



Board of Trustees of The City University of New York

RESOLUTION TO Approve the Award of the Jonas Salk Scholarships by the City University of New York

June 8, 2020

WHEREAS, Created by the Board of Estimate of the City of New York in 1955 to honor the City College graduate who developed the first anti-polio vaccine, the Jonas Salk scholarships are awarded annually to graduates of The City University of New York senior colleges; and

WHEREAS, The scholarships are awarded to students who have been accepted to a U.S. medical school or graduate school in pursuit of the M.D. and D.O. as well as Ph.D. or D.Sc. in biomedical/biological sciences and have performed scientific research as an undergraduate; and

WHEREAS, The students' research papers are reviewed and recipients are selected for their potential to make significant contributions to medical and biomedical research by a committee of prominent physicians chaired by Dr. Arnold Melman, President of the Society of Salk Scholars; and

WHEREAS, Since 1955, over five hundred students have been awarded the Jonas E. Salk Scholarship (the "Salk Scholarship"); and

WHEREAS, Salk Scholarship winners receive a total of \$8,000 over the course of four years to help defray the cost of study for M.D. and D.O. degrees as well as doctoral degrees in Biomedical Sciences.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approve the award of the Jonas E. Salk Scholarships to the following graduates who have been recommended by the Chancellor of The City University of New York effective June 29, 2020:

1. Marianna Babadzhanov, Brooklyn College
2. Miar Elaskandrany, Brooklyn College (Macaulay Honors College)

3. Tiffany Merlinsky, Hunter College (Macaulay Honors College)
4. Swathi Mettela, City College (Macaulay Honors College)
5. Jasmin Morales, City College
6. Yasmine Oprea, Hunter College
7. Netanel Sapir, Queens College
8. Branden Sosa, Hunter College
9. Jenny Ganay Vasquez, Hunter College

Review of Activities
Academic Year 2018–2019
New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)
at
City University of New York

Executive Summary

To gain employment after graduation, it is no longer sufficient for a student simply to attain a degree or certificate in a specific field. Rather, students must also demonstrate work readiness and prior relevant experience to prospective employers...Experiential learning such as cooperative education and internships provide a win-win-win for New York's business, colleges, and—most importantly—students.

— Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), the state's largest student-directed research and civic engagement organization, is uniquely designed to provide experiential learning and civic opportunities for college students. NYPIRG brings invigorating, exciting opportunities through which students can constructively participate in civic affairs, add value to the city and state public policy discourse, give back to their communities on and off campus, and are able to deepen their educational experience as well as their connection to the campus community. Each year, at campus chapters throughout the state, thousands of students participate in and organize activities that range from non-partisan voter registration, to local food and clothing drives that benefit communities in need, to coordinated, statewide efforts to promote and safeguard access to affordable public education. Through engaging students in these activities, and many others as described in this report, the NYPIRG chapter helps to cultivate a climate of civic engagement on campus.

NYPIRG's campus program complements the collegiate educational experience by providing students with the skills and knowledge to make a real impact on a variety of issues that affect the campus and communities where they live, work, and attend college. Learning alongside full-time organizing professionals on campus every day, students become more active in civic life, more effective in service to their communities, and enhance their educational experience.

NYPIRG provides easy entryways into civic engagement to the student body at large. Even the briefest of encounters with the organization, registering to vote, or hearing a NYPIRG representative speak during a class, presents students with an immediate, accessible opening to engage in civic life. NYPIRG also provides an arena for college students to learn about and educate their peers about city and state-level policy — for instance, budget decisions that determine levels of state funding for CUNY and financial aid programs. Students working with NYPIRG develop an enriched understanding of the political system and how to work within it, and gain a set of marketable skills that translate broadly across professional fields. Through hands-on experience with NYPIRG's project work, students learn and develop confident and persuasive public speaking, event organizing, networking

with other organizations, media relations, and other professional-level skills that will boost their prospects for success in college, the job market, and throughout their lives.

Students also take on positions of great responsibility within NYPIRG, including the direction of the statewide nonprofit organization. NYPIRG's Board of Directors is composed entirely of students chosen by their peers in campus-wide elections at each chapter. Students who serve on the Board make decisions key to the life and direction of the organization, including establishing and prioritizing programmatic objectives, approving long-range plans, allocating resources, and adopting the organization's annual budget. Students elected to the Board undergo training in nonprofit governance, critical thinking, fiduciary responsibility, organizational oversight, fiscal accountability, and the reasonable person standard. As bona fide directors of a nonprofit organization, students on the Board participate in a valuable, advanced civic opportunity and shape a program that is consistently relevant to other students.

Since the first chapter (Queens College) was founded in 1973, NYPIRG has become an integral part of the campus and surrounding community. NYPIRG's nine City of New York (CUNY) college chapters work on a broad range of issues that typically includes voter registration, consumer protection, higher education, the environment, mass transit, and homeless and hunger outreach. During the 2018–2019 academic year, students working with NYPIRG at CUNY organized their peers to hold events and activities on civic empowerment, environmental protection, transit accessibility, and hunger and homelessness; registered 13,241 students to vote; and educated their peers and themselves about higher education funding, financial aid, and voting rights.

The NYPIRG chapters at Borough of Manhattan Community College, Bronx Community College, Brooklyn College, City College, College of Technology, College of Staten Island, Hunter College, Queens College, and Queensborough Community College provide important experiential learning and civic engagement opportunities. With the guidance of professional staff, students have access to a far-reaching set of opportunities to participate in important public policy discussions and make tangible contributions on issues they care about. Last year, students had access to one or more full-time staff persons based out of an on-campus or local office. NYPIRG staff were available daily to work with students. With their guidance, interns, project leaders, and other students conducted surveys, registered voters, motivated volunteers, facilitated meetings, led teams in the field, spoke before the media, analyzed policy, and planned activities for the chapter's projects. Students working with NYPIRG were integrated into the fabric of campus civic life — organizing on-campus events, networking with campus and community groups, working with faculty members and administrators on a variety of civic-based projects, and educating their peers and local residents about issues of public concern.

Additionally, NYPIRG researchers, organizers, lawyers, and other staff throughout the state were regularly available for CUNY students. NYPIRG staff members provided expertise on issues, guided students in developing skills and strategy, and ensured that they accomplished quality project work. They also provided opportunities for students to go to

governmental meetings, present testimony at public hearings, plan and manage campus, regional, and statewide events, and meet with policymakers.

Campus Highlights

Below is a brief summary of project activity highlights from each of NYPIRG's CUNY campus chapters:

Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC)

Throughout the year, BMCC NYPIRG engaged more than 5,500 students on campus, and offered internships opportunities to students through the Internship and Experiential Learning Office. Examples of BMCC chapter activities during the year included:

- Registering 2,114 students to vote, distributing information about voting rights and ballot initiatives to students, and conducting Get-Out-the-Vote drives for the Primary and General Elections.
- Educating the campus community about state funding for SUNY and CUNY, tuition costs, student debt, and other access and affordability issues facing college students; and conducting workshops throughout the year to teach students about the structure of New York State government and how to conduct effective meetings with policymakers and community leaders.
- Planning and conducting campus and community drives to collect hundreds of food items for the Bowery Mission and hundreds of personal hygiene items for the BMCC Women's Resource Center.
- Training students to become small claims court counselors to provide procedural (not legal) assistance to clients utilizing the small claims court – helping consumers with everything from pre-filing assistance to preparing for the day in court to collecting a judgement.

Bronx Community College (BCC)

Throughout the year, BCC NYPIRG engaged more than 3,000 students on campus, and offered internship opportunities to students through the Human Services Department. Examples of BCC chapter activities during the year included:

- Registering 834 students to vote, distributing information about voting rights and ballot initiatives to students, and conducting Get-Out-the-Vote drives for the Primary and General Elections.
- Educating the campus community about state funding for SUNY and CUNY, tuition costs, student debt, and other access and affordability issues facing college students; and conducting a workshop in February to teach students how to conduct effective meetings with policymakers and community leaders.
- Planning and conducting campus and community drives to collect hundreds of food items for Single Stop and hundreds of hygiene items for St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction, a local charity.

- Collecting hundreds of petitions from students in support of better subway and bus service, and publicizing civic opportunities such as news conferences and public hearings where students could make their voices heard.

Brooklyn College

Throughout the year, Brooklyn College NYPIRG engaged more than 4,000 students on campus, and offered internship opportunities to students through the Political Science Department. Examples of Brooklyn College chapter activities during the year included:

- Registering 1,274 students to vote, distributing information about voting rights and ballot initiatives to students, and conducting Get-Out-the-Vote drives for the Primary and General Elections.
- Educating the campus community about state funding for SUNY and CUNY, tuition costs, student debt, and other access and affordability issues facing college students; and conducting a workshop in February to teach students how to conduct effective meetings with policymakers and community leaders.
- Planning and conducting campus and community drives to collect hundreds of food items for the Brooklyn College Food Pantry and thousands of personal hygiene items for the Brooklyn College Women's Center and Providence House, an organization that assists homeless women and children, and women recently released from prison.
- Collecting hundreds of petitions from students in support of better subway and bus service, and co-hosting a workshop in March where students learned about New York City's transit system and discussed ways to make transit more affordable and accessible.

City College of New York

Throughout the year, City College NYPIRG engaged more than 4,000 students on campus, and offered internship opportunities to students through the Career Center, Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, and Sociology Department. Examples of City College chapter activities during the year included:

- Registering 1,349 students to vote, distributing information about voting rights and ballot initiatives to students, and conducting Get-Out-the-Vote drives for the Primary and General Elections.
- Educating the campus community about state funding for SUNY and CUNY, tuition costs, student debt, and other access and affordability issues facing college students; and conducting a workshop in February to teach students how to conduct effective meetings with policymakers and community leaders.
- Training students to become small claims court counselors to provide procedural (not legal) assistance to clients utilizing the small claims court – helping consumers with everything from pre-filing assistance to preparing for the day in court to collecting a judgement.

- Co-hosting and conducting campus and community drives to collect hundreds of food items for the City College/NYPIRG Food Pantry and over 1,200 personal hygiene items for CCNY Health and Wellness Services.

College of Staten Island (CSI)

Throughout the year, CSI NYPIRG engaged more than 4,000 students on campus, and offered internship opportunities to students through the Political Science Department. Examples of CSI chapter activities during the year included:

- Registering 1,137 students to vote, distributing information about voting rights and ballot initiatives to students, and conducting Get-Out-the-Vote drives for the Primary and General Elections.
- Co-hosting and conducting campus and community drives to collect thousands of food, toiletries, and personal hygiene items for the CSI food pantry, Community Health Action of Staten Island, Harm Reduction Center, and Project Hospitality.
- Student Ariana Hernandez providing testimony to the New York City Council at a March 15th hearing about the proposed Williams Oil and Gas Pipeline, sharing her concerns as a resident of Staten Island about the potential environmental threats.
- Collecting hundreds of petitions from students in support of better subway and bus service, and publicizing civic opportunities such as news conferences and public hearings where students could make their voices heard.

Hunter College

Throughout the year, Hunter College NYPIRG engaged more than 4,500 students on campus, and offered internship opportunities to students through the Political Science Department. Examples of Hunter College chapter activities during the year included:

- Registering 1,988 students to vote, distributing information about voting rights and ballot initiatives to students, and conducting Get-Out-the-Vote drives for the Primary and General Elections.
- Cohosting and organizing a documentary screening in March of “Period. End of Sentence.” about women in rural India working to make menstrual products more accessible, and organizing a drive to collect thousands of toiletries and personal hygiene items for the Women’s Prison Association and Queer Detainee Empowerment Project and Violence Intervention Program.
- Student Stephanie Moy joining Mayor Bill DeBlasio in a news conference to announce the release of New York City’s Better Buses Action Plan,” speaking to the media about her experience depending on bus service to get to class.
- Training students to become small claims court counselors to provide procedural (not legal) assistance to clients utilizing the small claims court – helping consumers with everything from pre-filing assistance to preparing for the day in court to collecting a judgement.

New York City College of Technology (City Tech)

Throughout the year, City Tech NYPIRG engaged more than 4,000 students on campus, and offered internship opportunities to students through the Communications Department, Law and Paralegal Studies, and CUNY Edge. Examples of City Tech chapter activities during the year included:

- Registering 1,253 students to vote, distributing information about voting rights and ballot initiatives to students, and conducting Get-Out-the-Vote drives for the Primary and General Elections.
- Educating the campus community about state funding for SUNY and CUNY, tuition costs, student debt, and other access and affordability issues facing college students; and conducting a workshop in February to teach students how to conduct effective meetings with policymakers and community leaders.
- Training students to become small claims court counselors to provide procedural (not legal) assistance to clients utilizing the small claims court – helping consumers with everything from pre-filing assistance to preparing for the day in court to collecting a judgement.
- Cosponsoring and organizing drives with Student Life and Student Government Association to collect thousands of menstrual products and personal hygiene items donated to the Community Help in Park Slope (CHiPS) women’s shelter in Park Slope and the Brooklyn Pride Center on Fulton Street.

Queens College

Throughout the year, Queens College NYPIRG engaged more than 5,000 students on campus, and offered internship opportunities to students through the Urban Studies Department. Examples of Queens College chapter activities during the year included:

- Registering 1,723 students to vote, distributing information about voting rights and ballot initiatives to students, and conducting Get-Out-the-Vote drives for the Primary and General Elections.
- Educating the campus community about state funding for SUNY and CUNY, tuition costs, student debt, and other access and affordability issues facing college students; and conducting a workshop in February to teach students how to conduct effective meetings with policymakers and community leaders.
- Hosting and organizing a “Friendsgiving Pot Luck” in November that brought more than 50 Queens College student leaders together to discuss issues surrounding higher education accessibility and affordability; and organizing a forum on public higher education with the Student Association in March, featuring State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky.
- Facilitating a financial literacy workshop in April to educate students about credit cards, interest rates, FICO scores, credit reports, credit card debt, and plastic payment fees.

Queensborough Community College (QCC)

Throughout the year, QCC NYPIRG engaged more than 3,500 students on campus, and offered internship opportunities to students through the Social Sciences Department. Examples of QCC College chapter activities during the year included:

- Registering 1,568 students to vote, distributing information about voting rights and ballot initiatives to students, and conducting Get-Out-the-Vote drives for the Primary and General Elections.
- Planning and conducting campus and community drives to collect hundreds of food items for the QCC Food Pantry, and thousands of personal hygiene items that were donated to Sheltering Arms, an organization that delivers social services to thousands of vulnerable New York City children and families.
- Hosting an information session on New York City mass transit structure and funding in March, collecting hundreds of petitions from students in support of better subway and bus service, and publicizing civic opportunities such as news conferences and public hearings where students could make their voices heard.
- Organizing a workshop in October to help students protect their identity online, and learn how to avoid scams, large fees, and cyber-attacks.

These activities and many more are described in the following report, which summarizes NYPIRG's project work, student services, internships, educational trainings, and campus coordination at the City University of New York for the 2018–2019 academic year.