

# NONPROFIT SEMINAR

CENTER FOR  
NONPROFIT STRATEGY  
AND MANAGEMENT

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## Young Men's Initiative

Wednesday, February 20, 2013  
4:00-6:00PM

### BIOGRAPHIES

**Robert C. Smith**  
**Professor, Baruch College, School of Public Affairs**

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Robert Courtney Smith is a Professor of Sociology, Immigration Studies and Public Affairs at the School of Public Affairs at Baruch College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York. His work seeks to increase our understanding of contemporary migration, and to identify strategic sites of intervention for policy. He has worked in the Mexican community in New York and in Mexico (especially the state of Puebla) for more than twenty years. He is the author of *Mexican New York: Transnational Worlds of New Immigrants* (University of California Press, 2006), which won four awards from the American Sociological Association: the 2006 Thomas and Zaniecki Award for best book on migration; the 2007 Robert Park Award for the best book on Community and Urban Sociology, the 2008 Latino/a best book award, and the 2008 overall Distinguished Book Award. It also won a Presidential Excellence Prize from Baruch College. He has been awarded grants from the National Science Foundation, the Social Science Research Foundation, the Spencer Foundation/National Academy of Education, the Columbia Oral History Research Project. He was a Russell Sage Foundation Visiting Fellow in 2007-2008, and a Guggenheim Fellow in 2009-2010.

Smith's "public sociology" seeks to identify strategic sites of intervention to promote positive outcomes. He has served several years on the CUNY Chancellor's Commission on Mexicans and Education in New York, and serves as the Lead Faculty

in the Baruch College School of Public Affairs Emerging Mexican Leaders Program. Smith co-founded the Mexican Educational Foundation of New York (which is merging with the Mexican American Students Alliance), which promotes educational achievement and committed leadership in the Mexican community. Smith was an expert witness in the Voting Rights Act case of US. v. Village of Port Chester, focusing on the history of discrimination and racial social dynamics involving Latinos. He also routinely advises Mexican community organizations and leaders. In recognition of this work, Smith was awarded the Youth Advocate of the Year Award in 2008 by the largest Mexican nonprofit organization in New York, Organizacion Tepeyac.

Smith's Guggenheim Fellow project was to analyze data from a fourteen year project on children of Mexican immigrants (funded currently by the W.T. Grant Foundation), following them from mid-adolescence into early adulthood (mid-teens to about thirty). The resulting book will be called Horatio Alger Lives in Brooklyn... But Check His Papers. This research documents how the majority of his 100 research subjects experienced at least modest upward mobility over the decade, benefitting from the many "second chance" mechanisms or special programs in the New York schools, from good mentoring, and from hard work. The study also shows how undocumented youth, who have grown up in the US, including some with stellar educational records, have experienced harsh and unfair limits. Some have responded by pursuing their educations and becoming leaders in their communities, maintaining a strong hope that America will give all its children a fair chance. It is a morally upside down universe where young people raised in the US are condemned to life at hard labor in the informal economy for the "crime" of coming to the US with their parents as children.

## **Angelo Cabrera** **President, Mexican American Student Association**

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Angelo is the founder of MASA. He founded the organization as part of a 2001 campaign focused on attaining the right for undocumented students to qualify for in-state tuition at CUNY and SUNY schools. As part of this campaign, Angelo and several others held a hunger strike to urge CUNY's policy of in-state tuition for undocumented students become law. After the law passed in 2002, MASA began to focus its efforts on promoting access to higher education for students of Mexican descent living in New York. This focus was prompted by data indicating an alarmingly high dropout rate among Mexican and Mexican-American students in New York City.

Having immigrated to the United States at the age of 15, Angelo has first-hand experience and understanding of the many complex barriers Mexican youth residing in NYC face today. Since he was a teenager, Angelo has been committed to public service and has volunteered at several non-profit organizations. He has also worked very closely with CUNY officials and the office of the Mexican Consulate to engage the

Mexican community in several initiatives through target outreach strategies. He has also served on several committees in the Mexican community and has participated in panel discussions with scholars and politicians, both local and from Mexico. In addition, Angelo is a columnist for *El Diario de Mexico USA*. He has also appeared in various English and Spanish media outlets, such as the *New York Times*, *ABC Eyewitness News*, *People Magazine en Español*, *Primer Impacto*, and *Despierta America* of Univision and Telemundo 47. *People Magazine* described Angelo's life in its story, "El Angel de la Educación" (the Angel of Education).

Angelo is currently pursuing a Masters in Public Administration at Baruch's School of Public Affairs. He earned an Associates degree from the Borough of Manhattan Community College and a Bachelors degree in Political Science from Baruch College. Angelo is also an alum of CORO's Immigrant Civic Leadership Project and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government's Executive Education: Leadership, Organizing and Action: Leading Change program.

## **Linda Gibbs** **Deputy Mayor, Health and Human Services**

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Linda I Gibbs is the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services for the City of New York, and oversees the City's public health, social safety net, economic independence, and juvenile and adult corrections agencies. Since graduating from SUNY Potsdam and SUNY Buffalo School of Law, Gibbs has held numerous positions in New York City government including as Deputy Director at the Office of Management and Budget, Deputy Commissioner of the child welfare agency, and Commissioner of Homeless Services. She is the chief architect of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's innovative strategies to reduce poverty and the disparities in outcomes for young black and Latino men, including launching the nation's first Social Impact Bond. She effectively coordinates agencies around the Mayor's ambitious public health efforts, and created a new Office of Food Policy. She has also improved the City's business relationship with the numerous non-profits providing front line services to citizens and created new technology tools to improve social service delivery. Gibbs is a resident of Brooklyn, where she lives with her husband and two children.

## **Khary Lazarre-White** **Executive Director & Co-Founder, The Brotherhood/Sister Sol**

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Born and raised in New York City, Khary is a social entrepreneur, educator, non-profit executive, writer and attorney. Khary received his Bachelors in Arts, with honors, from Brown University and his Juris Doctorate from the Yale Law School.

In 1995, at the age of 21, Khary co-founded, along with his childhood friend, The Brotherhood/Sister Sol (BHSS), a now nationally renowned non-profit youth organization based in Harlem, New York. BHSS provides comprehensive, holistic and long-term support services to youth who range in age from eight to twenty-two focusing on issues such as leadership development and educational achievement, sexual responsibility, sexism and misogyny, political education and social justice, Pan-African and Latino history, and global awareness. BHSS provides four-six year rites of passage programming, thorough five day a week after school care, school and home counseling, summer camps, job training and employment, college preparation, community organizing training, and international study programs to Africa and Latin America. The organization is locally based, with a national reach, as BHSS publishes assorted curricula and collections of its members' writings; trains educators from throughout the nation on their approach; and their leadership is invited to speak and present at educational and policy convenings and conferences across the country.

Over the last 17 years Khary has been recognized for his leadership in providing some of the most innovative and highly successful practices in the nation. He was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show and awarded Oprah Winfrey's Angel Network Use Your Life Award. His awards also include from the: Ford Foundation, Brown University, Fund for the City of New York, Union Square Award for Grassroots Organizing, Abyssinian Development Corporation Harlem Renaissance Award; Black Girls Rock, Community Works, the New York Women's Foundation, the New York State Department of Education, and a national legal fellowship from the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

Khary has edited assorted publication and curricula of The Brotherhood/Sister Sol and had essays published including in Nation Books, Essence Magazine, AfterSchool Matters, the Vineyard Gazette and an essay on juvenile justice and policing practices, The Line of Prevention, published in Justice for Kids, by New York University Press. Khary has extensive experience as a public speaker on issues of education, public policy, community organizing, leadership development, management and politics. He has been a featured panelist and speaker at conferences at institutions across the country. Khary was appointed by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg to the Advisory Board of NYC's Young Men's Initiative and he also serves on the Board of Advisors for the Heinz Endowment's Black Male Initiative and the National Board of Advisors for Susan L. Taylor's National CARES Mentoring Movement.

## **Reverend Alfonso Wyatt Founder, Strategic Destiny**

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Rev. Dr. Alfonso Wyatt is founder of Strategic Destiny: Designing Futures Through Faith and Facts. The mission of Strategic Destiny is to seamlessly and blend faith with evidence based learning to transform institutions and the lives of individuals of all ages, struggling to cope with a staggering array of life challenges and systemic problems. Rev. Wyatt served as vice president of the Fund for the City of New York for two decades. The Fund is a highly regarded operating foundation and public charity started by the Ford Foundation in 1968. He has visited all but three states in America in his role as public theologian, sought after keynote speaker and advocate on issues that negatively impact young people, families and challenged communities. He has mentored three generations of high profile leaders in the public, private, non-profit and faith community as well help raise several generations of young people. Rev. Dr. Wyatt, though retired from the Fund for the City of New York, continues building relationships and changing lives through his work as a consultant to government, the private sector, seminaries, non-profits, public schools, colleges, civic groups and foundations.

Rev. Alfonso Wyatt attended Howard University, Columbia Teacher's College, The Ackerman Institute for Family Therapy, Columbia Institute for Nonprofit Management (INM) and New York Theological Seminary where he has served as an adjunct professor, consultant and is currently on The Board of Trustees.