



- ****DYCD Calendar and Events:** Ladders for Leaders applications are now available; DYCD recognizes Customer Service Week; Neighborhood Development Area RFPs due October 29
- ****Spotlight News:** New system to streamline contract process for Discretionary providers; DYCD presents summer youth employment successes to WIB
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DYCD CALENDAR AND EVENTS

** **Now - November 14** – Applications are now available for the 2009 Ladders for Leaders program. Launched by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg in 2007, NYC Ladders for Leaders is a joint program of the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) and the NYC Commission on Women's Issues (CWI). The program offers New York City high school and college students seven-week corporate internships, college scholarships, free college preparatory and SAT courses, career guidance, and professional development workshops. NYC Ladders for Leaders participants are selected through an application and interview process. All interviews will be conducted by DYCD, the Mayor's Commission on Women's Issues, and our partnering companies. Ladders for Leaders program application guidelines, additional information, and an application, are available on the DYCD Web site: http://www.nyc.gov/html/dycd/html/jobs/nycladders_applying.shtml. To learn more about hiring a Ladders for leaders intern or to donate to this program, please contact Daphne Montanez, Director of Corporate Relations at NYCLaddersForLeaders@dycd.nyc.gov.

** **October 6-10** - Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg has designated October 6 to October 10, 2008, *New York City's Customer Service Week*. Many City agencies, partner community-based organizations, and private businesses will be participating in coordinated events. DYCD-funded programs are invited to highlight their high-quality customer service. For some helpful tips to improve customer service to young people and families in your community, consider the following DYCD resources:

- *New:* Youth Work Professional Core Competencies are designed to be used as a tool to guide the professional development of the youth work professionals. The complete list of core competencies and indicators are available at: <http://www.nyc.gov/dycd>.
- The Family Development Training and Credentialing (FDC) Program, sponsored by DYCD, provides staff at community based organizations and non-profit agencies with the skills and competencies to work more effectively with families and deliver improved services to families and communities. Workers can earn a New York State Family Development Credential and college credits. Limited seats are still available for the fall 2008 classes. For additional information and scholarship applications see "Developing Agency Staff" at: <http://www.nyc.gov/dycd>.
- On October 6, the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development officially launched Youth Connect, an online expansion of its YouthLine call center during Customer Service Week. Call takers began answering "Youth Connect" and the DYCD Web site will reflect the new name and new features.

** **October 29** – The deadline to submit **Neighborhood Development Area (NDA) Request for Proposals (RFP)**. DYCD is seeking appropriately qualified vendors to provide a wide spectrum of programming to match the self-defined needs, assets, and priorities of New York City's (City's) 43 low-income communities, each of which has been designated as a Neighborhood Development Area (NDA). DYCD is also seeking providers for the HealthStat

Initiative, which facilitates access to affordable health insurance in targeted communities. For more information on the NDA RFP, please visit the DYCD Web site: <http://www.nyc.gov/dycd>.

SPOTLIGHT NEWS

**** DYCD Streamlines Outreach to Discretionary Contract Providers**

DYCD has created a new web-based system to enable organizations selected to receive a City Council Discretionary award to download the information and forms they need to submit. The [web page](#) features step-by-step instructions. When the forms are completed, the provider is instructed to send DYCD an email. They will then receive an automatic reply inviting them to come to DYCD on any Wednesday between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM with their contract package. DYCD staff will be on hand to review all documents and answer any questions. The new system reflects the needs and concerns of discretionary providers and should result in significant efficiency gains.

**** DYCD Presents at the Workforce Investment Board Quarterly Meeting**

On September 10, The NYC Workforce Investment Board (WIB) held its quarterly meeting in the Board Room of the NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC). The main focus was how the WIB can capitalize on the achievements of DYCD and the Department of Small Business Services to enhance results for businesses and jobseekers. DYCD staff delivered a presentation on the 2008 Summer Youth Employment and NYC Ladders for Leaders Programs.

On September 15, the WIB hosted a roundtable discussion on "green jobs", which included a panel of experts from the New York State Department of Labor, Con Edison, Urban Agenda, the City University of New York (CUNY) and EDC. These roundtables are part of an ongoing series to raise staff and stakeholder awareness on the key issues facing the NYC workforce community. Staff from DYCD and the Youth Council participated.

PROGRAM UPDATES

****Interagency Coordinating Council on Youth Meeting Highlights Volunteer Benefits**

On September 23, the Interagency Coordinating Council on Youth (ICC) held their quarterly membership meeting at Lincoln Center. The meeting focused on the many benefits of youth volunteerism. Approximately 80 people attended, including representatives from ICC member agencies, community organizations and invited guests. A panel discussion on volunteerism and the development of young people featured representatives from the Voters Assistance Commission, Mayor's Volunteer Center, Children For Children, United Jewish Appeal and DYCD's Teen ACTION initiative. The ICC has released a brochure that details volunteer opportunities within ICC member agencies, community-based organizations and other providers. The ICC workgroups reported on their activities during the summer including the recently formed Behavioral Challenges Subcommittee which will draft a set of recommendations on providing mainstream services to youth with special needs.

****DYCD Staff Updates Joint Youth Services Planning Committee on Recent Program Improvements**

On October 1, DYCD held the first Joint Youth Services Planning Committee (JPC) meeting of Fiscal Year 2009. The JPC is a 20-member advisory body appointed by the borough presidents to advise DYCD on neighborhood youth services. DYCD staff briefed members on our ongoing efforts to improve SYEP, Runaway and Homeless Youth programming and the recently released RFP for Neighborhood Development Area programs.

**** RHY Advisors to Form Workgroup Offering Transitional Resources for Youth in Shelters**

On September 18, Department of Homeless Services Commissioner Robert Hess and his staff joined Commissioner Jeanne B. Mullgrav at DYCD's monthly Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Advisory Meeting. Commissioner Hess was invited to present an overview of DHS services to the Advisory Committee, which comprises RHY service providers, community advocates and representatives from other City agencies. Commissioner Hess highlighted his agency's achievements and scope of responsibility as it relates to young people. DYCD and DHS resolved to form a workgroup to identify how they can provide young people with resources such as Section 8 housing, Work Advantage subsidies, and other services to help youth transition out of homeless shelters.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

****FOR YOUTH****

The **Corps Network**, through the support of the Corporation for National and Community Service, will make funding available to organizations that undertake service projects for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 19, 2009. The network will fund organizations that plan and implement service projects that mobilize a diverse group of volunteers to address conditions of poverty in their community. The network will disseminate a total of \$80,000 to approximately twenty-five sub-grantees. In accordance with CNCS requirements, at least 30 percent of these funds will be available to organizations outside of the network. Award amounts will range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 each. Preference is given to organizations mobilizing the greatest numbers of volunteers. Applicants must enlist at least two hundred volunteers for every \$1,000 requested. Deadline: September 23, 2008 (Extended). Visit the Corps Network Web site for the complete Request for Proposals: <http://www.corpsnetwork.org/>.

The **National Institute on Out-of-School Time** on behalf of the **Robert Bowne Foundation** is pleased to announce the *2009 National Afterschool Matters Edmund A. Stanley, Jr. Research Grants*. With the generous funding of the Bowne Foundation, four \$10,000 grants for research in the Out-of-School Time field will be available. The grant has the following goals: 1. Generate and disseminate research about community-based organizations serving youth during the out-of-school hours; 2. Build a network of scholars studying community based-organizations serving youth; and 3. Contribute to basic knowledge and the improvement of practice and policy in the area of community-based youth programs. More information, including guidelines, deadlines, and an application, can be found at this link: <http://www.niost.org/pdf/2009RFPfinal.pdf>

The **Siemens Foundation, Discovery Education**, and the **National Science Teachers Association** have partnered for this initiative to educate, empower, and engage students, teachers, and communities to become "agents of change" in improving their community. Student teams from sixth through eighth grade, under the mentorship of a teacher or adult supervisor, can register for the Siemens *We Can Change the World Challenge*. Teams of two to three students will identify an environmental issue in their community, research the issue using scientific investigation, and create a replicable green solution using Web-based curriculum tools. The mentors of the first hundred teams to register and complete a project for challenge will receive a Planet Earth series DVD set. A total of fifty-one teams representing each state and the District of Columbia will be selected as state finalists and an additional fifty teams will be eligible for honorable mention awards. Three of the state finalist teams will be selected as national finalists, and one of those will be named the grand prize-winner. All student teams entering the challenge will receive prizes for their participation; top-performing teams will earn cash, teacher education materials, and "Discovery Experience" trips. The grand prize winning team will receive a comprehensive prize package, which includes an appearance on Planet Green, Discovery's eco-lifestyle network, and a Discovery Adventure Trip. See the We Can Change the World Challenge Web site for complete competition information and program resources. The application deadline is March 15, 2009. The initiative will expand to elementary schools in 2009 and to high schools in 2010. <http://www.siemens-foundation.org/en/>.

NAMM, the trade association of the international music products association, is accepting proposals for the *NAMM Foundation's grants program*. The foundation annually provides support for community music-making programs, scientific research on the effects of making music, and music programs for seniors and school-aged children. Grants are available through the following programs:

The Disney Music In You Grant Program: Invites public middle and high schools to apply for a grant to put on their own school stage production of Disney's High School Musical or High School Musical II. (Deadline: December 15, 2008.)

NAMM Foundation Program Grants: Grants are available to nonprofit public service organizations for innovative music education and hands-on music making programs that reach and serve new audiences with new protocols. (Deadline: December 1, 2008.)

Sounds of Learning: The Impact of Music Education: Grants are available for research projects examining the roles of music education in the lives of school age children as well as school and community. (Deadline: December 1, 2008.)

Sounds of Living: The Impact of Music Making Across the Life

Span: Grants are available that examine the role of active participation in music for children, youth, adults, and seniors outside of formal educational settings. This research initiative explores the role of music making in health, wellness, socialization, and other factors that contribute to wellness and quality of life. (Deadline: December 1, 2008.)

Scientific Grants: Grants support leading researchers and research teams to explore the effects of hands-on music making on cognitive processes, development and learning, and psychological, biological, and social/emotional aspects of target populations. (Deadline: December 1, 2008.)

Applicants may only apply to one program per year. See the NAMM Foundation Web site for complete program guidelines and an online application form: <http://www.music-research.org/> .

With support from the **State Farm Companies Foundation**, **Youth Service America** is offering the annual *State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning Grant* for youth-led community improvement projects across the United States and Canada. The program offers one hundred grants of up to \$1,000 each to teachers and service-learning coordinators who engage youth (ages 5 to 25) in implementing service-learning projects on Global Youth Service Day, April 24-26, 2009. The program encourages semester-long projects that are launched on Martin Luther King Day on January 19, 2009, and extend through Global Youth Service Day. Grant applicants must meet the following requirements: 1) be a resident of the fifty states, and 2) be a teacher or professor who currently teaches in a public, private, faith-based, charter, or higher education institution within the fifty states, the District of Columbia; or be a school-based service-learning coordinator whose primary role is to coordinate service-learning projects in a school or university as described above. Deadline: October 15. Visit the YSA Web site for complete program information: http://www.statefarm.com/about/part_spos/grants/foundati.asp .

The *NFL Youth Football Fund Grassroots Program* is a partnership of the **National Football League Youth Football Fund**, which provides funding for the program, and the **Local Initiatives Support Corporation**, which provides technical assistance and manages the program. The goal of the program is to provide nonprofit, neighborhood-based organizations with financial and technical assistance to improve the quality, safety, and accessibility of local football fields. The program provides grants of up to \$200,000 for capital improvement projects. There are two levels of funding available: 1) general field support grants of up to \$50,000 (for irrigation, bleachers, lights, etc.); and 2) field surface matching grants of up to \$200,000 to help finance the resurfacing of a community, middle school, or high school football field. In order to be eligible for a grant, projects must be sponsored by nonprofit community-based 501(c)(3) organizations or middle or high schools. All organizations applying for funds must be located specifically and exclusively within NFL Target Markets and serve low- to moderate-income areas within those markets. Strong preference will be given to proposals that: 1) seek to upgrade existing facilities in poor condition or that are otherwise underutilized; 2) demonstrate active use of the fields; 3) attract matching funding that exceeds the minimum required match of 1:1; 4) involve local partnerships with nonprofit community partners to promote youth and community programming on the fields; and 5) provide for continuing maintenance and field safety. The application deadline is December 15. Complete grant program guidelines are available at the LISC Web site. <http://www.lisc.org/>

****FOR COMMUNITIES****

The **John S. and James L. Knight Foundation** has launched the third year of the *Knight News Challenge*, a worldwide contest for innovative ideas using digital experiments to transform community news and information exchange. The program will provide a total of approximately \$5 million in 2009 for the development and distribution of neighborhood and community-focused projects, services, and programs. The contest invites entries designed to improve local online news, deepen community engagement, bring Web 2.0 tools to local neighborhoods, develop publishing platforms and standards to support local conversations, and/or innovate how we visualize, experience, or interact with information. To be eligible for the 2008-09 Knight News Challenge, entries must use or create digital, open-source technology as the code base; serve the public interest; and benefit one or more specific geographic communities. The Knight Foundation has also launched the News Challenge Garage, a coaching and mentoring site for prospective News Challenge applicants to talk with mentors and peers, review previous winners' applications, and improve their application before they submit it. The submission deadline is November 1. Visit the Knight News Challenge Web site for complete program information: <http://knightfoundation.org/>

The **Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation** has announced program guidelines for the 2009-10 cycle of its *Artists & Communities Program*. This year, artists from any of the foundation's nine partner states are eligible to participate (including New York State). Artists & Communities supports artist residencies designed collaboratively by visiting

artists and host nonprofit organizations that engage the public in the creative process. The program supports professional creative artists (choreographers, composers, poets, writers, filmmakers, media, and visual artists of all kinds) who partner with nonprofit organizations on projects that result in the creation of new work and is specifically designed to support artists whose work is informed by or developed in conjunction with community participation. Nonprofit organizations apply in partnership with the artist(s) they wish to host. The project must be designed collaboratively by the artist and the host organization. The host organization must be a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation or a unit of government. Artists & Communities grants usually range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 each and must be matched on a 1:1 basis. Grants funds may only be used toward the artist's stipend, long-distance travel and accommodations, supplies and materials used in the project, and documentation. The application deadline is December 1. Visit the MAAF Web site for complete program information: <http://midatlanticarts.org/> .

The **Mary Byron Foundation** created the *Celebrating Solutions Awards* to showcase and applaud local innovations that demonstrate promise in breaking the cycle of domestic violence. The foundation seeks programs that can serve as models for other programs and offers \$10,000 cash awards in recognition of their pioneering efforts. These are awards for accomplishments, not grants for future projects. The foundation typically chooses four winners each year. To be eligible, the nominated program must address the issue of domestic violence. The program also must be part of a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization or government agency, and must operate in the United States or a U.S. territory. Both the nominated program and the organization or agency must have been operating for a minimum of three years. The program should be replicable; if it is national in scope, the program should have applications for individual communities regardless of their size or ethnic composition. Organizations may nominate themselves for the award. The deadline for nominations is October 17. Complete program guidelines and nomination forms are available at the foundation's Web site: <http://marybyronfoundation.org/> .

The **American Association of University Women Educational Foundation** annually provides *Community Action Grants* to individuals, AAUW branches, and AAUW state organizations as well as local community-based nonprofit organizations for innovative programs or non-degree research projects that promote education and equity for women and girls. The program provides one-year grants of \$2,000 to \$7,000 each as seed money for new projects, and two-year grants of \$5,000 to \$10,000 each as start-up funds for longer-term programs. Special consideration is given to projects focused on K-12 and community college girls' and women's achievements in science, technology, engineering, or math. Applicants must be women who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Nonprofit organizations must be based in the United States, and grant projects must take place within the U.S. or its territories. The grant application deadline is January 15, 2009. See the AAUW Web site for complete program information: <http://www.aauw.org/> .

****MINI-GRANTS****

The **Walt Disney Company** and **Youth Service America** are accepting applications for grants of up to \$500 to support child-led service projects. *Disney Minnie Grants* support children (between the ages of 5 and 14) in planning and implementing service projects in their community. Teachers, older youth (15-25), and youth-serving organizations are also eligible to apply if they engage younger children in planning and implementing the project. A significant part of the service must take place on Global Youth Service Day 2009, April 24-26. Applicants are particularly encouraged to address environmental issues and seek to empower children as young citizens through their projects. Applications are welcome from all countries. Applicants from India, China, and Russia are especially encouraged to apply. While grant program information is available in Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish, applications will only be accepted in English (an online translation tool is available at the YSA Web site). Past Disney Minnie Grantees are also eligible to apply. The application deadline is October 30. Application materials are available at the YSA Web site. <http://www.ysa.org/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October, 2008- The New York City Voter Assistance Commission (VAC) invites you to participate in the 2008 Voter Awareness Month (VAM) program by attending one of the over 100 non-partisan voter registration drives and events in the five boroughs. Voter Awareness Month is by far the most extensive pre-election non-partisan voter education program in NYC. To learn more about the Voter Assistance Commission, go to: http://www.nyc.gov/html/vac/downloads/pdf/2008_VAM_Brochure_Election_Guide.pdf . For information on VAC events, please go online to: http://www.nyc.gov/html/vac/downloads/pdf/Voter_Calendar_2008.pdf .

October 3 - The City University of New York Black Male Initiative Third Annual Conference: *African American Males and the Legal System* will be held from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm at Medgar Evers College, 1650 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, The Founders Auditorium, Bedford Avenue Building, New York 11225. A Law School Fair with representatives from New York area law schools will be held in the afternoon for CUNY pre-law students. All programs and activities of The CUNY Black Male Initiative are open to all academically eligible students, faculty and staff without regard to race, gender, national origin or other characteristic. As space is limited, please RSVP as soon as possible at: <http://www.cuny.edu/bmi> . For additional information on the event, go to the Web site.

October 10-12 - The New York City Sports Commission is proud to announce the annual *Mayor's Cup Wheelchair Basketball Tournament*, taking place at Manhattan College and Horace Mann High School in Riverdale (Bronx), NY. The event will take place Friday evening (Oct. 10) from 5:00 – 9:00 pm, Saturday (Oct. 11) from 8:00 am-8:00 pm and Sunday (Oct. 12) from 9:00am-2:00 pm. The Championship games will be played in the afternoon on Sunday, October 12 at Manhattan College. The event is free and open to the public. We encourage you bring your organization out to support these inspiring athletes. Information is posted on the event website - <http://www.nyc.gov/html/sports/html/mayors-bball.html>.

October 15 - The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) is pleased to announce that *Disabilities Mentoring Day (DMD)* will occur this year on October 15 and MOPD has begun their efforts to recruit mentors and mentees. DMD is a wonderful city wide opportunity offering persons with disabilities an opportunity to participate in a day of job shadowing, mentoring and exploration of future workforce opportunities. For more information, go to: http://www.nyc.gov/html/mopd/html/dmd/about_dmd.shtml . If you have any questions, you may also contact Nitza V. Monges, Special Advisor at DYCD @ nmonges@dycd.nyc.gov.

October 20-24 – Seventh Annual Domestic Violence Conference: *Survivors' Stories*. Hear the stories from domestic violence survivors, how they left their abusive re

November 9- The Institute for Not-for-Profit Management (INM) at Columbia Business School Executive Education invites you to attend our fall Information Sessions. INM staff, faculty and graduates will discuss upcoming programs, answer questions and review the application process. Each session will run from 5:30 -7 pm and will be held at Warren Hall on the Columbia University campus (corner of West 115th Street and Amsterdam Avenue). Please RSVP with the session date on our Web site (www.gsb.columbia.edu/execed/inm), by email (inm@columbia.edu) or by phone (212-854-6018) (This session is also being held on November 9.)

RESOURCES

The U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Trade Commission announces the availability of a new *Guide to Help Consumers Recognize Deceptive Student Loan Practices*. The consumer guide will help students and their families navigate the maze of offers they may face when seeking new student loans or consolidating existing student loans to pay for higher education. "Student Loans: Avoiding Deceptive Offers" provides advice to help consumers detect deceptive marketing offers from private companies seeking their student loan business. To view the guide, visit: <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2008/07/07032008.html>.

Transitioning Youth with Mental Health Needs to Meaningful Employment and Independent Living was developed by the **National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth** in partnership with the **Office of Disability Employment Policy in the U.S. Department of Labor**. The report presents the findings from case studies of five promising program sites, selected from a national scan of the field, and identifies program design features that appear to improve transition outcomes, look at young adult needs holistically, and incorporate strong career preparation and employment components. To view the report, visit: http://www.ncwd-youth.info/assets/reports/mental_health_case_study_report.pdf.

The **National High School Center** released briefs for practitioners by **Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation (MDRC)**. They examine what is known about educational interventions that facilitate successful transitions out of high school. The briefs focusing on postsecondary pathways, includes:

- *Preparing High School Students for Successful Transitions to Postsecondary Education and Employment*. This issue brief highlights lessons from selected policies and programs designed to improve students' preparation for postsecondary pathways. The publication also summarizes core characteristics of popular interventions in a user-friendly chart, poses overarching implementation questions and challenges, and includes considerations for students with disabilities.

- *Striking the Balance: Career Academies Combine Academic Rigor and Workplace Relevance.* This snapshot takes a closer look at implementation of the Career Academy model, an innovative approach to infuse life relevancy and critical thinking skills into the academic curriculum, in a high school in Oakland, California.
- *Evaluating the Impact of Interventions That Promote Successful Transitions from High School.* This research brief examines the challenges and opportunities presented in evaluating whether an intervention achieves defined goals of increasing students' educational attainment, employment, and earnings after high school.

To access the reports, visit: <http://www.betterhighschools.org/>. For more information about MDRC's research on high schools, visit: http://www.mdrc.org/subarea_index_29.html.

ACCESS NYC is an online resource for New Yorkers to find out about 35 different programs that are administered by many different City, State, and Federal agencies all on one Web site. New Yorkers do not need to know the administering agency to find out about programs that will benefit their households. ACCESS NYC continues to be recognized as innovative technology that allows New Yorkers to get all of the information they would need to successfully apply for benefits in an easy-to-use process. ACCESS NYC is re-opening the giveaway of computer terminals (a computer and printer to connect to ACCESS NYC forms and information). Now it includes City agencies that have public offices as well as non-profit organizations. To find out how to apply for an ACCESS NYC terminal please send an email to accessnyc@hhsconnect.nyc.gov with the subject "Computer Giveaway Application Request". This month, they also highlight the IRS Stimulus Payment that is still available to over 204,566 NYC low-income Social Security and Veteran's Administration beneficiaries who have still not filed a 2007 tax return, leaving millions of dollars unclaimed. Please help to encourage the seniors, veteran's and disabled community in your community to file before October 15, 2008.

ACCESS NYC also announces the launch of the School Meals Online Application! Families can now submit one online application for all of their children, even if their children attend different schools, and can submit the application in their language of choice: English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Korean, Haitian Creole or Arabic. For help with an emergency, please dial 911. To contact a City Agency, or to inquire about other City government services, please dial 311.

The report, *Career and Technical Education in the United States: 1990-2005* represents a fourth in a series of volumes published periodically by the **National Center for Employment Statistics (NCES)** that describe the condition of vocational education (now called "career and technical education" or CTE) in the United States. Based on data from 11 NCES surveys, the report describes CTE providers, offerings, participants, faculty, and associated outcomes, focusing on secondary, postsecondary, and adult education. To access the report, visit: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2008035>.

Scholarships.com is a free college scholarship search & financial aid information resource, connecting students and parents with numerous college funding opportunities. To view the Web site, visit: <http://www.scholarships.com/defaulterror.aspx?aspxerrorpath=/Main.aspx>.

College Savings Plan Network Web site provides detailed information about 529 college savings plans and allows individuals to compare plans from around the country. Their goal is to help individuals find the plan that best meets their long-term needs and financial goals. To view the Web site, visit: <http://www.collegesavings.org/index.aspx>.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

The **Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS)** is accepting applications for the *2009-10 Mayor's Graduate Scholarship Program (MGSP)*. This is a competitive program - a limited number of scholarships are available. City employees must apply through their Agency Personnel Office by Monday, November 17, 2008. (Some agencies may have an earlier submission date.) To compete for a scholarship, you must: be a full-time City employee; have a bachelor's degree by the start of the fall 2009 semester; be willing to pursue a graduate degree on your own time; meet other requirements, as explained at www.nyc.gov/mgsp. Full or partial scholarships will be offered for classes that begin in the fall of 2009. Last year, nearly 400 applications were received, and over 35 scholarships were awarded. For more information about participating schools and eligible degree programs, visit

the MGSP Web site at www.nyc.gov/mgsp. For general information or assistance email MGSP@dcas.nyc.gov or call (212) 669-4163.

The **New York Times Company** has announced that applications are now available for the third annual *New York Times Company Nonprofit Excellence Awards*. The awards recognize outstanding nonprofit organizations based in and serving the communities of New York City, Long Island, and Westchester, and will be presented at a special event at TheTimesCenter in New York City in June 2009. The Times Company's Community Affairs department is collaborating with the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York and the New York Regional Association of Grantmakers on the program. Applications from any New York State nonprofit organization operating in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island, Nassau County, Suffolk County, or Westchester County will be considered. Up to four organizations will be awarded a total of \$40,000, with \$25,000 going to the grand-prize winner for Overall Management Excellence. Awards will be presented for outstanding performance in one or more other key areas of nonprofit management. Key areas correspond to the following criteria, which form the basis for evaluation of nominees: overall management focus on results; governance structure that moves the organization forward; strong, transparent and accountable financial management; inclusive, diverse, and responsive organizational practices; enlightened use of human resources and technology; regular and effective communications; and effective, ethical fundraising and resource development. Each of the winning organizations will also receive a scholarship to the Institute for Not-for-Profit Management at Columbia Business School Executive Education. The application deadline is November 21. Program information and online applications are available at the New York Times Company Community Affairs Web site: <http://nytimes.whsites.net/communityaffairs/programs/nonprofit.html>

As part of its mission to identify talented artists who are in need of financial assistance in order to reach their goals, the **Joyce Dutka Arts Foundation** is sponsoring a juried visual arts contest. Artwork must fall into one of the following categories: oil, acrylic, and mixed media. All subjects and styles are eligible. Cash awards will total up to \$5,000. Artists will have their work exhibited and offered for sale at Madison Avenue's Hollis Taggart Galleries. Entry requires a non-refundable application fee of \$25. Visit the foundation's Web site for complete entry guidelines and information on the foundation's other programs: <http://www.jdutka.com/>

State Farm is now accepting nominations for the *2009 State Farm Service-Learning Champion Award*. This award recognizes the valuable role played by a non-traditional advocate of service-learning such as a community member, business leader, or public official. State Farm supports service-learning as a teaching method that enhances the academic achievement of students while engaging in service to the community. To be eligible, the nominee must be an adult community member, business leader, or public official from outside the traditional service-learning ranks. The nominee must have added significant value to the success of a youth-led service-learning project that addressed a community need(s) and be a resident of the United States or Canada. Nominations may be submitted by students, teachers, principals, community members, business leaders, and public officials. The award will be presented to the recipient at the 20th Annual National Service-Learning Conference in March 2009 in Nashville, Tennessee. Transportation, lodging, and conference registration costs for the award recipient will be provided by State Farm. The deadline for nominations is December 1. Complete program information is available at the State Farm Web site: http://statefarm.com/about/part_spos/part_spos.asp .

The **Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation's Justice Prize** honors individuals who have advanced the cause of justice as delivered through the legal system. The award is intended to both acknowledge individual efforts and encourage further advancements toward bringing about a fundamentally just world. The prize -- a gold medal and an unrestricted \$500,000 cash award -- is an international award presented annually. Recipients are selected by a distinguished panel of international legal experts from nominations that are received from around the world. Nominees may be individuals or organizations whose contributions have advanced the cause of justice as delivered through the legal system. Nominations may be submitted by individuals, organizations, or institutions that are active in or have an appreciation for the theory and practice of justice. Self-nominations are not accepted. All nominations materials must be submitted in English. The nomination deadline is December 15. Visit the Gruber Foundation Web site for complete nomination guidelines and information on previous Justice Prize recipients: <http://www.gruberprizes.org/> .

General Mills, Inc. and the **National Council of Negro Women** have partnered to introduce *Feeding Dreams*, a community-based program designed to celebrate men and women who contribute to their communities and uplift individuals, families, and neighborhoods. Through the Feeding Dreams Local Hero Monthly Awards Program, General Mills seeks to inspire others to follow the lead of the unsung heroes dedicated to serving their families and

communities in a variety of areas, including education and health. The program seeks nominations of local heroes in Birmingham, Alabama; Charlotte, North Carolina; and Memphis, Tennessee. The program will honor one Local Hero per month in each city between September 2008 and March 2009, and will culminate with local community service events in March 2009. Local Heroes will receive a \$500 Visa Check Card, \$1,000 to donate to their 501(c)(3) charity of choice, a supply of General Mills products, and recognition during the March events. Feeding Dreams will also honor thirty additional nominees with \$100 gift cards and gift baskets. The submission deadline is February 28, 2009. Nominations for Feeding Dreams can be submitted by community members, or individuals can nominate themselves. To submit nominations in one of the participating cities, or for more information, visit the program's Web site: <http://generalmills.com/corporate/commitment/community.aspx> .

The **National Center for Family Literacy** and **Toyota** are accepting applications for the *2009 Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year*. Family educators from across the United States are eligible for the award. Nominees must work primarily in children's education, adult/ESL education, parenting education, or other educational services and must be able to demonstrate an impact on inter-generational learning between parents and children. Programs may nominate up to two educators. The online nomination form must be completed by the program director or coordinator. The nomination must include a statement of support for the nominated educator written by an adult student who works with the educator. The winner will receive \$7,500 for his or her family literacy program as well as a free trip to the 2009 National Conference on Family Literacy in Orlando, Florida. In addition, several finalists will be selected to receive a \$500 scholarship. The nomination deadline is December 5. Program guidelines and nomination forms are available at the NCFL Web site. <http://famlit.org/> .

The **Nonprofit Sector and Philanthropy Program of the Aspen Institute** in Washington, D.C., offers the *William Randolph Hearst Endowed Fellowship* three times a year. The fellowship, which is based on academic excellence and need, is open to both undergraduate and graduate students of color. The Hearst Fellow serves as an intern with NSPP. Through the fellowship, NSPP seeks to introduce a diverse group of students to issues relating to philanthropy, volunteerism, and nonprofit organizations. Recipients may arrange with their colleges or universities to receive academic credit for this experience. The ideal candidate for this fellowship is a highly motivated continuing graduate or undergraduate student from an under-represented community. She or he should have an excellent academic record and also have the following: outstanding research skills; demonstrated interest or experience in the nonprofit sector; excellent writing and communication skills; demonstrated financial need; and American citizenship. The student must be able to intern for ten to fifteen weeks at the Washington, D.C., office of the Aspen Institute. It is generally expected that fall and spring internships will be part-time (ten to twenty hours per week) and summer internships will be full-time. All travel and housing costs must be covered by the student. A fellowship grant of between \$2,500 and \$5,000 will be awarded, depending on the recipient's educational level, financial need, and time commitment. Applications are considered three times annually based on the timing of applicants' availability: the Spring 2009 deadline is December 15, 2008; the Summer 2009 deadline is March 15, 2009; and the Fall 2009 deadline is July 15, 2009. Complete application guidelines are available at the NSPP's Nonprofit Sector Research Fund Web site. <http://www.aspeninstitute.org/>

The **Edward and Sally Van Lier Fund of the New York Community Trust** provides support for talented, culturally diverse young people who are seriously dedicated to a career in the arts. *Meet the Composer* administers the Van Lier Fellowship. The purpose of the fellowship is to provide financial and career support for New York City's African-American and Latino composers still in the early stages of their careers. Composers, improvisers, singer/songwriters and sound artists working in any style or genre of music and sound will be considered. Funds can be used for any purpose, including the creation of new work, the purchasing of music/tech equipment, travel, or research and development. The fellowship is open to African-American and Latino composers thirty-two years of age or younger. Applicants must be a full-time resident of New York City (any borough), show financial need, and not be enrolled in a degree-granting program at the time of application (i.e., no students). The one-year fellowship award is \$8,500. Additional monetary support will be provided if the composer develops and participates in an educational outreach program with students and/or youth groups. The educational component is optional. Two fellowships are awarded each year. The application deadline is December 8. Guidelines and application forms are available at the Meet the Composer Web site: <http://www.meetthecomposer.org/programs/vanlier.htm> .

The **Charles Bronfman Prize** is a humanitarian award created to honor the vision and talent of an individual or team, 50 years of age or younger, whose humanitarian work has contributed significantly to the betterment of the world. The program's goal is to bring public recognition to dynamic individuals whose universally shared Jewish values infuse their humanitarian accomplishments and provide inspiration to future generations. Now in its fifth year, the prize has considered hundreds of nominations on behalf of women and men representing more than

twenty countries and a wide range of fields, including medicine and science, education, human rights, conflict resolution, social justice, community development, and compassionate care. The prize includes an award of \$100,000. The nomination deadline is November 30. Nomination guidelines and forms are available at the prize program's Web site: <http://www.thecharlesbronfmanprize.com/> .

The **Superstar Foundation** seeks to award the highest performing direct service staff from effective social service organizations across the country. Grants are awarded to outstanding social service professionals in the following fields: youth development, including early-childhood learning; afterschool/out-of-school youth services; adult men's services; adult women's services; and family services. The deadline for applications is October 31. Approximately 5 awards up to \$2,000 are available. For further information, go to: <http://www.superstarfoundation.org> .