



500 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10451

STUDENTS STEP INTO SHOES OF LOCAL OFFICIALS THANKS TO CUNY COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM

Wednesday, November 28, 2012 (Bronx, NY) - Three Hostos College Now high school students will try their hands at governing, thanks to collaboration between Hostos College Now, the Edward T. Rogowsky Internship Program, and Hostos Community College. The students will represent City Council members at a “mock” council meeting that will serve as the culminating event to the “Model New York City Council Project” on Saturday, December 1, at the Richard Harris Terrace in Borough Manhattan Community College.

The students, from two area high schools who also attend Hostos as part of the College Now program, will debate and vote on the Community Safety Act, more commonly known as “Stop and Frisk.”

The Model New York City Council Project is an intensive leadership development program that provides public service education to College Now students. During the training students learn about the inner workings of the New York City Council and how to advocate for a group of people, as well as working on a legislative agenda with the faculty and staff of the Edward T. Rogowsky Internship Program in Government and Public Affairs.

Hostos College Now works with over 40 South Bronx high schools to motivate and prepare students for the reality of higher education and the college experience. Hostos College Now serves over 1,000 students each year in over 45 college credit and pre-college courses. CUNY-wide, the College Now program offers dual-enrollment and college readiness programs to New York City public high school students on every CUNY undergraduate campus.

The trio of overachievers, Adribe Cortorreal, Cheyenne Evans and Kevin King, attend Hostos after their normal high school day. Adribe, of International Community High School, began her involvement in Hostos College Now in the Summer Intensive English Language Program, a pre-college summer program for English language learners. She then continued into Hostos College Now ESL courses, and is currently earning three college credits in Public Speaking. Cheyenne and Kevin, both from Bronx Leadership Academy II, are currently earning college credits in Public Speaking and Introduction to the Digital Toolbox, respectively.

Elizabeth Wilson, director of Hostos College Now, said “We are very proud of these ambitious students who have chosen to not only enroll in college classes early, but to take train to be the future leaders of our community. They fulfill the mission of Hostos and College Now to encourage civic engagement.”

In addition to the students, City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn, Councilman Jumaane Williams, Councilman Ydanis Rodríguez, Councilwoman Deborah Rose and other public officials are expected to attend this educational event.

Anthony J. Maniscalco is the Director of the Edward T. Rogowsky Internship Program in Government and Public Affairs for The City University of New York. He credits the program for providing an intensive training component on the structure and functions of local government and the New York City Council, the demographic characteristics of the city's communities and council districts.

Joshua M. Rivera, the Director of Government Relations for the Office of the President at Hostos Community College, is also heavily involved with the program and said it serves as a great vehicle to guide young students through the inner workings of different levels of government, while teaching the importance of staying involved.

About Hostos Community College:

Eugenio María de Hostos Community College, part of The City University of New York (CUNY) system, was founded in 1968. In addition to associate degree programs that facilitate easy transfer to CUNY's four-year colleges or baccalaureate studies at other institutions, Hostos also has an award-winning Division of Continuing Education and Workforce Development that offers courses for professional development and certificate-bearing workforce training programs. In four decades, Hostos has grown from a class of 623 in 1970 to more than 7,000 students in 2012. The college also serves an additional 12,000 students through its Division of Continuing Education and Workforce Development. For more news and stories about Hostos Community College, visit www.hostos.cuny.edu

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