



# SUMMER CORPS Reception

## TUESDAY

**June**

**30**

**2026**

### SUNY GLOBAL

116 E 55TH ST, NEW YORK, NY 10022

An afternoon of connection, conversation, and celebration of the work of the Empire State Service Corps at SUNY Global.

We're excited to kick off the summer with the Empire State Service Corps community. Together with SUNY Board of Trustees, SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr., State Legislators, and fellow Corps members for an afternoon at SUNY Global. Today is a chance to pause, reflect on the meaningful work you're doing across New York State and look ahead into the summer together—and to celebrate your role in the ongoing story of American civic life as we mark the nation's 250th anniversary.

This afternoon will include a light lunch, a fireside chat with Chancellor King about public service, civic engagement, and SUNY's mission, and professional development opportunities designed to support your growth as leaders. As America 250 invites the nation to reflect on what democracy asks of its citizens, your work with the Empire State Service Corps is exemplary of that answer. We look forward to celebrating it together.



# Agenda

<b>12:30- 1:15PM</b>	<b>WELCOME: LIGHT LUNCH &amp; NETWORKING</b> <i>Terrace/Cafe</i>
<b>1:15- 1:45PM</b>	<b>AMERICA 250, CIVICS AND SERVICE FIRESIDE CHAT</b> <i>Multipurpose Room</i>  Chancellor John B. King Jr.; Carlos Lejnieks, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson & Union Counties; and select Empire State Service Corps students
<b>2:00- 3:00PM</b>	<b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY</b> <i>Tiered Classroom</i>  Chelsea Peters, Citizens & Scholars



# Fireside Chat

CIVICS, SERVICE, AND  
AMERICA 250

## Chancellor John B. King Jr.

John B. King Jr. is the 15th Chancellor of the State University of New York, the largest comprehensive system of public higher education in the United States. As Chancellor, King and the SUNY Board of Trustees have established four pillars to guide SUNY's progress: student success; research and scholarship; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and economic development and upward mobility. As part of SUNY's commitment to student success, Chancellor King has championed a System-wide Civics and Service Agenda, which includes the launch of the Empire State Service Corps to provide paid community service opportunities to hundreds of SUNY students each year. Prior to his appointment as Chancellor, King served as president of The Education Trust and as the 10th United States Secretary of Education under President Barack Obama, and as New York's first Black and Hispanic state education commissioner.



# Partner Organization

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

## Carlos Lejnieks

**CEO BIG BROTHERS  
BIG SISTERS OF ESSEX,  
HUDSON & UNION  
COUNTIES**



Carlos Lejnieks is CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson & Union Counties based in Newark, NJ and past chair of BBBS of NJ. Carlos helped launch this agency in 2008 growing it from being the smallest in NJ to one of the largest in the nation. His students achieve a 96% high school graduation rate. Under his leadership, BBBS has received numerous awards including a formal recognition by President Obama in 2010 and the BBBS of America “Agency of the Year” in 2026. Prior to BBBS, Carlos served as an administrator at North Star Academy/ Uncommon Schools, a Blue Ribbon charter school in Newark, and held positions at Goldman Sachs and CN Communications. Carlos has harnessed his grassroots experience to advise on state and federal policy including service on the New Jersey Governor’s Council for families most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Carlos has also served on President Obama’s Regional Finance Committee, Governor Chris Christie’s Education Transition Team, Governor Phil Murphy’s Transition Team and Newark Mayor Cory Booker’s Transition Team. A purpose-driven volunteer, Carlos is co-founder and trustee emeritus of Democracy Prep Public Schools, a network of schools based in Harlem serving over 6,000 students. He is chair emeritus of the NJ Charter Schools Association, the immediate-past board chairman of the Jersey City Medical Center, a recipient of the Aspen Institute’s emerging leaders fellowship, and winner of the American Express Leadership Academy Award. In 2021, Carlos became a trustee at Brown University, then joined its Executive Committee in 2023. A former collegiate wrestler, Carlos holds a BA from Brown University, an MSc from the London School of Economics and an Honorary Doctorate from Saint Peter’s University.



# Service Corps

## STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

### **Jillian Ortiz**

SUNY ONEONTA

---

*Serving this summer at City Parks Foundation in Arts & Special Events Department*

### **Fatoumata Kake**

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
AT ALBANY

---

*Serving this summer at Equality Charter School, White Plains*

### **Alex Moon**

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

---

*Serving at the BEAM Center in k-12 education in Brooklyn*

### **Angeline Zapata**

SUNY CANTON

---

*Serving this summer at Equality Charter High School.*

# Professional Development Activity

## Chelsea Peters



Chelsea Peters Shale has always been focused on one thing: building the strategies, programs, and partnerships that move systems and expand opportunity for communities around the world. Across institutions where she has directed more than \$3 billion in philanthropic capital — and now through her own advisory practice — she works at the intersection of bold ideas and practical execution, connecting the right people, capital, and ideas to drive lasting impact.

She is the Founder of Full Impact Advisory, where she designs strategies and leads programs that help foundations and social sector leaders align capital, partnerships, and action to drive measurable change at scale. Her most visible current work is a national effort to strengthen American democracy: partnering with the Institute for Citizens & Scholars and more than 130 U.S. college and university presidents to invest in initiatives that equip the next generation with the civic and collaborative problem-solving skills needed to navigate an increasingly complex world.

Previously, Chelsea served in C-suite roles at two of the world's largest philanthropic institutions. At the Walton Family Foundation, where she served as Deputy Executive Director and Chief Strategy Officer, she worked alongside a multi-generational family to shape long-term strategy and drive progress in K-12 education, social mobility, and water sustainability. At UNICEF USA — where she served as Interim Co-CEO and Chief Regional Strategy and Operations Officer— she mobilized a nationwide movement behind life-saving programs for children in more than 180 countries.

An Aspen Ideas Fellow, founding member of Chief, and one of Fortune's Most Powerful Women, Chelsea remains driven by a core question: How do we better connect the people, capital, and ideas that communities need to truly thrive.

Special thanks to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and the SUNY Board of Trustees for their support and continued leadership on behalf of our students.

