Supporting Community Education Pathways and Opportunities from Kindergarten through Community College

Richard Gray & Elizabeth Bishop
ORGANIZING: Mobilize to influence successful organizing outcomes, strengthen internal and external relationships and membership capacity as well as recruit and identify new members and potential leaders in the association.

- **Competency Theme: Builds meaningful community partnerships**
  - Level 1: Engaging different and diverse audiences in the community to identify common issues
  - Level 2: Collaborate with different and diverse audiences in the community and educate them on key issues
  - Level 3: Transform the relationship with the community to harness the power of collective action

- **Competency Theme: Engages in collective action to identify and address pivotal issues**
  - Level 1: Identify and engage in high impact and actionable organizing opportunities
  - Level 2: Rallies others around key organizing opportunities by appealing to member passions and interests
  - Level 3: Makes organizing on key issue more systemic and process-driven to improve their impact

- **Competency Theme: Fosters the development of leaders at all levels of the organization**
  - Level 1: Identify and engage emerging association leaders who reflect our diversity
  - Level 3: Advocate for new and diverse membership strategies and actively support leadership succession planning
Session Goals

• The content from this session can be used in the following ways in your current position/role:
  – To explore ways to build and support leadership pipelines for youth, parents, educators and community members
  – To explore both roles of educators and unions as well as ways to cultivate learning communities that advance educational access and success as a strategy for community development and revitalization
  – To engage in discussion and reflection about what people with legal education and training can bring to the field of public education beyond traditional legal roles
Making Education a Central Part of Community Revitalization

• Telling Bronx Corridors/Hostos Community College Story
• Telling the Story of the Law School Course Vision, Action and Systems Change Class
• Implication for partnership and new roles Educators and the Union:
• Open Discussions
Telling the “Bronx Corridors” Story

• Partnership formed between Felix Matos Rodriguez, past president of Hostos Community College, and Susan Sturm, Director of Center for Institutional and Social Change at Columbia University Law School

• Two year planning, research and capacity building grant toward increasing post-secondary access and success for historically marginalized populations
Overview of CISC

• The Center for Institutional and Social Change (CISC) at Columbia Law School builds the capacity of networks, institutions and individuals to understand the multi-level systems that limit access and full participation, to identify strategies and leverage points for catalyzing and sustaining change.

• www.changecenter.org  @ChangeCenterCLS
Overview of “Bronx Corridors”:

**PROJECT GOALS**

The Bronx Corridors Project has six overarching goals:

1. *Improve outcomes:* Increase the number of people who gain access to and success in post secondary education in the catchment area, particularly for people with criminal justice involvement, veterans, disconnected youth, and immigrants;

2. *Increase resources:* Increase the resources, including both academic and non-academic resources, focused on advancing post-secondary educational access and success for immigrants, veterans, disconnected youth and people with criminal backgrounds.


4. *Develop capacity and infrastructure:* Developing the necessary institutional and community infrastructure and leadership to sustain and advance ongoing progress toward community revitalization and post-secondary access and success.

5. *Build Bronx collaborative learning community:* Build the collaborative power of the South Bronx as a learning community with a college-going culture.

6. *Expand impact through knowledge sharing:* Serve as a hub for sharing frameworks, strategies, tools, and research to enable adoption of the Bronx Corridors approach on a broader scale.
Key Elements to “Bronx Corridors”

• To build and support leadership pipelines for youth, parents, educators and community members, we:
  – Cultivate learning communities advancing educational access and success as a strategy for community development and renewal in the Bronx
  – Develop networks bringing together organizations and institutions serving both K-12 and postsecondary school populations
  – Build relationships and roles for K-12 educators and unions in building pathways that create new avenues for support
The Story Behind Columbia Law School’s Vision, Action and Systems Change Class: Implications for New Role for Educators and the Union

My Personal Story: From Law to Education to Both
Vision, Action and Systems Change

• Explore innovative and non-traditional ways to use their legal training to advance authentic collaborations with people, organizations and institutions working to make the Education and Criminal Justice System more Equitable and Just.

• Combination of Class Work and Field Projects

• Center for Institutional and Social Change (CISC) at Columbia Law School, Annenberg Institute for School Reform (AISR) at Brown University and Just Leadership USA
Framework for the Course

Vision

Systems
Change

Action
Central Themes for Class

• Taking a systemic frame
• The role of race, class gender, and power
• Your roles as change agents and their relationship to others’ roles in the system
• The relationship of directly affected communities to the change process.
Shared Capacities of Lawyers and Educators (see handout)

- Listening
- Analyzing
- Synthesizing
- Advocating
- Counseling
- Negotiating
- Problem Solving
- Conversation
- Asking the Right Questions
- Persuasiveness
- Collaboration skills
- Improvisation
- Emotional intelligence
- Cultural Competence
Possibilities

- Bringing Legal Thinking into the Education Process
  - Street Law
  - ThinkLaw (http://thinklaw.us/)

- Role People with Legal Training can play in Building and Supporting Necessary Collaborations (Bronx work is an example of this role)

- Joint Training of Lawyers and Educators
Discussion Questions

• See Handout
Session Outcomes (final slide)

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Please complete the evaluation for this breakout session!