

Food Bank For New York City &
Medgar Evers College Transition Academy
Present

2023 COLLEGE FOOD SECURITY SUMMIT



*A morning of panel discussions and networking
with academia, community, and government
partners on our collective work to empower college
students across the city to achieve food security
for good.*

October 18, 2023

Welcoming Words



Greetings and Welcome to Medgar Evers College! This College was born out of community advocacy with social justice in its DNA and is dedicated to creating opportunities for all who connect with us in the aspiration of a brighter future. Medgar Evers College strongly supports the efforts of the Transition Academy along with the Food Bank For New York City, as they provide food and other essential services to those in need. The support services that are provided to members of our community and other communities in the city of New York are very much needed. Today, we gather to discuss and find solutions to ensure that food insecurity and other needs are addressed and supported. The College Food Security Summit will create a platform for future discussions and solutions to these efforts. Thank you for joining the 2023 College Food Security Summit.

Best,

Patricia Ramsey

Patricia Ramsey, Ph.D.
President, Medgar Evers College

It is an honor to join all of you today at the 2023 College Food Security Summit! I hope that as you listen to our amazing panelists and network with all the phenomenal hunger fighters gathered in this space, you'll find new inspiration for the work that you do each day to combat hunger for our city's youngest neighbors. At Food Bank For New York City, we are on a mission to empower every New Yorker to achieve food security for good, and I know that's a passion that all of us in this room share. I have no doubt in my mind that if there is ever to be a solution to the hunger crisis in our great city it will be found in rooms like this full of individuals committed to shaping a more hopeful, dignified, and equitable future for all New Yorkers. Thank you for everything you do and for being here with us today.

Yours in partnership,

Leslie Gordon

Leslie Gordon
President & CEO, Food Bank For New York City



Program

Registration & Networking

Opening Remarks

Camesha Grant, Ph.D., VP, Community Impact and Investment, Food Bank For NYC

Jesse Kane, Ph.D., SVP, Student Success and Enrollment Management, Medgar Evers College, CUNY

Patricia Ramsey, Ph.D., President, Medgar Evers College, CUNY

Waleek Boone, DSW, Director, Transition Academy, Medgar Evers College, CUNY

Leslie Gordon, President and CEO, Food Bank For NYC

Remarks

Kate McKenzie, Executive Director
Mayor's Office of Food Policy

Summit Facilitator

Amanda Williams, Assoc. Dir., FBNYC

Food Security Statistics

Nicholas Freudenberg, DrPH

Distinguished Professor at CUNY School of Public Health and Faculty
Director Healthy CUNY

Neighborhood Coalition for Scholars Program

Robert Yancey, LMSW, Chief Program Officer
Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter, Inc

Program

Keynote Speaker

Akbar Cook, Principal, Newark West Side High School

Panel Discussion: Students & Pantry Managers

Moderator: Deborah Harte, Ed.D., Director,
Advocacy and Resource Center, Borough of Manhattan Community College,
CUNY

Panelists

Taylor Bell, alumni,
Medgar Evers College, CUNY

Daniel Leonardo Ojeda Camacho, Student
Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

Raine Diaz, Administrative Coordinator
College's Counseling and Resources for Emergency Support (CARES) Unit
Bronx Community College, CUNY

Rhonda Mouton, Ed.D., Program Director
LaGuardia College Access for Retention and Economic Success, LaGuardia
Community College, CUNY

High School Students Transitioning to College

Christopher Tricarico, Senior Executive Director
New York City Department of Education, Office of Food and Nutrition
Services

Remarks

Kim Council, Deputy Brooklyn Borough President

Program



Remarks

Crystal Hudson, New York City Council Member

Panel Discussion: Elected Officials and Presidents

Bill Ritter, Anchor, WABC-TV

Panelists

Patricia Ramsey, PhD., President
Medgar Evers College, CUNY

Berenecia Johnson Eanes, Ph.D., President
York College, CUNY

Linda Rosenthal, New York State Assemblymember

Eric Dinowitz, New York City Council Member and Chair, Committee on Higher Education

Closing Remarks

Zac Hall, SVP of Programs, FBNYC

Pledge

Carmen Boon, VP of Public Affairs, FBNYC

Networking Lunch and Resource Fair

Meet our Speakers



Keynote Speaker, Principal Akbar Cook

Akbar H. Cook Sr. was born and raised in Newark's West Ward. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Florida Atlantic University on two basketball scholarships and a Master's in Administration and Supervision from St. Peter's University. In 2008, he became the head coach of the Newark Vocational School's boys' basketball team, later becoming Vice Principal at West Side High School in 2014 and Principal at West Side High in 2018.

Principal Cook is dedicated to uplifting and educating children, volunteering in food kitchens, organizing activities, and ensuring safe transportation with the Newark Police Department. Principal Cook's "Washing Bullying Away" initiative, featuring a laundromat at West Side High, gained national attention, leading to generous donations from the likes of Ellen DeGeneres. He's also initiated an Urban Farm, soccer pitch, and Home Economics kitchen at his school.



Panel Moderator, Deborah Harte, Ed.D

Dr. Deborah C. Harte boasts four decades of experience in social work and human services, showcasing expertise in program development, administration, diverse population social service delivery, child welfare, higher education, grant procurement, research, teaching, marketing, and communication. Currently, she serves as the Director of the Advocacy and Resource Center (ARC) at Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC). Dr. Harte's leadership at ARC focuses on student support, providing emergency grants, food programs, legal assistance, and housing initiatives in collaboration with partners like Trinity Church. She's been a vocal advocate, securing funding for food insecurity at CUNY, managing substantial budgets, and engaging in philanthropic efforts both locally and abroad. Dr. Harte holds a Masters in Human Services from Lincoln University and a Doctor of Education from St. John's University.



Panelist, Taylor Bell

Taylor Bell is an alumni of Medgar Evers College's BSSW program. With 12 years of experience as a home health aide, Bell transitioned back to school with a passion for working with children. Bell's mission is to establish a non-profit in Sheepshead Bay, offering resources and support to empower local youth. Bell is currently the President of the ABSW chapter at Medgar Evers, maintaining a 3.9 GPA and consistently making the dean's list. An internship at Transition Academy honed their skills in aiding students on their higher education journey. In Bell's words, "I'm disciplined and committed to achieving my goals, and I encourage others to adopt the same mindset. Tough times are temporary; resilient people endure. Best of luck to all!"



Panelist, Raine Diaz

Raine Diaz, a Bronx native, brings over two decades of diverse service experience to Bronx Community College's CARES Unit. Her deep connection to the Bronx drives her mission to prevent students from leaving school due to educational and financial challenges. Raine manages various initiatives, including the Carroll & Milton Petrie Emergency Grant, offering \$100,000 annually in financial support, and overseeing the Bronco Food Pantry, which serves 6,000+ students and families yearly. As an alum of Borough of Manhattan Community College and Lehman College, Raine advocates for student respect and equity. She also holds an MBA from Manhattan College, focusing on financial education for people of color. Beyond her professional commitments, Raine dedicates time to lead a Girl Scout troop, volunteers with the Birth Right Foundation, and actively participates in her local Rotaract Club while cherishing moments with her family.

Meet our Speakers



Panelist, Rhonda Mouton, Ed.D

Dr. Rhonda Mouton is a dedicated professional with expertise in human services, management, leadership, administration, operations, and entrepreneurship. She began her career at Total Community Action and the Benefit Bank of Charlotte, gaining a solid foundation in human services. At LaGuardia Community College since 2012, she's launched numerous student support initiatives like the Emergency Assistance Fund and Online Pantry. Dr. Mouton's leadership has attracted private donors to bolster LaGuardia CARES programs. She's known for her tireless dedication, fostering community partnerships, and her unwavering commitment to student success. Her achievements showcase her passion and unwavering dedication to LaGuardia Community College and its students.



Panelist, Daniel Leonardo Ojeda Camacho

Daniel Leonardo Ojeda Camacho is a problem solver, seamlessly merging digital and physical realms through UX research, design thinking, and data analysis. With a background in urban planning in Colombia, he has used technology to tackle environmental, economic, and educational challenges. Now based in NYC, Camacho studies multimedia design and programming at BMCC, delving into technology's role in areas like food security. He contributes as a UX/UI designer to the CUNY Research Foundation's Augmented Reality Project and streamline hiring processes through a CCL app under CIE. Camacho's goal is to shape technology solutions for positive impacts on various value chains and regional economies, advocating for efficient, accessible, and effective solutions.



Panel Moderator, Bill Ritter

Bill Ritter has had a distinguished career in journalism. He joined Eyewitness News in June 1998, initially anchoring weekends while working full time for ABC News and 20/20 as a correspondent. In October 1999, he took over the 11 p.m. newscast on Eyewitness News and later added the 6 p.m. newscast in February 2001. Ritter has covered significant events since 1992, starting as a co-host of "Good Morning America/Sunday." Earlier in his career, he reported on the Rodney King trial and the Los Angeles riots for Fox Television Network. He also served as an investigative reporter and anchor for various news outlets. Ritter began his journalism journey in print in 1972 and returned to college to graduate from The New School in 2016.



Panelist, Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal

Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal (D/WF Manhattan) represents the 67th Assembly district of Manhattan. A lifelong resident of the Upper West Side, she currently serves as Chair of the Assembly Committee on Housing. Since taking office in 2006, Assemblymember Rosenthal has passed groundbreaking legislation, such as the Child Victims Act and the Adult Survivors Act, to provide survivors of sexual abuse an opportunity to seek justice in the courts. She has also passed legislation increasing access to statewide substance use disorder programs, expanding reproductive and LGBTQIA+ rights, regulating e-cigarettes, advancing animal welfare, enhancing consumer protection laws, bolstering gun control measures, and championing menstrual equity across the State by eliminating the sales tax on menstrual products. Assemblymember Rosenthal is also the sponsor of the Hunger Free Campus Act, aimed at supporting colleges in implementing hunger prevention strategies like food pantries and food assistance awareness.

Meet our Speakers



Panelist, Patricia Ramsey, Ph.D.

Patricia Ramsey assumed the role of Medgar Evers College's sixth President on May 1, 2021, making history as the first female and scientist in this role. Within six weeks after Dr. Ramsey arrived, she spearheaded two innovative programs, Cultivating Holistic Academic Mindsets to Promote Student Success (CHAMPSS) and the Brooklyn Recovery Corps (BRC) programs, leveraging a \$20 million grant to support students financially. With a background in biology, Dr. Ramsey's research delves into the biological properties of folklore plants, including collecting 110 Agave species in the Sonoran Desert and Sapium sebiferum leaves across the southeastern United States. She holds degrees from Norfolk State University, Howard University, Harvard University, and Georgetown University.



Panelist, New York City Council Member Eric Dinowitz

Eric Dinowitz represents the 11th district of the New York City Council. As Chair of the Higher Education Committee, he has a personal investment in students' success and wants to ensure that they have a fair shot. Prior to serving in the City Council, Eric was a special education teacher and Chapter Leader for the United Federation of Teachers and the former Aging Chair of Bronx Community Board 8.



Panelist, Berenecea Johnson Eanes, Ph.D

Dr. Berenecea Johnson Eanes was unanimously appointed President of York College by the City University of New York (CUNY) Board of Trustees after serving as interim President from September 2019 to June 2020. With over two decades of experience in higher education leadership, Dr. Eanes initiated the "One York" five-year Strategic Plan, focusing on academic excellence, inclusive programs, and campus community development. During her tenure, she established the One York Emergency Fund and secured record funding. Under her leadership, York College ranked #2 in social mobility. Before York College, Dr. Eanes served as Vice President for Student Affairs at Cal State Fullerton, making substantial improvements and overseeing major campus projects. Her extensive leadership and scholarship in Social Work have garnered over \$8 million in research grants. She has also taught and led at various institutions, holding degrees from Dillard University, Boston University, and Clark Atlanta University.

2023 College Food Security Pledge

I pledge to work toward food security on college campuses for good by raising awareness, fighting stigma for people to get help, and fostering community to connect people in need to services.

For Students:

- Contact my elected officials about relevant legislation.
- Identify and help spread the word about existing resources at my school, such as a pantry or meal dollars transfer program.
- Raise awareness about SNAP eligibility for college students.

For College Leaders:

- Utilize "Connecting Students to Benefits" toolkit (QR code)
- Contact my elected officials about relevant legislation.
- Introduce one new resource not currently available.



For Elected Officials and Staff:

- Cosponsor the NYS Hunger Free Campus Act or the federal Enhance Access to SNAP (EATS) Act.
- Secure funding for campus pantries, benefits outreach, and other relevant programs in budget negotiations.
- Use my platform to raise awareness with Government Agencies.

For Government Agencies:

- Examine processes and requirements to help reduce red tape and connect students to resources.

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Medgar Evers College
1650 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11225
<https://www.mec.cuny.edu/>

Food Bank For New York City
39 Broadway, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10006
<https://www.foodbanknyc.org/>