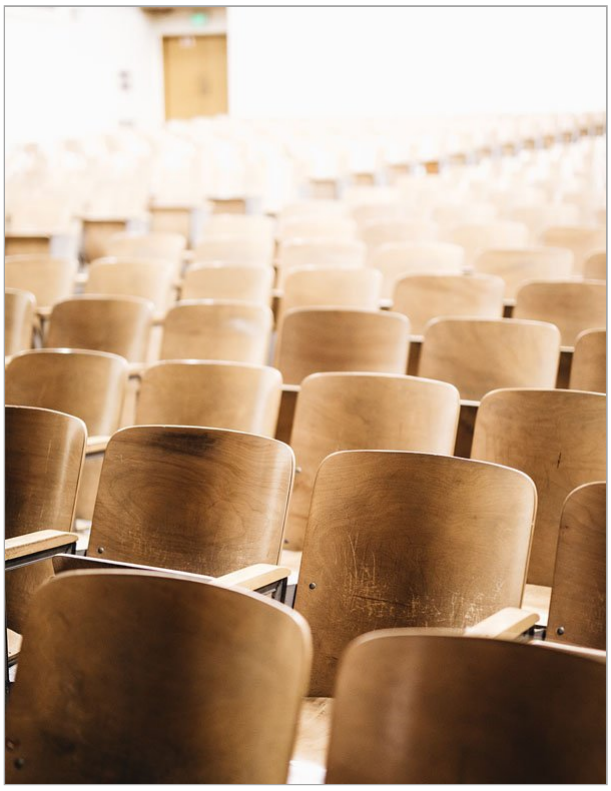


Commentary/Op-Ed - April 2019

OP-ED: The Opportunity Ahead for the New CUNY Chancellor

No institution is better positioned than CUNY to help lower-income and first generation students earn a postsecondary credential and get on the path to a successful career. In this Gotham Gazette op-ed, CUF Executive Director Jonathan Bowles and Winston C. Fisher argue that the incoming chancellor can seize this moment and help CUNY realize its potential as a launchpad into the middle class.

by Jonathan Bowles and Winston C. Fisher

On May 1, Felix Matos-Rodriguez assumes the post of CUNY chancellor, overseeing the nation's largest urban public university, which provides thousands of New Yorkers from low-income backgrounds with a postsecondary education. He has a remarkable opportunity to build on recent progress and help CUNY realize its full potential as a vehicle for economic and social mobility. But doing so will require addressing low completion rates, reforming an ineffective remedial education model, and getting programs and curricula in sync with the demands of today's economy. Chancellor Matos-Rodriguez should seize this moment and focus on improving college and career success so that CUNY can greatly expand economic opportunity for its students.

In this Gotham Gazette op-ed, CUF Executive Director Jonathan Bowles and Winston C. Fisher, partner at Fisher Brothers and co-chair of the New York City Regional Economic Development Council, urge the new Chancellor to focus on elevating college and career success and help the nation's largest urban university become its most effective launchpad to the middle class.

Read the op-ed here.

This op-ed is part of the Center for an Urban Future's Middle Class Jobs Project, and builds on the Center for an Urban Future's extensive research on boosting college success for all New Yorkers, including the groundbreaking study *Degrees of Difficulty*, the data briefs "Excelsior Scholarship Serving Very Few New York Students" and "Struggling to the Finish Line: Community College Completion in New York State," and the op-ed "Support Remedial Education Reforms to Help More Students Succeed."

Photo Credit: Nathan Dumlao/Unsplashed

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Center for an Urban Future is an independent, nonprofit think tank that generates innovative policies to create jobs, reduce inequality and help lower income New Yorkers climb into the middle class. For 20 years, CUF has published accessible, data-driven reports on ways to grow and diversify the economy and expand opportunity that are anchored in rigorous research, not preconceived notions about outcome. Our work has been a powerful catalyst for policy change in New York City and serves as an invaluable resource for government officials, community groups, nonprofit practitioners and business leaders as they advocate for and implement policies to address some of New York's biggest challenges and opportunities.

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