
MNYCCPOA Fall 2019 Meeting

The New School
Thursday, November 14, 2019



AGENDA

9:30 a.m.

Registration & Breakfast

10:00 a.m.

Welcome

Diana Mendez, MNYCCPOA President

Mariela Torres, MNYCCPOA First Vice President

Marisa LoBianco, The New School Senior Director, Career Development & Experience

10:30 a.m.

Panel on “The Future of Us” - A talk about the future of career services and our work environment, moderated by Mariela Torres, *MNYCCPOA*, First Vice President & *Columbia University*, Assistant Director of Industry Relations for the Career Design Lab

Panelists:

- **Manny Contomanolis, PhD**, *Northeastern University*, Senior Associate Vice President Employer Engagement and Career Design
- **Marc Goldman**, *Gettysburg College*, Executive Director for the Center for Career Engagement
- **Denise Hopkins**, *Iona College*, Vice President for Student Life
- **Gracy Sarkissian**, *New York University*, Senior Director for Wasserman Center for Career Development
- **Bernadette So, PhD**, *Rutgers University-Newark*, Career Development, Center Executive Director
- **Diane Spizzirro, LMHC, NCC**, *Columbia University*, Director of Career Education for the Career Design Lab

11:30 a.m. **Business Meeting**

12:00 p.m. **Lunch, networking, and swag raffle**

1:30 p.m. **Panel on “The Future of Recruitment ” - A talk about the future of campus recruiting efforts and the future of the work environment** moderated by Vicki Wells, *MNYCCPOA*, Director of Programs & *St. John’s University, School of Risk Management*, Assistant Director of the Ellen Thrower Center for Career Services

Panelists:

- **Cynthia Gomez**, *WarnerMedia-HBO*, University Relations and Recruitment
- **Duncan Gray**, *Human Rights Watch*, Senior Coordinator, Global Human Resources
- **Kristen Haurin**, *Democracy Prep Public Schools*, Selection Manager
- **Lejorne Leys**, *Twitter*, Diversity Recruiter of Interns and New Grads
- **Anastacia Padilla**, *WarnerMedia-HBO*, University Relations and Recruitment
- **Torrence Trayham**, *Marsh*, Global Talent Diversity & Inclusion Lead

2:30 p.m. **Breakout session**

3:00 p.m. **Conference Ends**

**JOIN US FOR A NETWORKING HAPPY HOUR AFTER THE CONFERENCE
(3:30-5:00 PM)**

[SideBAR](#) (118 E 15th St. New York, NY 10003)

Drink specials and first round of appetizers on us!

****Raffle! Please bring your business cards to be entered into a raffle for a free MNYCCPOA meeting and some MNYCCPOA swag****

BIOGRAPHIES

PANEL: THE FUTURE OF US

Manny Contomanolis, PhD, Northeastern University, Senior Associate Vice President Employer Engagement and Career Design



Manny Contomanolis, PhD currently serves as Senior Associate Vice President for Employer Engagement and Career Design at Northeastern University. He is active in the field as a speaker, consultant, and author. Manny was the Past President of the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) as well as the Middle Atlantic Association of Colleges and Employers. He is a member of the NACE Academy of Fellows and recipient of the NACE Kaufman award for outstanding contributions to the

profession.

Marc Goldman, Gettysburg College, Executive Director for the Center for Career Engagement



Marc Goldman is the Executive Director of the Center for Career Engagement at Gettysburg College. Marc served as the Executive Director of the Yeshiva University Career Center for 10 years, and prior to that, he was an Associate Director at New York University's Wasserman Center for Career Development, where he worked for 13 years. For nearly a decade, Marc was also an adjunct instructor at NYU in career, education, and life planning. He currently

co-leads the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Liberal Arts Affinity Impact Team, served as Co-chair of the NACE Leadership Advancement Program Committee and Honors and Awards Committee, and has participated on numerous other NACE committees. Marc won a NACE Award for Volunteer Meritorious Service and a NACE Excellence Award for Business Boot Camp for Liberal Arts Students. He attended the NACE Management Leadership Institute and has presented and moderated at numerous NACE Annual Conferences. Throughout the years, Marc has been involved in the theatre community as a stage manager, box office manager, publicist, writer, and avid enthusiast. More recently, he has returned to his martial arts studies and coaches a youth soccer team. Marc holds a Master of Arts and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Counseling and Personnel Services from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Cornell University.

Denise C. Hopkins, Iona College, Vice President for Student Life



Denise C. Hopkins has over twenty-five years of successful higher education experience in career education, leadership development, college student development and student affairs with a track record of national leadership in related areas. She is a versatile change agent noted for her ability to manage stakeholder relationships at all levels of the institution and work with others to effectively define and meet objectives in a results-oriented climate.

Denise became Iona's chief Student Life officer in June 2016. She provides strategic leadership and support for the ongoing development and effective management of the Division's units including: Residential Life; Off-Campus and Commuter Services; Counseling Center; Health Services; Gerri Ripp Center for Career Development; Campus Safety; Student Development; and Mission and Ministry. She also oversees Iona's New Student Orientation, student conduct and crisis management.

Gracy Sarkissian, New York University, Senior Director for Wasserman Center for Career Development



Gracy Sarkissian is the Senior Director of the Wasserman Center for Career Development at NYU. She has 14 years of experience in higher education and student affairs. She oversees career development for over 26,000 undergraduate students at New York University and leads employer engagement initiatives serving over 50,000 undergraduate students, graduate students, and alumni at the largest private institution in the US. Gracy is a thoughtful leader who has a reputation for creating strong partnerships, meaningful collaborations, and student-centered services. She speaks across campus, teaches both graduate and undergraduate students, and trains employer and academic

partners across the globe. She designs programs and initiatives aligned with the university's strategic priorities and is deeply committed to student success. She serves on the New York City Mayor's Office Talent Coalition and is a past member of the NACE Inclusion Committee. Gracy holds a Masters in Organizational Development and Bachelors in Psychology from New York University.

Bernadette So, PhD, Rutgers University-Newark, Career Development, Center Executive Director



Bernadette So, PhD is Executive Director of the Career Development Center at Rutgers University-Newark, where she focuses on expanding opportunities for students and creating communities to engage everyone in conversations about career. As an advocate of planned happenstance, she encourages all students to be prepared for the unexpected. Bernadette's own unexpected turns have taken her from one coast to the other (with a stop in the middle), and from studying lung development in mice to becoming a career services professional, supporting students ranging from pre-college to graduate level. Prior to Rutgers, she held positions in career centers at NYU, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Lake Land College. She has finally stopped registering for classes (at least for credit), but not before she earned her B.A. in Biology and Psychology from Barnard College, a PhD in Molecular Biology from UCLA, a Graduate Certificate in Academic Advising from Kansas State University, and a M.S. in College Student Affairs from Eastern Illinois University.

Diane Spizzirro, LMHC, NCC, Columbia University, Director of Career Education for the Career Design Lab



Diane Spizzirro, LMHC, NCC is the Director of Career Education and Development and Lecturer at Columbia University, School of Professional Studies. She is a seasoned Career Management professional with experience in higher education, corporate training and development as well as private practice. She has a strong business background having been in the Insurance and Risk Management fields and successfully transitioned her career into counseling. She holds a M.S. in Career Development and a B.A. in Business. She is a Nationally Certified Counselor, a New York State Licensed Mental Health Counselor, and Executive Career

Development Coach. She is a certified trainer of the DiSC, Myers-Briggs Type Indicator MBTI and Strengthsquest.

Diane formerly served as the Director of Career Development at the College of New Rochelle where she was an adjunct professor teaching graduate classes in counseling and career development. Diane is the current President of the New York Mental Health Counseling Association, an active member of the National Career Development Association and National Association of College and Employers. Diane won 1st place in the NACE Innovation challenge at the National Conference in 2016.

Diane is most in her element when she is facilitating a dynamic and engaging career development program, which helps participants to gain insight on how to move forward! She has developed and facilitated numerous career training programs for individuals and diverse groups.

MODERATED BY:

Mariela Torres, MNYCCPOA, First Vice President & Columbia University, Assistant Director of Industry Relations for the Career Design Lab



Mariela Torres is the Assistant Director of Industry Relations at Columbia University's School of Professional Studies (SPS) Career Design Lab (CDL) since May 2019. She works primarily with students in the Enterprise Risk Management program. Mariela is an experienced professional with over 24 years of experience in Career Counseling and business. Mariela has experience managing small to large Career Services Centers that provide comprehensive career and internship services to college students and alumni. She has held Director level positions at The College of New Rochelle, Berkeley College, and LIM College.

She is also a certified Myers Briggs (MBTI) Practitioner. Mariela is very passionate about student success and has provided career coaching for students and alumni, advised student clubs, and taught undergraduate and graduate-level career preparatory courses. Mariela has worked for organizations such as Avon Products, Perry Ellis, and Macy's Merchandising Group. She has been actively involved in MNYCCPOA since 2015 and has held the 2nd Vice President and Treasurer roles and will be 1st Vice President until 2021. Mariela holds a Master of Science degree in Career Development from the College of New Rochelle and a Bachelor of Professional Studies from LIM College in Fashion Merchandising. She is married and has one son and one daughter. Her 9 year-old son with special needs has taught Mariela to be resilient in times of adversity.

PANEL: THE FUTURE OF RECRUITING

Cynthia Gomez, WarnerMedia-HBO, University Relations and Recruitment



Cynthia Gomez is a Human Resources professional with 10 years of experience in talent acquisition and HR strategy management. Cynthia is passionate about identifying and developing talent. She is currently a University Relations Recruiter at WarnerMedia-HBO, where she supports campus recruitment, internship program outreach, diversity & inclusion, and the mentorship program. She graduated from Barnard College, Columbia University in 2005 with a double major in

Sociology and Political Science. Cynthia also holds her Masters in Public Administration from Baruch College.

Cynthia believes it is in our authenticity that we are our most powerful and able to genuinely connect with others, which is a quote from her contribution as an author to Today's Inspired Latina Volume III: Life Stories of Success in the Face of Adversity, a book series aimed at empowering the next generation of leaders, which sums up her approach to talent management and leadership. In terms of giving back to the community, Cynthia has supported young women with professional and leadership development as co-founder of Fostering Leadership for Young Women, Inc., she has also volunteered as a leadership and development mentor at a life coaching and training organization, and contributed as a mentor to Barnard's Alumnae to Student Mentoring program.

Cynthia is a proud mother of her joyous daughter and son and lives in Westchester, NY with her wonderful husband.

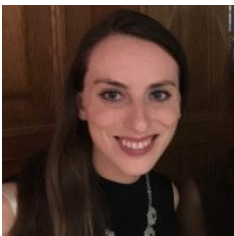
Duncan Gray, Human Rights Watch, Senior Coordinator, Global Human Resources



Duncan Gray is a Senior Coordinator in the Global Human Resources division of Human Rights Watch where he partners with hiring managers to build diverse, resilient, and skillful teams by supporting recruitment efforts and global mobility. He also serves as a co-chair of HRW's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion taskforce, which leads internal initiatives aimed at building a culture of inclusivity and trust.

Prior to joining HRW in 2017, Duncan has worked in various HR/People roles across industries, including: campus technical recruiting for Bridgewater Associates, managing the admissions process for the Access Code program at C4Q (now Pursuit), and supporting US business immigration for advertising/marketing companies as a paralegal at Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen, and Loewy.

Kristen Haurin, Democracy Prep Public Schools, Selection Manager



Kristen Haurin joined Teach for America and taught MS science for 4 years in Camden, NJ and Washington DC. Following her time teaching, she joined Democracy Prep Public Schools's recruitment team. Having spent over 5 years recruiting in the education space, she currently leads a team of recruiters charged with staffing 22 schools across 5 states -

ensuring that all our scholars have the passionate teachers needed to be successful in the college of their choice and live a life of active citizenship.

Lejorne Leys, Twitter, Diversity Recruiter of Interns and New Grads



Lejorne Leys is a transparent leader with proven skills of working directly with individuals from diverse academic, socioeconomic, and cultural backgrounds. He believes in the power of education, social intelligence and transformational leadership.

Lejorne's transformational style of leadership truly developed during his undergrad years at the Long Island University, C.W. Post Campus in roles such as Resident Assistant, Orientation Leader/Coordinator, and the Charter President of the LIU Chapter of the NAACP, while earning his Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice.

Extremely passionate about providing positive life coaching and mentorship for young adults, Lejorne spent three years as an internship and career coordinator for an alternative high school before accepting a position at one of America's most prestigious Ivy League institutions as a career counselor. He now utilizes his expertise to help undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students access professional success in the tech industry as a recruiter at Twitter.

Lejorne continues to build on his ability to effectively impact the lives of those he encounters in a whole new way while remaining true to his belief that, "persistence leaves no man hanging, but only grants success to those who try."

Anastacia Padilla, WarnerMedia-HBO, University Relations and Recruitment



Anastacia Padilla supports the University Relations team at WarnerMedia-HBO through the development and implementation of strategic recruiting programs for internships, early career initiatives and university relations across multiple business units (tech & non-tech) for New York and Seattle. She has a main focus to drive the execution of technology and diversity strategies and marketing efforts through programs, outreach, and conferences to internal and external stakeholders.

Torrence Trayham, Marsh, Global Talent Diversity & Inclusion Lead



Introducing phenomenal opportunities to phenomenal people is what **Torrence S. Traynham** considers his life's work and obsession. Currently serving within Talent Acquisition on the University Relations team for Marsh & McLennan – the world's leading professional services firm in the areas of risk, strategy and people – Torrence actively recruits top talent and leads a team of eight colleagues in the firm's diversity recruitment efforts across the globe.

Torrence also recently published his first book *@thecareerplug: A Recruiter's Insight For Early Career Professionals* in an effort to provide valuable and strategic guidance to early career professionals. It can be found on his website www.thecareerplug.com. He is also the co-Managing Partner of Dear Friend LLC., a community focused for-profit organization that seeks to empower thought-leaders and content curators, notably in historically marginalized and underrepresented communities. More information can be found at www.dearfriendapparel.com.

Torrence is originally from Yeadon, Pennsylvania and currently resides in Brooklyn, NY. A graduate of Temple University's School of Communications and a die-hard Philadelphia native and all things Philadelphia sports fan. Torrence thoroughly enjoys watching the Super Bowl Champion Philadelphia Eagles, assisting my fraternity (Kappa Alpha Psi) with various community service efforts and spending time with my family.

MODERATED BY:

Vicki Wells, MNYCCPOA, Director of Programs & St. John's University, School of Risk Management, Assistant Director of the Ellen Thrower Center for Career Services



Vicki Wells, MNYCCPOA Director of Programs, is the Assistant Director of the Ellen Thrower Center for Career Services at St. John's University, School of Risk Management. She has 20 years' experience working in higher education ranging from mental health counseling, academic advisement, human resources and career services. Prior to working at St. John's University, she worked at Teachers College Career Services as the Associate Director of Employer Relations; Pace University as Employee Relations Manager in Human Resources, Assistant Director of Cooperative Education, Mental Health Counseling Extern and Kingsborough

Community College as a New Start Program Academic Advisor. Vicki has been involved with MNYCCPOA since 2001. Her contributions include serving on the Membership Committee for three years, Treasurer for two years and now serves as the Director of Programs. She earned a Master of Science in Education in Psychological Counseling and Personnel Services from Fordham University and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. In her spare time, she enjoys spending quality time with her husband, baby boy as well as her two cats.

Special thanks to the MNYCCPOA Planning Committee

Diana Mendez, NYU

Rachel Serwetz, Binghamton University & Woken

Mariela Torres, Columbia University

Vicki Wells, St John's University

and

The New School Staff

especially Marisa LoBianco, Senior Director, Career Development & Experience

for generously hosting us today!