

January 1, 2018 – March 31, 2018

# PRE-K-16 COLLEGE READINESS NEWS



MAKING STATEN ISLAND STRONGER

30000degrees.org

## FEATURED ACCOMPLISHMENT

### Funding & Faculty Research Announcement

Through the generosity of our funders at the Northfield Bank Foundation, the Richmond County Savings Foundation, and Senator Lanza, 30,000 Degrees is able to build and sustain initiative capacity. The funding has also permitted select faculty to align their research interests to the needs of our schools and community - providing opportunities to co-create more knowledge and approaches to college readiness on Staten Island!

Congratulations to Dr. Nancy DiTunniarello and Dr. Shuriti Deshpande of St. John's University, as well as Dr. Jason Fitzgerald, and Dr. Alanna Gibbons of Wagner College - the first recipients of our faculty seed grant award!

*Photos taken by: Jad Nammour, St. John's University (top); Jonathan Harkel, Wagner College (bottom).*



## FEATURED SCHOOL NEW DORP HIGH SCHOOL

New Dorp High School, a 30,000 Degrees partner and founding institution, is the first high school in NYC to bring CUNY Math Start into their building for seniors. This historic integration brings one of CUNY's most successful college readiness programs to the students who will benefit from it most, before they matriculate in college, saving time and financial aid, and increasing their chances for degree completion! 30,000 Degrees thanks NDHS AP Li Pan, and NDHS Teacher, CSI Adjunct Christina Griss, and the CUNY Start Team - Donna Grant, Nada Michael & Jesus Valdes for your commitment to this innovative collaboration!



*Images courtesy of: Yu & Associates, Geotechnical, Environmental, and Technical Engineering (top); CUNY (bottom).*

## FEATURED STUDENT VANESSA AKPOTEGWA

30,000 Degrees celebrates students like Vanessa Akpotegwa, an 8th grader in the inaugural class of the Markham Leadership Academy - a high school readiness, college awareness, civics leadership program, co-created by Wagner College, Port Richmond High School, and IS 51. In addition to actively participating in MLA, Vanessa is also involved with Redeem Christian Church of God, and the NYPD Leadership Program. She will be the first to attend college in her family, with a plan to study medicine. Thanks to IS 51 Principal, Nick Mele, for making this possible, and to Ashley Olsen, the Wagner College MLA Coordinator, for sharing the story of a first generation American and future doctor from Staten Island. *Photo of Ms. Akpotegwa, in the Seahawk Raider Center, an IS 51 college awareness office, run by Wagner College; taken by Ashley Olsen.*





## COLLEGE MINDEDNESS

*Collaborations and stories that have helped our students, parents, and residents to develop a college-going identity*

On 11/17/17, CSI hosted the Battle of the Borough, a fundraiser, and a CSI vs. Wagner College Women's Basketball game. St. John's University/SI, Port Richmond High School, New Dorp High School, SI Technical High School, IS 51, IS 2, PS 21, PS 19, & PS 11 were also present. K-8 students participated in a half-time relay, while the NDHS and CSI cheerleading teams showed their love for the Dolphins. The PRHS Marching Band performed, in support of the Seahawks. Gabriella Serebryanaya, SITHS student, CEO and Co-Founder of SHINEE Inc., a non-profit that connects volunteers to special education programs, interviewed our funders at the Northfield Bank Foundation, the Richmond County Savings Foundation & Senator Lanza's office. Thanks to our leadership at CSI and Wagner College, as well as principals Deidre DeAngelis and Mark Erlenwein for making all of this possible. *Multiple photographers featured in this collage; created by 30,000 Degrees Research Assistant, Liz Munafo.*



### UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

**Career Con:** To be held at SJU—SI Campus on **Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018**, from **9:30AM—1:00PM**



## COLLEGE PREPAREDNESS

*Collaborations and stories of academic success*

Similar to the CUNY Math Start collaboration at New Dorp High School, SJU and WC have leveraged existing pre-college courses and cohort models for high school students, as part of the 30,000 Degrees initiative. The Early Start Academy is a pre-college program, which brings cohorts of qualified high school juniors and seniors to SJU - creating purposeful academic pipelines from high school to professional degrees and career readiness. The Port Richmond Partnership Leadership Academy (PRPLA), is a 3-year cohort-based commitment, with a 5-week summer intensive program, intended to enhance college readiness in Port Richmond High School juniors, seniors, and future college first-year students. Students complete a community advocacy project or internship, engage in civic learning field trips, and are enrolled in credit-bearing high school and college courses. PRPLA was the impetus and model for IS 51's Markham Leadership Academy. *Thanks to our Presidents & leadership on the 30,000 Degrees Advisory Board for your vision and bridge building efforts to make this work.*

### UPCOMING COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINES

**CUNY Fall 2018 Admission Deadline: February 1st, 2018**  
*All non-CUNY applicants, please follow the admissions' deadlines for the colleges you intend to apply to.*



## COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

*Collaborations and stories of support during the college admissions and financing.*

Partnered with College Access Research and Action, 30,000 Degrees has aligned internal civic engagement programs, to the professional development sequences of CARA's College Bridge model - enabling our college students to be employed by working with high school seniors to provide technical guidance through the college enrollment & financial aid process. "CARA's College Bridge program addresses the gap in college guidance for first-generation-to-college students, low income students, and students of color by training current college students, called Bridge Coaches, to support graduating high school students in their senior year and the summer before they matriculate into college." ("College Bridge." CARA NYC, caranyc.org/programs/college-bridge/.) Once the academic year ends, in partnership with United Activities Unlimited, our Bridge Coaches will sustain their employment and support system for high school seniors, after they graduate from high school. *Thanks to our partners Janice Bloom and Shaquinn Taylor Wright at CARA, Cheryl Barzey and Allison Griffin at CUNY Service Corps, Brian Licata of UAU, Briane Hannafey and Kathy Eberlein of McKee High School, Christine Clark, Donna LeChillgrien, and Dr. Sal Contes, Jr. at New Dorp High School.*

### UPCOMING FINANCIAL AID DEADLINES FOR THE 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR

**FAFSA:** The 2018-2019 FAFSA (PELL grant) is available for filing between **10/01/2017** and **06/30/2018, 11:59PM.**  
**TAP (NY Residents):** Apply by **06/30/2018, 11:59PM.**  
**The Dream.US:** Scholarship opportunities for DREAMers. Apply by **03/01/2018, 11:59PM.**

**SHARE YOUR STORY** Tell us what you've been doing to bring Staten Island closer to 30,000 degrees!

Send an email to [crystal.montalvo@csi.cuny.edu](mailto:crystal.montalvo@csi.cuny.edu)

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