

The 1st Annual

NORMAN R. MCCONNEY, JR. AWARDS FOR EOP STUDENT EXCELLENCE



The State University
of New York

NORMAN R. MCCONNEY, JR.



Student Excellence

10 • 17 • 19

SUNY Global Center, New York, New York

THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (EOP)

The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) is a comprehensive support program that plays a pivotal role in opening doors to a SUNY education for academically disadvantaged students from low-income families in New York. EOP is one of the oldest and most successful college access programs in the nation. In 2017, EOP marked a milestone, celebrating 50 years of providing college access, success, and opportunity.

The program was established in 1967 through legislation advanced by former Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly Arthur O. Eve of Buffalo, who dedicated his career to addressing the needs of underserved communities.

In the 2019-20 academic year, EOP will serve approximately 11,000 students on 48 SUNY campuses. EOP students are more likely to be from underrepresented populations and the first in their family to go to college. They dream big, and those selected for the program possess the motivation and promise to succeed in higher education.

In many cases, EOP participants outperform their peers, with 73 percent of EOP students completing a bachelor's degree within six years. Since the program's inception, more than 75,000 EOP students have earned SUNY degrees, participate in the workforce, and contribute to the social and economic well-being of their communities.



Educational Opportunity
Program



From the Chancellor

October 17, 2019

One of the great joys I have as SUNY Chancellor is spending time with the next generation of leaders on each of our campuses. Our conversations about academics, social lives, family and friends, personal struggles, and so much more have left a lasting impression and have been truly inspiring.

Some of the most touching and memorable discussions have been with EOP students, who, no matter what part of the state we're in or what campus we're on, share a strong bond. Our EOP programs create an environment where our students can grow and come together as families, supporting each other as they thrive academically and professionally.

That is one of the many reasons why I am so proud that after more than 50 years of EOP helping our students flourish, we are now able to honor one of the unsung heroes who helped create the program—Norman R. McConney, Jr.—by establishing the EOP Student Excellence Award in his name. In doing so, his legacy as a champion for minority students will live on.

To this year's honorees, congratulations on receiving this well-deserved accolade. No matter what challenges you faced, you overcame the obstacles placed in your way and remained determined to succeed. I applaud you for all that you've accomplished, and I can't wait to see what you do next.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristina M. Johnson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'K' and 'J'.

Kristina M. Johnson, PhD

Chancellor

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

NORMAN R. MCCONNEY, JR. AWARDS FOR EOP STUDENT EXCELLENCE

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WELCOME & REMARKS

Cesar Perales

Vice Chairman, SUNY Board of Trustees

Kristina M. Johnson, PhD

Chancellor, The State University of New York

STUDENT SPEAKER

Latishe Thorpe

EOP Student, Dutchess Community College

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Honorable Carl Heastie

New York State Assembly Speaker

AWARD INTRODUCTION

Leccia Eve

Vice President for Public Policy, Verizon, and Daughter of The Honorable Arthur O. Eve

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS



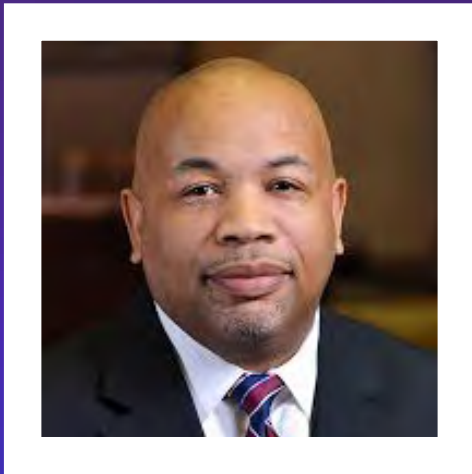
Norman R. McConney, Jr.

Norman R. McConney, Jr. (1946-2016), a University at Albany graduate, dedicated his life to public service and was instrumental in advancing legislation that created several statewide initiatives to address the needs of economically disadvantaged and underrepresented New Yorkers.

After serving as Assistant Dean for Special Programs at SUNY, Mr. McConney became the long-time Chief of Staff for Buffalo Assemblyman Arthur O. Eve, who was Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly. A highly respected public policy strategist, Mr. McConney helped draft legislation that established SUNY's EOP, one of the most successful college access programs in the country.

Mr. McConney spearheaded programs to prepare minority high school students for careers in science and medicine and created scholarships for students underrepresented in the licensed professions. Mr. McConney was also a driving force behind the creation of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, which later became the New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus. He is recognized as one of the principal authors of The People's Budget, which each year analyzes the Executive Budget and its impact on the poor and minorities in the state. Mr. McConney taught classes at the Graduate School for Policy Management at both Baruch College and George Washington University. He also developed, and was the lead negotiator for, the passage of the bill to create nurse practitioners in New York State. Mr. McConney was a graduate of the "Revson Fellow for the Future of the City of New York Program" of Columbia University.

Mr. McConney was no stranger to adversity. As a young child, he fell on a picket fence and damaged his left lung. He was hospitalized for two years and became one of the first pediatric patients to undergo a revolutionary surgical procedure to remove his injured lung. He leaves a legacy of success that is a testament to his determination, resilience, and tenacity.



The Honorable Carl E. Heastie

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie has represented the 83rd New York State Assembly District in the Northeast Bronx since 2001. In 2015, he was elected the first African American to serve as speaker of the Assembly.

Upon becoming speaker, Mr. Heastie announced the “Higher Education Road to Success” initiative to increase funding for opportunity programs, enhance community college base aid, and bolster outreach programs. He continues to lead the fight to make higher education more affordable for New Yorkers. In 2015 and 2016, Speaker Heastie worked closely with members of the Assembly Majority to develop a financial plan that made a historic \$1.6B investment in education.

While he has been an important advocate for education, Speaker Heastie is also dedicated to fighting for other reforms designed to uplift and improve the lives of all New Yorkers, including paid family leave protection, increased resources for affordable housing, and homelessness prevention, and delivering important tax cuts aimed to help working families. Most recently, Speaker Heastie prevailed in securing an increase in the minimum wage and raising the age of criminal responsibility to 18, preserving a brighter future for many young people. He is committed to leading the Assembly Majority as an advocate for investments that will put New York families and communities first.

Prior to joining the Assembly, Speaker Heastie served as a budget analyst in the New York City Comptroller’s Office. He earned a master’s degree in business administration with a concentration in finance from Bernard M. Baruch College and a bachelor’s degree in applied mathematics and statistics from Stony Brook University.



Cesar Perales

Cesar Perales was appointed a member of the SUNY Board of Trustees on June 21, 2019; his term expires on June 30, 2021. On September 25, 2019, Mr. Perales was designated Vice Chairman of the Board by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo.

Vice Chairman Perales grew up in New York City and earned a bachelor's degree from City College and a law degree from Fordham Law School.

Most recently, he served as New York State's Secretary of State, where he was a leader in the state's economic development, community revitalization, and anti-poverty efforts. At the request of Governor Cuomo, he also established the New York Office for New Americans and the Empire State Fellows Program.

Vice Chairman Perales became a neighborhood legal services lawyer upon graduation from law school and represented hundreds of indigent New Yorkers. He went on to be a co-founder and first head of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (PRLDEF), now known as LatinoJustice PRLDEF.

Vice Chairman Perales is a member of the Board of Directors of Empire State Development, New York State's economic development agency. In 2018, he served as Chair of the New York City Charter Revision Commission.

SPEAKERS



Latishe Thorpe

Latishe Thorpe, an EOP student at Dutchess Community College (DCC) is scheduled to earn her associate's degree in Human Services in May. She has been on the President's List every semester and maintains a cumulative grade point average of 4.0.

Ms. Thorpe does not just excel in the classroom; she is a dedicated mother and remarkable woman who has not let life's challenges stand in the way of achieving her goal to become a social worker.

Ms. Thorpe grew up in and out of foster homes and residential facilities, and she received her GED at the age of 16. A single parent of five children, including two with special needs, Latishe was determined to give her family a better life. A resident of Poughkeepsie, she enrolled at DCC in the fall of 2018. Latishe has gained admiration from faculty and EOP staff for her ardent desire to learn, her dedication to her studies, resiliency, positive energy, and grace. One professor described Latishe as "a gold standard by which excellence can be measured."



Leecia Eve

Leecia Eve is Vice President, Public Policy for Verizon and daughter of The Honorable Arthur O. Eve, Founder of EOP, and Constance B. Eve. She is responsible for Verizon's corporate interests – including public policy, government and external affairs, regulatory matters, and philanthropy.

Before joining Verizon in July 2013, Ms. Eve served as the Deputy Secretary for Economic Development for New York, and, as such, was the Chief Economic Development Advisor to Governor Cuomo. As Deputy Secretary, Ms. Eve focused on leveraging state resources to attract new investment in strategic industries and critical infrastructure through public-private partnerships, bring new businesses to New York, and help New York's businesses strengthen and expand. She previously served in the Cuomo Administration as Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Empire State Development.

Among her prior roles, Ms. Eve was Senate Counsel and Homeland Security Advisor to then-Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and as Counsel to then-Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr. when he served as the ranking member of the United States Senate Judiciary Committee. She also served as Vice President for Policy of the No Limits Foundation, a not-for-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., which promotes economic issues at home and abroad, and advocated for transforming American foreign policy around the world, including advancing the rights of women.

A Buffalo native, Ms. Eve began her legal career as Law Clerk to New York State Court of Appeals Judge Fritz W. Alexander II. She is a graduate of Smith College, the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (MPA), and the Harvard Law School. She is the daughter of Former NYS Assembly Deputy Speaker Arthur Eve and Constance Eve.

2019 STUDENT HONOREES



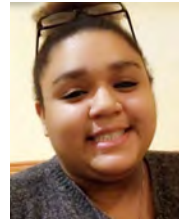
SUNY ADIRONDACK
Sara Kanampore
*Liberal Arts: Humanities
 and Social Sciences
 Albany, NY*



SUNY CANTON
Marcos Martinez
*Practical Nursing
 Bronx, NY*



UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
Marki Gonzalez
*Business Administration:
 Finance and Entrepreneurship
 Bronx, NY*



SUNY COBLESKILL
Brionna Coleman
*Early Childhood Studies: Birth-5
 Queensbury, NY*



BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY
Joel Nunez
*Community and Public Affairs
 Bronx, NY*



*CORNELL UNIVERSITY –
 COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
 AND LIFE SCIENCES*
Alexandra Victoria Strednak
*Biology and Society
 Newfield, NY*



THE COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT
Rukia Abdi
*Public Health Education
 Rochester, NY*



SUNY CORTLAND
Kathleen Altamirano
*Early Childhood/Childhood
 Education
 Bronx, NY*



*SUNY BROOME
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE*
Milagros (Millie) Gonzalez
*Human Services
 Binghamton, NY*



SUNY DELHI
Rose Suarez
*Mechatronics
 New York, NY*



BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE
Diana Delmonte Bido
*Social Work
 New York, NY*



*DUTCHESS COMMUNITY
 COLLEGE*
Latishe Thorpe
*Human Services
 Poughkeepsie, NY*



UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO
Aliaya Williams
*Biological Sciences
 Oneonta, NY*



*SUNY COLLEGE OF
 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
 AND FORESTRY*
Truong Ho
*Biochemistry
 Syracuse, NY*

** Inductees are alphabetized by campus.*

2019 STUDENT HONOREES



FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE

Cherice Walker
Business Management
Brentwood, NY



HUDSON VALLEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Elizabeth Diaz
Human Services
Cohoes, NY



FASHION INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

Derek Anthony
Advertising and Marketing
Communications
Copiague, NY



JEFFERSON COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

Daniel Rowbottom
Fire Protection Technology
Potsdam, NY



FINGER LAKES
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Khadija Muhammadi
Mathematics
Rochester, NY



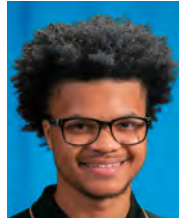
MARITIME COLLEGE

Esmeralda Hernandez
Marine Transportation
Huntington Station, NY



SUNY FREDONIA

Titanya Preddie
Communications -
Video Production
Brooklyn, NY



MONROE COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

Nazier Travis
Business Administration
Rochester, NY



FULTON-MONTGOMERY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Shawna Town
Business Administration
Gloversville, NY



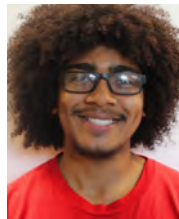
SUNY MORRISVILLE

Kalif Amritt
Criminal Justice
Schenectady, NY



GENESEE COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

Kadeja Jenkins
Criminal Justice
Batavia, NY



NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ethan Elliot
Liberal Arts
Elmont, NY



SUNY GENESEO

Karilyn Nieves
History
Bronx, NY



SUNY NEW PALTZ

Samantha Hernandez
Liberal Arts
New York, NY

2019 STUDENT HONOREES



NIAGARA COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Alisha Rivers
Liberal Arts
Lockport, NY



SUNY POTSDAM

Amiere Bell
Theater
Evans Mills, NY



SUNY OLD WESTBURY

Joy Alonge
Business Administration
Elmont, NY



PURCHASE COLLEGE

Jayce Rayo
Anthropology
White Plains, NY



SUNY ONEONTA

Yulissa Gomez
Early Child/Childhood Education
Valatie, NY



STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Kimberly Alcequiez
Africana Studies
Stony Brook, NY



SUNY ORANGE

Danna Nieves Velazquez
Business Administration
Walden, NY



SUFFOLK COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Santiago Saldivar
Accounting
Sag Harbor, NY



SUNY OSWEGO

Henry Leon
Business Administration
and Finance
Woodhaven, NY



SUNY ULSTER

Lena Kilpatrick
Liberal Arts, Humanities
and Social Sciences
Pine Plains, NY



SUNY PLATTSBURGH

Abdoulrashid Abdoukader
Sociology
Bronx, NY



WESTCHESTER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Natarsha Brewton
Human Services
Mount Vernon, NY



SUNY POLYTECHNIC
INSTITUTE

Ayuong Arop
Biology
Utica, NY



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