first in the country to tailor support for physically disabled New York City high school students from backgrounds of poverty to help increase academic skills and prepare them for post-secondary education.

**The Teacher Opportunity Corps** targeted minority teachers with limited financial resources, and has helped them obtain a master’s degree from NYU and state certification, thereby increasing the number of minority teachers in urban schools. Metro Center pioneered the development of fifth grade instructional materials that focused on the contributions of women, especially minority women, in American history.

**The Equity Assistance Center** provided technical assistance to hundreds of school districts in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin islands—for desegregation and racial, gender, and national origin equity. Before the school to prison pipeline construct, Metro designed the safe and drug-free initiative grounded in the notion that school reform efforts will not be successful if they are focused solely on improving instruction and leadership in schools.

**The NYS Statewide Language RBE-RN** funded by the NYS Education Department’s Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages provides support for the education of limited English language learners/Multilingual learners (ELLs/MLLs) by offering technical assistance, professional development, and resources to districts and schools statewide. RBE-RN is continuously translating bilingual glossaries and adding them to its listing of more than 800 bilingual glossaries in over 35 languages. RBE-RN established and maintains the multilingual NYS ELL Parent Hotline which provides access for parents of ELLs across New York State to obtain information about their rights and services for their children.

**The ASD Nest Support Project** develops and implements educational solutions for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

**The Center for Student Success** houses programs and projects designed to increase the learning of those students who are facing structural barriers preventing access to educational opportunities.

**Metro Center Saturday and Summer College Prep Academy** is a college preparatory program that annually enables over 300 high school students from high-need communities to come to the NYU campus for focused academic enrichment, tutoring, mentoring, college readiness, career planning, and professional internship experience.

**The Liberty Partnerships Program** fosters academic resilience resulting in high school completion, persistence in higher education, and successful transitions into the world of work.

**ROSES (Resilience, Opportunity, Safety, Education, and Strength)** is a community-based, trauma-informed, girls-only program that is being implemented and evaluated as part of a New York University study. The goal of the study is to learn more about the needs of girls aged 12-17 who are or at-risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system and to understand how the system can better work for them.

**The Project for the Advancement of Our Common Humanity (PACH)** is a think-and-do tank that draws from the science of human connection in order to create a more just and humane world through research, curriculum development, and community interventions and training.

**The Mindful Research Lab** looks at the psychological and neurological effects of mindfulness on student learning, teacher effectiveness, and school and classroom climate. This in turn informs the **Mindful Teacher Program (MTP)**, which offers professional development to schools by training educators in techniques to improve their lives both in and out of school.

**Technical Assistance Center on Disproportionality (TAC-D)** project, is contracted through the New York State Education Department (NYSED) to assess need, develop, and implement technical assistance and professional development trainings to New York State School Districts to address issues of disproportionality.

**The Center for Strategic Solutions** works to enhance the capacity of schools, districts, and other agencies through the co-construction of policies and practices designed to both meet the specific learning needs of students and respond to environmental challenges that impact child development and student achievement.

**The Center for Policy, Research, and Evaluation** conducts applied research and evaluation studies focused on promoting positive educational outcomes for youth, and understanding the influence of both schools and communities on those outcomes.

**The Center for Community Organizing and Engagement** provides support to urban communities in their struggles for school improvement. Their work is inspired by the belief that sustainable and equitable school reforms emerge when the voices of students, parents, and teachers are combined with the best ideas and research to meet the challenges of struggling schools.
Celebration Highlights

Honoring Dr. LaMar P. Miller

THURSDAY MAY 17TH
5:30–9:00 p.m.
NYU Global Center, 238 Thompson Street

Celebratory Gala Honoring Dr. LaMar P. Miller, First Metro Executive Director. Feature includes Torch of Learning Award Presented in Honor of Dr. Miller.

6:30 p.m. Opening Remarks
Pamela Morris, Vice Dean for Research and Faculty Affairs, NYU Steinhardt

Honoring Pedro Noguera

FRIDAY MAY 18TH
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Rosenthal Pavilion, Kimmel Center, 10th Floor

TAC-D Summer Institute Conference on Disproportionality: Race, Politics, and Justice
This conference provides educators and practitioners with opportunities to learn how to incorporate conversations that address ways to establish justice and equitable outcomes for vulnerable students.

Special Presentation
Kenneth Morris, Great-Great-Great-Grandson of Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington

6:00–9:30 p.m.
Eisner & Lubin Auditorium, Kimmel Center for Student Life, 4th Floor

Colloquy and Reception with Pedro Noguera, Dominic Brewer, Dean, NYU Steinhardt, The Honorable Bakari Sellers and Dr. Betty Rosa, Chancellor of New York State’s Regents.

Honoring Our Metro Center Family

SATURDAY MAY 19TH
8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Vanderbilt Hall, NYU School of Law, 40 Washington Square South

CSS’s Decolonizing Education Conference
Conference is designed for and by teacher activists, guidance counselors, social workers, and building administrators who provide experienced approaches to removing barriers to equitable opportunities.

11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Rosenthal Pavilion, Kimmel Center for Student Life, 9th Floor

Gallery Walk
A series of poster sessions and selected conversations highlighting the work of our 14 programs:
- ASD Nest Support Project
- The Center for Community Organizing and Engagement
- Center for Policy, Research, and Evaluation
- Center for Strategic Solutions
- Center for Student Success
- Center for Research on Teacher Education
- Liberty Partnerships Program
- The College Prep Academy/1199 WorkForce Program
- Language RBERN
- Technical Assistance Center on Disproportionality
- Metro Learning Communities
- Mindful Education Lab
- Project for the Advancement of our Common Humanity (PACH)
- ROSES (Resilience, Opportunity, Safety, Education, Strength)

SATURDAY MAY 19TH continued
1:30 p.m.
Rosenthal Pavilion, Kimmel Center for Student Life, 10th Floor

High Tea: Spilling the EquiTEA
Conversation with Laura Coates, CNN Legal Analyst and host of the Laura Coates Show.

3:00 p.m.
Rosenthal Pavilion, Kimmel Center for Student Life, 10th Floor

Performance presentation with Rohina Malik
Malik will present her acclaimed one-woman play focusing on the lives of Muslim women following the events of 9/11.

Honoring Dr. David E. Kirkland

SUNDAY MAY 20TH
1:00–4:00 p.m.
Eisner & Lubin Auditorium, Kimmel Center for Student Life, 4th Floor

A Youth Celebration: Learning from the Future
In celebration of Metro Center’s 40th Anniversary, Broadway Advocacy Coalition (BAC) joins Metro’s programs: College Prep Academy/1199 Workforce, Center for Community Engagement and Outreach and Liberty Partnerships Programs, as well as UrbanWord and the Urban Youth Collaborative to experience the power of youth leadership, vision, and voice when combined with artistry. The event will feature themes emerging from conversations between the Metro Center’s Executive Director, Broadway artist performances, and break-out workshop sessions.
Dr. LaMar Miller

“...Miller began his career in Michigan. After coming to NYU in 1969 as an associate professor and serving as research director for the Institute of Afro-American Affairs, Miller founded The Metropolitan Center for Urban Education in May 1978 (which has since been renamed). One of Miller’s goals was to track and aid with the progress of the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court ruling in 1953 and make sure the promise of desegregation in public schools was fulfilled.”

(From the Washington Square Press by Sakshi Venkatraman, Deputy News Editor, November 8, 2017.)

“LaMar looked at issues that were systemic in society in the context of public schools,” Metro Center Scholar in Residence Laruth Gray said. “He believed a democracy only works with a strong system of public schooling.”

“He was a gentle giant,” Gray said. “He was excellent administrator, calm in his approach but he expected expert work. He was a great storyteller and just a class act. How do you talk about someone like that?”

“He was able to execute the vision of marrying theory, research, and practice,” Gray said. “Practice was what was important to him. What can we do, he would ask, that makes a difference in the lives of kids in classes?”

Marilyn Sommer, the former assistant director of the Upward Bound program, worked with Miller at the Metro Center as well.

“This program was part of the overall view he had of equity in education for all,” Sommer said. “It was his vision and his leadership. What is impressive is that this center has continued to grow and expand across the country. It is a result of his vision and persistence; the result of the seeds he planted.”

During his time as executive director of the center, Miller was also a professor of education at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development and a Steinhardt Distinguished Fellow.

“The greatest proportion of [Metro Center] staff works on the ground and in the field in public schools,” Gray said. “At one of the biggest research universities, he didn’t want to have a center of just theory or research.”

Among his former staff, Miller leaves behind a legacy of commitment to equity and education, something his successors have tried to emulate. Current Executive Director David Kirkland is working to expand the reach of Miller’s work to more public schools across the United States.

Dr. Miller joined Touro in 2006, upon his retirement from NYU. During Dr. Miller’s tenure as Touro’s Graduate School of Education Dean, GSE expanded its degree offerings to include new educational specialty areas, including MS degrees in both mathematics and biology education. The school was ranked first in the state for graduating minority students with master’s degrees in education by the magazine Diverse: Issues in Higher Education.

“Throughout his long life, Dr. Miller traveled extensively throughout the world, and was known for being especially eager to go anywhere for a good game of golf,” Gray said.
During the 12 years I served as Executive Director of the Metro Center (2003-2015), I often said that Metro was the face of NYU in many parts of New York City. Of course, those are the parts of the city where NYU typically does not recruit students or have much of a presence—Brownsville, Brooklyn, the South Bronx, etc. The fact that we were there, as tutors helping kids, as consultants working with struggling schools, as organizers engaging parents—gave NYU something that it was woefully lacking: a positive image in communities that needed the help and assistance a major university could provide.

This is one of the things that makes Metro so special and important. Our reach extends well beyond the five boroughs of New York City. We work throughout the country, often in the most impoverished communities and schools, helping to transform schools so that they can make a positive difference in the lives of the children and families they serve. We do this on soft money; grants that we spend a lot of time hustling to raise and service contracts that make it possible for us to hire and deploy staff who are amazingly talented and dedicated. It is a legacy that we should all be proud of, one that brings resources and talent to communities and schools that need it most.

I recall being asked a few years ago to assist a school district in Illinois. Although I saw their needs as compelling and worthy of our support, I tried to dissuade them from seeing Metro as their only viable partner. In fact, I suggested several potential university partners that were located in closer proximity to the district. After a few minutes of conversation it became clear that they only wanted Metro. The superintendent explained: “Your reputation speaks for itself. Other universities are only interested if we have a grant and can pay them large sums of money. You guys are here when we need you, and you bring a commitment and professionalism that is truly unique.” I’ve heard similar sentiments expressed by educators throughout the country.

Such sentiments serve as a reminder for why what we do and who we are as a research center based at a major university is so important. I am so happy to see that legacy continue under the leadership of David Kirkland who has brought new energy, vision and creativity to the center, just as I tried to do after succeeding LaMar Miller.

Metro matters!!
Audre Lorde writes, “The quality of light by which we scrutinize our lives has direct bearing upon the product which we live, and upon the changes which we hope to bring about through those lives.” In this light, we forge our meanings, pursue a magic not yet imagined yet hoped for, and aspire toward a world that lives courageously in our dreams. NYU Metro Center finds its resonance in this space, for the Center is more than another research organization. It is an idea.

This idea, borne in labor, forged in justice work, is illumination, for it is through justice work—the labor of our highest moral pursuits—that we give name to the ideas which are—without the common cause of our efforts—nameless and formless, about to be birthed but already felt. The distillation of experience, the never-ending fountains from which justice work springs sanctions thought just as dream births concept, as feeling births idea, as knowledge precedes understanding.

For forty years, NYU Metro Center has been the way that we give name to the nameless so that it can be thought—and beyond all surfaces we find our truths somewhere dark, ancient, and deep. However, NYU Metro Center is not only dream and vision; it is the skeleton architecture of our lives. For the scores of people who work with us and the thousand and hundreds of thousands of people for whom we labor, it lays foundations for a future of change, a bridge across our fears of what has never been before. NYU Metro Center is about our children.

Lorde writes: “Our children cannot dream unless they live, they cannot live unless they are nourished, and who else will feed them the real food without which their dreams will be no different than ours? . . . there are no new ideas . . . only new ways of making them felt.”

For forty years, NYU Metro Center has been that new way.
Biographies

DOMINIC BREWER is the Gale and Ira Drukier Dean of the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, and holds an appointment in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences in the Professions. Brewer is the author of numerous books, articles, and chapters on a broad range of education issues in K-12 and higher education. His work includes empirical analyses of the effects of teachers on student achievement, class size, including a book on competition in higher education entitled, In Pursuit of Prestige. Most recently, he served as co-editor of the major journal Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis as well as Encyclopedia of Education Economics and Finance. Brewer served as President of the Association for Education Finance and Policy for 2014-15, and is a fellow of the American Educational Research Association, elected in 2011.

LAURA COATES is a CNN Legal Analyst, host, commentator, and bestselling author of You Have the Right: A Constitutional Guide to Policing the Police. As the host of SiriusXM’s Insight and Urbanview channels and The Laura Coates Show, she has provided her sharp and often humorous insight on the relationship between the law, politics, and popular culture for national news outlets such as MSNBC, TVOne, The Boston Herald, The Washington Post, and USA Today. As former Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, she championed the law and enforced justice on a wide variety of criminal offenses. Coates was a Trial Attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice under both President Bush and President Obama, specializing in the enforcement of Voting Rights throughout the United States. She is a nationwide voice against issues of trial advocacy, race, policing, and social justice.

STELLA M. FLORES is Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Diversity and Associate Professor of Higher Education at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. She is also Director of Access and Equity at the Steinhardt Institute for Higher Education Policy at NYU. Dr. Flores has written about demographic changes in U.S. education, the role of alternative admissions plans and financial aid programs in college admissions in the U.S and abroad, Minority Serving Institutions, Latino and immigrant students, English Language Learners, and community colleges. In 2017 she was named “One of the Top 25 Women in Higher Education and Beyond” by Diverse Issues magazine. She currently serves as a member of the Committee on Developing Indicators of Educational Equity from The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, a board member of the Institute for Higher Education Policy and the American Association for Hispanics in Higher Education, and was recently elected as an at-large member of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). Her research has been funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the National Academy of Education, the Spencer Foundation and the Educational Testing Service.

DAVID E. KIRKLAND is the Executive Director of The NYU Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and The Transformation of Schools. He has been described as an activist and educator, cultural critic, and author. A leading national scholar and advocate for educational justice, Dr. Kirkland’s transdisciplinary scholarship explores a variety of equity related topics: school climate and discipline; school integration and choice; culture and education; vulnerable learners; and intersections among race, gender, and education. With many groundbreaking publications to his credit, he has analyzed the cultures, languages, and texts of urban youth, using quantitative, critical literary, ethnographic, and sociolinguistic research methods to answer complex questions at the center of equity and social justice in education. Dr. Kirkland taught middle and high school for several years in Michigan. He’s also organized youth empowerment and youth mentoring programs for over a decade in major U.S. cities such as Detroit, Chicago and New York. He currently leads efforts to enhance education options for vulnerable youth throughout New York City, and beyond.

ROHINA MALIK is a critically acclaimed, award-winning Chicago playwright and solo performance artist. She was born and raised in London, England, of South Asian heritage. Her one-woman play Unveiled was developed and had its world premiere at the 16th Street Theater, where it received critical acclaim. Rohina’s play, Yasmina’s Necklace, had its world premiere at the 16th Street Theater in January 2016. Directed by Ann Filmer, it was nominated for a Joseph Jefferson Award for Best New Play, and was recently remounted at the prestigious Goodman Theater. Recently Malik was selected to receive the 2018 Lee Reynolds Award, given annually to a woman or women active in any aspect of theatre whose work for, in, about, or through the medium of theatre has helped to illuminate the possibilities for social, cultural, or political change.
KENNETH MORRIS descends from two of the most influential names in American history: he is the great-great-great grandson of Frederick Douglass and the great-great-grandson of Booker T. Washington. His mother, Nettie Washington Douglass, is the daughter of Nettie Hancock Washington (granddaughter of Booker T. Washington), and Dr. Frederick Douglass III (great-grandson of Frederick Douglass).

Ken continues his family’s legacy of anti-slavery and educational work as co-founder and president of the Atlanta-based nonprofit Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives (FDFI). His career and life path are driven by a clear focus on FDFI’s mission “To Advance Freedom through Knowledge and Strategic Action.” He could not have predicted that one day he would so fully embrace and be defined by the characteristics that so closely defined his famous ancestors.

Among the current FDFI projects is the One Million Abolitionists project, which, with a wide range of partners including the National Park Service, educational institutions, community organizations, and individuals, will print and distribute one million copies of a special edition of Frederick Douglass’s first autobiography, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave, to young people across the country through the 2018 celebration of the bicentennial of Douglass’s birth.

PAMELA MORRIS is a Professor of Applied Psychology, the Vice Dean for Research and Faculty Affairs at NYU’s Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, and former director of the Institute of Human Development and Social Change. Dr. Morris has conducted more than a decade of research working at the intersection of social policy, practice, and developmental psychology, testing promising interventions for low-income families and children. Dr. Morris’ research is characterized by the study of theoretically-informed interventions, strong attention to measurement of developmental outcomes for children, and cutting-edge analytic strategies on causal inference, and strong research designs.

PEDRO A. NOGUERA is the Distinguished Professor of Education at the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies and Faculty Director for the Center for the Transformation of Schools at UCLA. He is a sociologist whose scholarship and research focuses on the ways in which schools are influenced by social and economic conditions as well as by demographic trends in local, regional and global contexts. Dr. Noguera serves on the boards of numerous national and local organizations and appears as a regular commentator on educational issues on CNN, MSNBC, National Public Radio and other national news outlets.

Dr. Noguera has published over 200 research articles, monographs, and research reports on topics such as urban school reform, conditions that promote student achievement, the role of education in community development, youth violence, and race and ethnic relations in American society. He is the author of several books including: City Schools and the American Dream, Unfinished Business: Closing the Achievement Gap in Our Nation’s Schools, and The Trouble With Black Boys...and Other Reflections on Race, Equity and the Future of Public Education. His most recent books are Excellence Through Equity with Alan Blankstein and Race, Equity and Education: The Pursuit of Equality in Education 60 Years After Brown with Jill Pierce and Roey Ahram. Noguera recently received awards from the Center for the Advanced Study of the Behavioral Sciences, the National Association of Secondary Principals, and the McSilver Institute at NYU for his research and advocacy efforts aimed at fighting poverty.

DR. BETTY ROSA was elected by her Board of Regents colleagues as Chancellor for the term April 1, 2016 through March 2019. Chancellor Rudy Crew appointed Dr. Rosa to the position of Superintendent of Community School District 8 in the Bronx. District 8 consisted of approximately 25,000 students and 30 schools encompassing neighborhoods of the South Bronx including Soundview and Hunts Point and the northeast section of the Bronx known as Throggs Neck. Chancellor Harold Levy later appointed Dr. Rosa to serve as the Senior Superintendent of the Bronx. One of the schools Dr. Rosa founded as superintendent, M.S. 101 (Maritime Academy for Science and Technology) became the top ranked middle school in the City of New York based on New York State examination results.

A graduate of the City College of New York and Lehman College at the Bachelor’s and Master’s level, Dr. Rosa holds an Ed.M. and Ed.D. in Administration, Planning and Social Policy from Harvard University.

BAKARI SELLERS is a CNN Political Commentator and lawyer with Strom Law Firm, LLC in Columbia, SC. He was the youngest member of the South Carolina state legislature and the youngest African American elected official in U.S. history. In 2014, he was the Democratic Nominee for Lt. Governor in the state of South Carolina.

Sellers, a graduate of both Morehouse College and the University of South Carolina, is the son of renowned civil rights leader Cleveland Sellers. He promotes progressive policies to address issues such as education, poverty, domestic violence, and childhood obesity.

Sellers served on President Barack Obama’s South Carolina steering committee during the 2008 election, and is widely considered to be a rising political star. His exceptional bipartisan leadership earned him a place in both Time Magazine’s 40 Under 40 in 2010 and 2014 as well as their 2015 “The Root 100” list of the nation’s most influential African-Americans.
NYU Metro Center at 40
Dr. David E. Kirkland
Executive Director

Dr. La Ruth Gray
NYU Metro Center 40th Anniversary Celebration Chair

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