Founded in 2015, the Stella and Charles Guttman Community College Foundation is a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 educational foundation dedicated to finding friends and supporters for the College. The foundation is governed by an independent group of trustees who have a wide range of expertise and interests, as well as a shared passion for public higher education and Guttman’s innovative model.

**Chair of the Board**

**Lisette Nieves, Ed.D.** is currently a Clinical Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at NYU Steinhardt. She continues her work as a Founding Partner at Lingo Ventures, where she provides consulting services to the nonprofit and public sector on growth, talent recruitment/retention, and change management.

**Board Members**

**Wendy Hattler Dessy** is the Manager of Corporate Social Responsibility for Proskauer. She oversees all aspects of employee engagement, board service and corporate social responsibility. Prior to joining Proskauer, Wendy served as Executive Director for NYC Cool Roofs and Manager of Public/Private Partnerships for the Mayor’s Office of Service and Volunteerism from 2010 to 2014.

**Dall W. Forsythe** has taught at several schools of public policy, including the Kennedy School at Harvard and the Wagner School at NYU. He has extensive financial management experience in the governmental, nonprofit and private sectors.

**Steve Lessar** is a Managing Director at BlackRock where he is co-head of the private equity secondaries. Prior to BlackRock, Steve served as a Managing Director at Goldman Sachs for nine years. He also previously worked as a principal at Trilantic Capital Partners, a New York-based private equity firm, and at Lehman Brothers' direct private equity effort, sourcing and executing investments for their Merchant Bank. Steve served for five years as an officer in the U.S. Army.

**Lili Lynton** is the co-founder and operating partner of The Dinex Group, which manages 17 Daniel Boulud branded restaurants. She is also the General Partner of Lezen Acquisition Group, which owns and operates several non-fiction U.S.-based publishing companies. She previously co-founded Telebank, an Internet bank sold to E*Trade in 1999.

**Marc Perlmutter** has been practicing law at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison for nearly 40 years. After retiring as a partner of the firm in August 2016, he is currently Of Counsel in the Corporate Department.

**Susan Butler Plum** is the founding director of the Skadden Fellowship Foundation, which awards two-year grants to attorneys interested in pursuing public interest law on a full-time basis. She serves as the President of the Stella and Charles Guttman Foundation.

**Alejandra Soto** is a skilled media and communications professional with over 15 years experience in front of and behind the camera. She has extensive experience as a journalist and currently works for Univision 41. Fluent in both English and Spanish, Alejandra has covered breaking stories, anchored live newscasts, and presented and produced debate and analysis shows.

**Marc La Vorgna** served as the press secretary to former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg, and he subsequently was named the Communications Director of Bloomberg Media Group. He now operates his own media communications company.

**Cynthia Rivera Weissblum** is President and CEO of the Edwin Gould Foundation, where she leads the Foundation’s initiatives—a unique combination of supports that include incubation services, grant making, and advocacy focused on improving educational outcomes for low-income youth.
Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the support you have shown to Stella and Charles Guttman Community College throughout the last academic year. Your friendship is so important to this young and thriving college. Now in its seventh year of operation, Guttman's prominence in the community college sector continues to grow. In August 2018, BestColleges.com ranked Guttman the #1 community college in New York State.

Our Foundation Board keenly feels its responsibility to help the College find friends and partners who champion the students. It is our pleasure to work on their behalf because they actually inspire us. Their awareness of themselves as learners, as advocates, and as change agents for their communities is as moving as it is persuasive. Guttman's innovative model has transformative power. You will see that when you read the prize-winning essays written by Evelin Nunez and Iridian Castillo, which are included in this annual report.

One of the benefits of helping to raise private funds for the College is to see firsthand the tremendous impact additional resources can have on the educational experiences provided to students. In this report, we are delighted to highlight Tasreen Rahman, Class of 2018, who credits a variety of transformative opportunities while at Guttman, such as the Global Guttman program in Belize, in her development as a student and citizen of the world.

Guttman will continue to be a beacon of opportunity for young adult New Yorkers. I hope we can count on your continued support for the College and its students. The return on your investment is truly incalculable.

Thank you again for your support.

Lisette Nieves, Ed.D.
President, Stella and Charles Guttman Community College Foundation

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your support of the College and our students. Since the first Commencement in 2014, the ranks of our alumni have grown. There are now 837 alumni, and many have now completed bachelor’s and master’s degrees and launched successful careers that will land them in new worlds of opportunity.

They and we, the staff and faculty, are well aware that their lives before Guttman would probably not have boosted them to such remarkable heights. The vast majority of the high impact and transformative programming we do at the College is funded by private money. Since the College’s second year, the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation has supported the Student Emergency Fund. We feature the Petrie Foundation in this report as a sign of our deep gratitude.

Here is just one recent example of how Petrie support made the crucial difference for a student on our Dean’s List. He, his mother, and younger siblings were facing imminent eviction from their apartment. His mom, who suffers from mental illness, had not been able to work, and she was in need of surgery for another crippling condition. While our student continued his classes, worked as a Guttman Peer Mentor and had another job to support the family, his mother returned to her native country to receive the medical treatment she desperately needed. Thanks to a Petrie Student Emergency Fund grant, we were able to help this student pay the rent arrears and the family remained in their apartment. This student graduated in 2018, is now attending a CUNY senior college, and his mother is doing well and working again.

The generosity of funders such as Petrie Foundation and friends like you makes all the difference to the success of our students. Thank you for your continued support.

Scott E. Evenbeck, Ph.D.
President, Stella and Charles Guttman Community College

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018
How will you use your education to impact your community?

Changing stereotypes and changing people’s views are not as easy as it seems, but is this impossible? I can truly say no, because we can work for a better world. Nowadays, there are people who don’t have an education, people who haven’t finished high school. This is the community that needs help. As a college student who is preparing to face the real world, I am looking forward to helping others with my knowledge.

In everyone’s life there are different types of conflicts and issues, yet there are also dreams and wishes. I come from the ground, from where you have to choose among your needs versus your wants. I come from where everyone wakes up in the morning and has a little piece of bread with a little cup of coffee. Where the only thing you may have is hope that tomorrow will be a better day, and you feel thankful to God that you are alive. I am the living example of poverty. This is the reason why I want to help others who are going through the same things as I went through.

Since I came to New York, I noticed that even though there are many opportunities, not everyone has the privilege to know them. As a college student, my goal is to help the immigrant population to have knowledge about all the opportunities that they can get. When I was in high school, I read a play called A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry. It talks about dreams, wishes, and hopes. There is a character who caught my attention; his name is Joseph Asagai. He says that “In my village I will teach and work and things will happen, slowly and swiftly. At times it will seem that nothing changes at all…” He also says that changes happen slowly, maybe with just teaching someone how to read or teaching them the numbers, that is the beginning of change. I want to be someone who can make an impact on society, like Joseph Asagai or perhaps like Sally Ride, who captivated the world for being the first American woman to go into space. Indeed, I know that life is a long journey, but I believe that it is possible for me to have a positive impact.

How would I use my education to make an impact? Nowadays we have a president who judges us for where we come from and who hates immigrants just because we are different. He hasn’t realized that immigrants are more than just stereotypes. Nevertheless, we are dreamers, we are brave, we are strong. In brief, my idea is to break stereotypes and become someone who captivates the world by how I helped my community. I know there are a lot of obstacles and maybe one day I will fall down, but I will get up right away. I will help my fellow immigrant community overcome the racism that is going on. I will teach them what they don’t know, and say that everything will be fine; it won’t be easy, but it will be fine. I will use all the learning I will gain in college to make this happen, but I will also use my experiences to serve as a living example of a warrior.

Evelin Nunez came to New York from Ecuador in 2013. She graduated from Gregorio Luperon High School in Washington Heights and entered Guttman in fall 2018. She is a Liberal Arts and Sciences major. She loves to read and write in both English and Spanish.
The most important life lesson Guttman has taught me is…

I’m a very strong believer in that everything you do in life, there’s a lesson to learn. That’s exactly what I think about when I reflect on my time at Guttman Community College. I would say that what I’ve learned stems from a combination of ambition and support.

I’ve always been an ambitious person—always wanted to go one step further. That’s just me. For me, it’s never been to impress anyone or to gain recognition. If I do “the most,” it’s because I like to challenge myself; but I’ve never been so bold as to step out of my comfort zone. Anyone who knows me knows that I’m generally pretty reserved. I tend to stick to myself, knowing what I’m capable of doing and what’s a stretch. For instance, I wrote, if I say so myself, a fantastic essay on Mohsin Hamid’s Exit West for my Composition I class. Even though I could have kept it grounded to its clear literary themes, I decided to go a completely different direction and throw some science in there. Why? Because it made re-reading the entire novel, digging out specific lines, much more absorbing. For a moment there, I was a psychologist picking at the protagonists’ minds, trying to find a justification for their questionable actions. And I loved it. I enjoyed nearly every second of it. From skimming through articles (thanks to the Info Commons’ One Search, of course) and realizing they had no real relevance to my topic, to starting all over again—starting from scratch and maybe even starting to lose hope.

That’s where support comes into play. There are no real words I can use to describe just how thankful I am for the faculty here. They have helped me really, truly, honestly learn a lot outside of the classroom. And it hasn’t just been in my first year at Guttman Community College, it’s been ever since. Even though I can be reclusive at times, I don’t think I’ve ever second-guessed reaching out for help. Sure, I find my way to their offices on the sixth floor when I have questions or doubts on an assignment, which is more often than not, but I also find myself going around for advice and guidance. At this point, I feel like I’ve become a hassle. Like Skippy from Family Ties—an inconvenience, but always with good intentions. Hopefully that’s not the case, and they’ve learned from me as much as I’ve learned from them. I’ve really appreciated all of their book recommendations, like John Kennedy Toole’s A Confederacy of Dunces, and their putting up with my constant ramblings when I start to doubt myself.

What I’m trying to get at is that I’ve learned not to hold myself back or compare myself to others when I’m at a loss. I know now, I think, where my strength and weaknesses lie, and that there are people out there who see just how much I’m capable of, too.

Iridian Castillo grew up in Brooklyn. Her family hails from Mexico originally and has been in New York since the early 1990’s. Iridian is a full-time student, majoring in Liberal Arts and Sciences, and she also serves as a Peer Mentor. Her professional goal is to become an English teacher; she will attend Hunter College after she graduates from Guttman. How lucky her students will be to learn from her!
Born in Queens in 1998 to recent immigrants from Bangladesh, Tasreen (Tas) Rahman challenges herself to “live through life” rather than “just get through it.” She says this is one of the great life lessons she learned during her years at Guttman, which stand in wondrous contrast to the difficulties she experienced attending three New York City public high schools. Tas graduated from Guttman in 2018.

Guttman has been perhaps the greatest surprise of her life so far; she did not anticipate the profound impact that college would have on her. Tas credits her transformation to the wide range of opportunities she had while at Guttman: the Global Guttman program (she went to Belize); being a CUNY Research Scholar (she returned to Belize); the Guttman-Chase Part-Time Teller program (she has a fantastic job earning more than minimum wage); a composition course taught by Prof. Dan Collins that fed her creativity to write poems and songs; the Ethnographies of Work course that opened her eyes to possible professions; and the capstone course she took as an Urban Studies major.

Earning an associate degree was important to Tas and to her family. Her father has a master’s in public accounting from his college in Bangladesh, and her mother, who was a famous singer before coming to America, had one year of college. Her sister, who is four years older, is currently enrolled at Kingsborough Community College. Tas will begin the path to a bachelor’s degree soon—right now she is focusing on processing her Guttman years and being a great part-time teller at Chase.

She isn’t sure what career to pursue. Should she become a social worker, an anthropologist, a branch banker, an environmental activist? Tas understands what links these professions is that she’ll have direct contact with people. Helping others in some significant way is her ambition.

She’s proud to be an American citizen, and she’s also proud that her native country is Bangladesh. Her knowledge and experiences there and in Belize have brought into sharp focus for her the perils of climate change; rising sea levels might well destroy the destiny of millions in both these countries. Whatever she does, she will be helped by the fact that she is multi-lingual: she’s got Bengali, Hindi, Urdu, and English in her suitcase of languages.

When Tas says that “everyone is a role model for me,” she means it. She counts her mother and other family members, her branch and assistant branch manager at Chase, and her teachers at Guttman among her role models. As she takes her next steps in life, more confident than she’s ever been before, Tasreen Rahman is watching and learning from everyone how she can best be a person who makes a difference in this world.
I know it’s been very hard in this world
But you’re too close to just give up now
   All these obstacles you faced
      Yeah I know they’re the worst
But you’re too close to just fall back now
   When you look into one’s eyes
      There’s always history
         Life is full of lessons
It’s just a never ending mystery
   Hold your head up high
And don’t let anything defeat you
You have this one life to live
   But live it by being true

Tasreen Rahman

Tasreen Rahman (center) with her sister, Nisha Rahman (left), and mother, Saida Neli (right).
The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation is a private, independent grantmaking foundation that began active operation in 1998. The Foundation’s mission arises from the belief that education is the key to realizing an individual’s potential and his or her ability to become an active, productive and engaged participant in a democratic society. The Foundation focuses on increasing student access, persistence and success at CUNY, particularly at the community colleges, with a four-fold focus:

- Emergency Student Grant Funds;
- Improving and reforming remediation in mathematics;
- Working with non-profits and colleges to increase student access to college and to persist and succeed there;
- Building and expanding career/education pathways for students that provide multiple ways to achieve educational goals and obtain a successful career path.

The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation has awarded two grants to Guttman. The first grant funds the College’s Carroll and Milton Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund. It provides the crucial support students need as they face urgent financial challenges that threaten their success and continuing attendance at school. Students apply for Petrie help through the College’s Single Stop office, which affords them the opportunity to meet with staff who are familiar with a wide range of public and private resources. Every student requesting funds of more than about $65.00 also meets with the Emergency Fund Committee. Together the student and the Committee strategize about best next steps for the student.

The College’s most recent grant from the Petrie Foundation comes in support of our food insecurity program. Food insecurity challenges many of our students. There often isn’t enough food at their homes, and food in the Bryant Park area is expensive to buy. The Petrie Food Insecurity Program funds food purchases we can give to the students beyond what they can find in our College Food Pantry. Thanksgiving isn’t only a holiday in November. The College and its students are so grateful to the Petrie Foundation, especially to Beth Lief, the Executive Director, who has been such a good advocate for us.

**In Their Own Words: The Kind of Help Our Students Need**

“I am currently a second-year student. I am writing this statement because I am in desperate need for financial help in getting my own place. I was living with my parents and it was an unbearable situation. My mother is controlling and abusive. . . My father said and did nothing, he saw and heard the abuse but only wished to sleep.”

- The student has two jobs outside of school. We helped this student with the down payment for renting a room.

“I am an IT major planning to go into web design. I came across a bump in the road where I can’t afford to pay for an online textbook access code. I am currently unemployed, and my parents don’t make enough to be able to help me. My dad is on disability and my mom is a house cleaner.”

- We bought this student the textbook access code.

“I am a second-year business administration major. Currently I am a recipient of food stamps and am a mother of twins. I also live on my own and must feed and clothe myself and my children. I am currently not working because I cannot find a job that will fit my full-time schedule as a student. I request the emergency funds so that I can purchase the books I need for my classes.”

- We bought the books this student needed.
The Guttman Community College Student Food Pantry was opened to address food insecurity among students. The Pantry provides a variety of non-perishable food items and basic necessities to meet students’ immediate needs. The pantry distributed over 2,300 food items during the 2017-2018 academic year.

Through generous support from the Petrie Food Insecurity Program and the endowment fund, the College is able to purchase food at a lower cost through the Food Bank of New York City. Many Guttman faculty and staff also donate food items to the pantry throughout the year.
Student Population Fall 2017: 1,066 students

High School Average of Incoming Freshmen Fall 2017: 74

<table>
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<th>ENTRANCE AND COMPLETION DATA</th>
<th>Fall 2012</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cohort Enrollment</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>443</td>
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<td>One-year Retention Rate</td>
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<td>73%</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<td>Two-year Graduation Rate</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<td>28%</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three-year Graduation Rate</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
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TOTAL ENROLLMENT: FINANCIAL AID* FY2018: 71

*Percentage of students awarded need-based financial aid (based on Pell Grants and/or NYS TAP and includes CUNY replacement grants)

TOTAL ENROLLMENT: AGES Fall 2017

TOTAL ENROLLMENT: GENDER Fall 2017
- Female: 53%
- Male: 47%

TOTAL ENROLLMENT: HOME RESIDENCE Fall 2017
- Bronx: 35%
- Manhattan: 23%
- Brooklyn: 22%
- Queens: 15%
- New York (Outside NYC): 2%
- Staten Island: <1%
- Out of State: <1%
- Unknown: 3%

TOTAL ENROLLMENT: RACE/ETHNICITY Fall 2017
- Hispanic: 59%
- Black or African American: 27%
- White: 8%
- Asian or Pacific Islander: 5%
- American Indian or Native Alaskan: <1%
DONATIONS AND GRANTS 2017-2018

Guttman Community College is grateful to its individual, corporate, and foundation donors for their generosity and commitment. Their gifts provide the College with additional resources to support students and faculty and to strengthen the College’s innovative approach to community college education. The following lists represent gifts received by the Foundation July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018.

Donors 2017-2018:

- Nila Bhaumik
- Stuart Cochran
- Scott E. Evenbeck
- Christopher J. Fleming
- Dall W. Forsythe
- Lisa Gomez
- Richard Guarino
- Elisa Hertz
- Impact Assets (Lisette Nieves and Greg Gunn)
- Claire King
- Marc La Vorgna
- Jennifer G. Lee
- Bruce Lyons
- Amy McIntosh
- Linda Merians
- Randy Moore
- Ayechia Perez
- Susan Butler Plum
- Rory Richards
- Naveen Seth
- Patricia Stein
- Howard M. Wach
- Rebecca Walker
- Joanna Wisniewski
- Elie Yoesoep

In-Kind Donors 2017-2018:

- Diana Delgado, Neighborhood Shoppe
- Linda Merians
- Ernest Rubenstein
- Wendy J. Schriber

Foundation Grants 2017-2018:

- Joan Gantz Cooney and Holly Peterson Fund
- Amadou Diallo Foundation
- Joseph H. Flom Foundation
- Malcolm Gibbs Foundation
- Here to Here
- Samuel and Anna Jacobs Foundation
- Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation
- Robin Hood Foundation
- Richard Salomon Family Foundation
- Solon E. Summerfield Foundation
- The Teagle Foundation

Corporations:

- Fidelity Charitable
- Proskauer Rose LLP

Donations and Grant Funds Received 2017-2018:

- Foundations: $726,870.50
- Government Grants: $476,539.00
  (Held by the CUNY Research Foundation)
- Individual Donations: $24,964.24
- Corporations: $6,350.00

TOTAL: $1,234,723.74
“I am from Ghana, and my dream is to become a detective. Completing Guttman is a big step towards my success. My best memory is the Global Guttman trip to New Orleans.”

* Ama Darkwa, Class of 2018

“My goal is a degree in marketing. When I started at Guttman I wasn’t ready, but once I changed my way of thinking about education it helped me to get through the hard days of college. Best experience was meeting new people and getting help to push forward in life. Thanks to all my professors for giving me knowledge.”

* Estiben Perez, Class of 2018