



Senator Montgomery joined New York Urban League (NYUL) CEO Arva Rice, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke and Moderator Kimberly Peeler Allen

for a panel discussion on "Black Women in Office: The Call to Political Leadership." The event was part of the NYUL Young Professionals' State of Young Black New York Conference 2017 held at Medgar Evers College.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Dear Neighbor,

In this season of blessings and reflection, I wish you and your loved ones a happy holiday and a wonderful New Year.

Thank you for all that you do to make our community a better place. I look forward to working with you as we continue to stand up and fight to protect the progressive values important to all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,
Senator Velmanette Montgomery

SENATOR MONTGOMERY RECEIVES CAPTAIN AWARD

The New York Harbor Foundation and the Urban Assembly New York Harbor School honor Senator Montgomery with the Captain Award for her leadership in the development of a maritime "cradle to career" pathway for NYC public school students.

New York Harbor Foundation works to preserve an industrial waterfront, improve environmental conditions and increase awareness about the importance of the harbor. This visionary organization is behind the New York Harbor School and the Billion Oyster Project. For more info, visit www.nyharbor.org/



Murray Fisher, Chair of the New York Harbor Foundation Board presents Senator Montgomery with the Captain Award.

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**NEW YORK
STATE SENATE**

New York State Senate
Albany, NY 12247



SENATOR VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY REPORT

December 2017

New York State Senator VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY

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SENATOR MONTGOMERY DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT BROWNSTONERS OF BEDFORD STUYVESANT, INC. ANNUAL MEETING AND 40TH ANNIVERSARY KICK-OFF



Senator Montgomery with Brownstoners: Hon. Albert Vann, President Lynette Lewis-Rogers, Hon. Annette Robinson and Brenda Fryson.

architectural integrity of the homes in Bedford Stuyvesant and strengthening the social fabric of the community. The Senator also focused her remarks on the importance of not taking our history for granted; what we hold sacred must always be spoken about and protected.

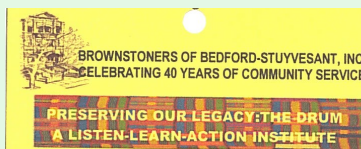
The recent elections are a stark reminder that we must always continue to pay attention to and fight for the issues important to us. Institutions such as the Brownstoners of Bedford Stuyvesant, Weeksville Heritage Center and the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation are the cornerstones that revitalized and rebuilt Bedford Stuyvesant into what it is today.

2018 marks the 40th Anniversary of the Brownstoners of Bedford-Stuyvesant. In commemoration, they will be sponsoring a year long series, "Preserving Our Legacy: The Drum A Listen-Learn-Action Institute" focusing on issues impacting our community. For more info, visit <http://brownstonersofbedstuy.org>

Senator Montgomery proudly delivered the Keynote Address at the Brownstoners of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Inc.'s Annual Meeting.

Almost forty years ago, a group of friends and neighbors came together to form the Brownstoners of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Inc., a volunteer organization dedicated to the preservation and empowerment of their community. The founding members included George Glee, Jr., Bernard McDonald, Reginald Shell, Brenda Fryson, Gloria Green and Clarence Jones.

In recognition of the Brownstoners' tireless efforts, Senator Montgomery thanked the members for their unwavering advocacy to preserve the



SAVE THESE DATES [2017-2018]

(DATES AND TOPICS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)
ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT INTERFAITH MEDICAL CENTER, UNLESS OTHERWISE ANNOUNCED

DATE	TOPIC
NOVEMBER 11	ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 13	EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 10	HOUSING
MARCH 10	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
APRIL 14	HEALTH
MAY	CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
JUNE, JULY	PLANNING FOR 2018
NOVEMBER	2018 ANNUAL MEETING

10:00 - 11 - REGULAR MEETING
11:00 - 12 NOON - INSTITUTE SESSION

ONE STEP CLOSER TO THE DREAM OF A HARBOR MIDDLE SCHOOL



Senator Montgomery reconvenes her Harbor School Working Group to meet with Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon; Deputy Brooklyn Borough President Diana Reyna; Councilman Carlos Menchaca; Murray Fisher, President of the New York Harbor Foundation; Mary Muecke, Executive Director of External Affairs for SUNY Maritime; and special guest, Lorraine Grillo, President and CEO of the New York City School Construction Authority (SCA).

For the past few years, Senator Montgomery has worked with Murray Fisher, President of the New York Harbor Foundation and Urban Assembly New York Harbor School staff to help build a pipeline for Harbor School graduates into SUNY Maritime, one of the premier maritime institutions in the world. From this collaboration, the idea emerged to create a Harbor Middle School. For the past several years, the Senator has been working with a wide range of stakeholders to create a feeder middle school in Red Hook or Sunset Park that would expand the Harbor pipeline to students all across Brooklyn.

The Senator reconvened her Harbor School Working Group for an update on the proposal for a Harbor Middle School. At the meeting, President Lorraine Grillo and the School Construction Authority announced that after more than a year of evaluating potential sites, a building in Red Hook has been identified as the future home for the Harbor Middle School. While negotiations continue, SCA hopes to begin the review process in the next two months.

The maritime industry is a source of dynamic, innovative and well-paying careers. New York City is surrounded by water. A working, industrial waterfront is vital to our City's continued economic growth. Senator Montgomery is committed to ensuring that all of our children have the opportunity to explore this exciting industry. The Senator looks forward to continuing to engage stakeholders as this meaningful project moves forward.



Senator Montgomery and Councilman Menchaca congratulate Harbor School graduates, Tanasia Swift (Community Reefs Manager, Billion Oyster Project) and Captain Hassan Barksdale (SUNY Maritime graduate and USCG Captain)

The Road So Far...

August 2012

Senator Montgomery visits SUNY Maritime as Harbor School students complete the first summer STEM Maritime Academy

April 2013

Senator Montgomery & CSA sponsor a visit for principals, educators, parents and stakeholders to SUNY Maritime to learn more about career opportunities available to students



October 2014

Senator Montgomery & stakeholders visit the Harbor School for the first time



December 2014

Senator Montgomery meets with stakeholders at Red Hook Initiative to discuss potential sites in CB6 and CB7



April 2015

Senator Montgomery organizes a second visit to Governor's Island for a Legislative Briefing with NYS Education Dept, NYC DOE, principals, educators, stakeholders & faculty



March 2016

Senator Montgomery meets with Murrury Fisher, Harbor School Principal Jeff Chetirko & Community Board 7 to discuss possible locations for a Harbor Middle School

May 2016

First community stakeholders meeting with Lorraine Grillo, President of School Construction Authority

October 2017

Follow-up community stakeholders meeting, President Grillo announces identification of a site for Harbor Middle School.

THE FIGHT TO SAVE SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTERS

Senator Montgomery convened a strategy meeting with elected officials, program providers, principals and advocates to discuss how to maintain the viability of School Based Health Centers (SBHCs).

New York State has the most SBHCs in the nation and more than 2/3 of all SBHCs are located in New York City. The State's 252 SBHCs provide primary and preventative care services to over 200,000 children in an environment that is convenient and familiar to them. Over 60% of SBHCs have fulltime mental health services, and many provide dental and vision services. SBHCs enable students to better manage chronic conditions such as asthma and type one diabetes and address on-site medical emergencies.

The **youth served by SBHCs are primarily of color** (44% served are Hispanic or Latino & 31% are Black or African American), often from low-income households, many are undocumented and many are uninsured.

SBHCs have made positive impacts on student academic performance, attendance, graduation rates, health outcomes such as higher vaccination rates and fewer unplanned pregnancies. Children with chronic conditions are hospitalized less and experience fewer complications.

In this year's budget, the funding for SBHCs was cut by 20% and the methodology to determine how these funds are distributed was changed. Many programs throughout the City were impacted by these drastic cuts. This has had a devastating impact on clinics across the state. Many SBHC sponsors have seen cuts ranging anywhere from 25% to 70%. The largest sponsoring organizations (NYU Lutheran, SUNY Downstate, Mt. Sinai, Northwell and Montefiore) all sustained budget cuts of at least 40%.

The cuts have resulted in real consequences. The four SBHCs sponsored by SUNY Downstate were able to be saved though the SBHC serving students at Francis Scott Key campus will close at the end of the year. While we are fortunate that most SBHCs were able to work with various stakeholders to stay open, this is not a situation that should ever be repeated.

As the 2018-2019 Budget approaches, Senator Montgomery is leading the fight to save SBHCs. The Senator is urging her colleagues in the Senate and Assembly to restore the \$3.6 million cut in non-Medicaid funds, pledge to preserve funding levels at \$17,098,000 and support legislation to create a permanent Medicaid carve-out for these centers (\$6012/A7866). \$3.6 million is a drop in the bucket of our state budget yet has wide ranging implications for the children across the state. Our children's health and wellbeing should be prioritized, yet time and time again they are sacrificed.

On the federal level, health care is being dismantled brick by brick which includes funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and community health centers. Senator Montgomery is committed to serving as a voice for young people in the Legislature and to make sure they are prioritized, not put on the chopping block year after year.



School Based Health Centers in the 25th Senate District (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017)

School Name	Campus	Clinic Enrollment	Medical Visits	Address	Zip	Sponsor
Brooklyn Community High School of Communication, Arts, and Media	Francis Scott Key Campus	442	1826	300 Willoughby Avenue	11205	Bedford-Stuyvesant Family Health Center
Brooklyn High School for Leadership and Community Service						
P.S. K369-Coy L. Cox School Annex						
PS 054 Samuel C Barnes		231	1787	195 Sanford Street	11205	Bedford-Stuyvesant Family Health Center
PS 256 Benjamin Banneker		430	1654	114 Kosciuszko Street	11216	Bedford-Stuyvesant Family Health Center
P.S. 309 The George E. Wibecan Preparatory Academy	George E Wibecan Campus	650	1883	794 Monroe Street	11221	Bedford-Stuyvesant Family Health Center
Excellence Girls Charter School						
Benjamin Banneker Academy		661	1560	71-77 Clinton Avenue	11205	Brooklyn Plaza Medical Center
IS 136 Charles O Dewey	JHS 136 Campus	794	2013	4004 4th Avenue, Rm. 106	11232	NYU Lutheran Family Health Centers/ Lutheran Medical Center
Sunset Park Avenues Elementary School						
Sunset Park Prep						
PS 001 The Bergen		1145	1370	309 47 Street, Rm. 131	11220	NYU Lutheran Family Health Centers/ Lutheran Medical Center
PS 015 Patrick F. Daly	PS 15 Campus	409	1733	71 Sullivan Street	11231	NYU Lutheran Family Health Centers/ Lutheran Medical Center
Boys and Girls High School	Boys and Girls H.S. Campus	663	1539	1700 Fulton Street	11213	NYU Lutheran Family Health Centers/ Lutheran Medical Center
Nelson Mandela High School						
Research and Service High School						
PS 282 Park Slope		737	2144	180 6th Avenue	11217	NYU Lutheran Family Health Centers/ Lutheran Medical Center
Sunset Park High School	Sunset Park HS Campus	971	2993	153 35th Street	11232	NYU Lutheran Family Health Centers/ Lutheran Medical
P.S. 371 Lillian L. Rashkis						
PS 038 The Pacific		232	518	450 Pacific Street, Rm. 138	11217	Research Foundation of SUNY

SENATOR MONTGOMERY LEADS EFFORT TO SAVE NYC TRANSFER HIGH SCHOOLS

Senator Montgomery recently attended a NYS Board of Regents meeting in Albany to present a letter signed by herself and over 20 members of the State Senate and Assembly, asking the State Education Department (NYSED) to reconsider a proposal that would have designated almost every transfer high school in New York City as failing by requiring a 6-year, 67% graduation rate.

Labeling our transfer schools as failing because they do not meet the 67% standard would have done nothing but discourage educators from developing innovative ways to address the complex needs of our students. It would have reinforced every message our students have received that they are "not good enough," "not smart enough," and that they "should just drop out." These schools provide students individualized and rigorous instructional settings, robust student support services, career and post-secondary development, and more. In order to continue supporting the work of our transfer high schools, the elected officials urged the NYSED and the Board of Regents to consider transfer schools in a special category that recognizes the high need nature of these students while at the same time requiring vigorous accountability for academic standards.

The Senator is happy to report that the Board of Regents and NYS Education Department (NYSED) were receptive to the request. Though they could not provide an exemption to the graduation rate requirement, the revised plan approved addressed some of the concerns raised. Under the updated plan, transfer high schools would not be automatically placed into receivership for being unable to meet new standards.



Good Shepherd Services and students from South Brooklyn Community High School present Senator Montgomery with an award in recognition of her leadership in the fight to save transfer schools in New York City.

Instead, NYSED will partner with districts to determine the most appropriate interventions for improvement. Furthermore, the NYC Department of Education will be highly engaged and has been asked to develop appropriate metrics for measuring performance at transfer high schools.

The transfer schools in the 25th Senate District impacted by this new policy are: Brooklyn Academy High School, Bedford Stuyvesant Preparatory High School, Brooklyn High School for Leadership and Community Service, Brooklyn Frontiers High School, South Brooklyn Community High School and Research and Service High School.

Thank you to all the principals, teachers, parents and advocates who are working every single day on behalf of our children. Senator Montgomery will continue to work with her colleagues, NYSED, DOE, stakeholders and students to ensure the viability of our transfer high schools and make sure our children continue to be supported in their academic endeavors.

EXPANDING THE FARM TO TABLE PIPELINE



Senator Montgomery and Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon meet with students from **Urban Assembly Unison School**, co-located at **PS 56** in Clinton Hill to learn more about the school's hydroponic farm. The innovative curriculum incorporates science, engineering and economics. The farm produces more than 20,000 lbs. annually for daily school lunches and for the community. The hydroponic farm was created in partnership with Teens for Food Justice, a nonprofit that works in Title I schools to train students to become urban farmers. To learn more about the program, visit <http://uaunison.org> and www.teensforfoodjustice.org.



Senator Montgomery with student members from the NYS Chapter of Future Farmers of America.



SENATOR MONTGOMERY DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE INTERCHURCH CENTER'S 2ND ANNUAL RE-THINKING RE-ENTRY II CONFERENCE

and focused her remarks on the importance of engaging the formerly incarcerated in the development of criminal justice and re-entry policy. The Senator also discussed her GED bill that was signed into law. The statute requires the NYS Department of Correctional Services to provide prisoners with an opportunity to complete a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) prior to release on parole, conditional release, post release supervision or presumptive release.

"It is crucial that people have access to educational and vocational program opportunities while incarcerated. People coming home from prison must have a strong support system in order to succeed moving forward. Having successful re-entry programs, with proper funding, led by the formerly incarcerated is key to reducing the recidivism rate, which is currently the driving force of mass incarceration," said Senator Montgomery.

