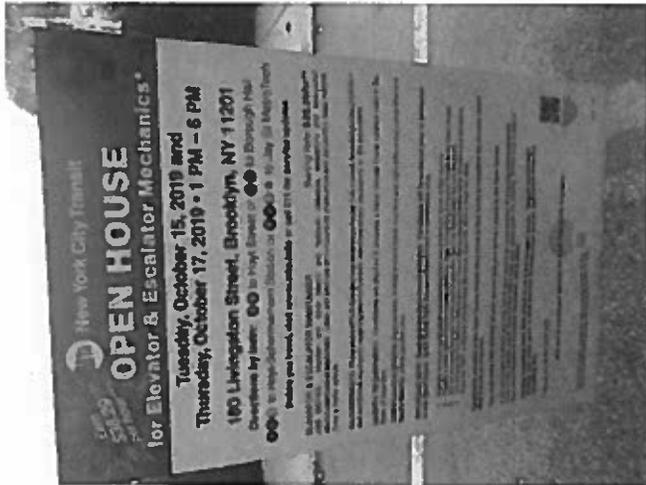


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Testimony to the Senate Joint Hearing on Workforce . February 21, 2020

Chair thank you for inviting me to testify today as a City University of New York (CUNY) Trustee and as a life long advocate for the disabled. I want to thank you for taking up this cause to make this city more accesible coupled brillently with your work to have workforce pipeling to city, state Port Authority and MTA jobs. I find particular joy in the posibility of those CUNY students with disabililties,could be the ones to make the tranist system more accesible. Programs such as the Mellisa Reggerio program, which you will hear more about later, run by AHRC out of Hostos and Kingsboro Community Colleges, could connect those with disabilities into good paying City and State jobs with excellent benefits.



As you can see by the flyer in my testimony, the MTA has been desperately seeking elevator and escalator mechanics upping the starting pay to a robust \$84.50 per hour, that certainly better than the State Senate pays.

Unfortunately, after a year long search for certified credentialed esclator and elevator mechanics, they still simply do not have enough. At last count at the New Year, the MTA still sought 200+ mechanics. These are more than livable wages with benefits; in our own city helping New Yokrers get to and form school and work. These MTA jobs are simply the tip of the iceberg of high earner jobs available at the City, State and Authorities.

Woekforce piplining students to these jobs and even entry level construction flagger and laborer jobs will allow people with mild physical and mental disabilities to help rebuild our aging infrastucture while providing for themsleves and their families.

In addition to being a certified Construction Fire Safety Manager F-56, a Fire Safety Director F-60 and I have completed my OSHA 30, I have, as CEO of the Safety Professional Asscoiation

INC, noted the lack of trained certified and credentialed workers on mega construction projects. Often jobs will wait for one to finish so they can poach workers with the proper SST cards for their project. the MTA, Port Authority, City and State all require hundreds if not thousands of credentialed workers to get this city moving again.

Once again, I applud your efforts and can speak for the Board of Trustees that any direct workforce pipelining of our students to needed infrasturce projects; especilly those that would expand accesibility to our system would be welcome at CUNY.

Presntly, LaGuarida, Hostos and Kigsboro Community Colleges conduct stackable credential classes and certifications for all kinds of constriction related work, this City, this State would be remiss if it did not tap into the potencial of its CUNY students to solve our infrastcutre problems. The half a million CUNY students; most of whom are first in their family college students, live here and want to build a life here in NYC.

I thank you for the opportunity to come and speak today and will asnwer any questions you may have, I look forward to continuing to work along side you on workforce pipelining for our CUNY students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Arvanites".

Michael Arvanites