Happy New Year to all Cahn Fellows, Alumni, Allies and Friends!

How quickly another year has come and gone! It was so wonderful to see so many fellows, allies, alumni, faculty, board members and supporters at our holiday celebration! As everyone mingled, you could tell by the conversations and laughter that there was a genuine feeling of camaraderie being shared all around!

The Cahn Fellows Program provides a place where successful leaders can not only share innovative ideas with colleagues but can also seek ways of addressing their struggles and challenges without fear of judgment. Many of our fellows and alumni have expressed how much the program and connections have helped them in their schools and careers.

It is our goal for 2016 to keep this positive energy going, especially at a time when there are so many challenges. We are embarking on a fundraising campaign to raise money for post-fellowship opportunities for our alumni, as well as opportunities for the allies in our program as they move up the leadership pipeline. Having a more robust program may potentially be a great benefit to many of you – but we can only make that happen with your help! Please consider supporting the program by visiting our website www.cahnfellows.org and clicking on the “Support Cahn Fellows” link on the left hand column. All donations (no matter how great or small) will be tax-deductible and greatly appreciated!!

We also want to bring our network of educators greater recognition by highlighting as much of your excellent work and achievements as possible. Please let us know of your successes, awards, promotions, innovative programs, etc. so that we can joyfully and proudly share the news of your wonderful achievements and good work with others! Please send them either to lily.woo@tc.columbia.edu or to Walker@tc.columbia.edu. We’d love to hear from you!

Also, please mark Tuesday, March 29th on your calendar! We are planning an exciting presentation from Dr. Jeff McCausland, CBS News Military Consultant and Gettysburg expert, on a revisit of the “Leadership Lessons Learned from Gettysburg.” Coming to events like this is one way of supporting the program! Stay tuned for more information!

Best wishes for 2016!
Lily
Director &
2003 Cahn Fellow
THE CAHN FELLOWS AND ALUMNI
LEAD THE WAY TO SCHOOLS IN CHINA

By Jennifer Carreón Ambert, Principal of P.S./I.S. 178Q The Holliswood School, 2014 Cahn Fellow

Over 215 American Principals were selected for the 2015 Chinese Bridge Delegation in November, sponsored by the College Board in conjunction with Confucius Institute/Hanban.

Including myself, there were seven Cahn Fellows and Alumni: 2015 Fellows Anthony Armstrong, Patricia Bullard, Jeff Dase, Paul Didio, David Scott Parker, 2013 Alumnus Nicole Scott.

The goal of the Chinese Bridge is to establish partnerships with American schools through teacher and student exchange programs, as well as through distance learning programs.

The journey consisted of visiting two schools per day, ranging from K-12 public, private, independent and vocational schools, throughout several provinces in China, as well as visiting cultural centers, such as the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, Shaolin Temple and Tiananmen Square.

According to Principal Nicole Scott of P.S./I.S. 266Q (Cahn 2013), learning about the Chinese educational system and visiting China was “professionally enlightening and personally motivating.”

Cahn Fellows and Alumni were part of the 2015 Chinese Bridge Delegation in China. (Left to right: David Scott Parker (CF15), Patricia Bullard (CF15), Paul Didio (CF15), Jennifer Carreón Ambert (CF14), Nicole Scott (CF13) and Anthony Armstrong (CF15).

Principal Paul Didio of P.S. 159Q echoed this sentiment and appreciation of China, stating, “My trip to China has broadened my understanding of Chinese Culture. I was able to learn how students’ are self-motivated for their education. The Chinese education system is setting up their students for success in the global market.”

As an Asian-American, my parents instilled many of the same beliefs regarding hard work and dedication, but visiting schools in China and seeing firsthand the commonality across schools of students’ willingness to succeed and how much students respect their teachers, even applauding for their teachers before and after each lesson, was tremendously inspiring.

We recognized that there was a sense of urgency in the students to become the best and brightest in order to secure one’s future in a country with over one billion people. We also appreciated that students had a clear goal of becoming ready to succeed and compete in the global economy. It left many of the principals thinking, “How can we co-construct and instill the same educational values and drive (in partnership with our families) in our American students?”

For more information on how to participate in a future delegation, please visit: http://professionals.collegeboard.com/k-12/awards/chinese/bridge-delegation.
2015 CAHN FELLOWS JEFF DASE AND SCOTT PARKER
TREK TO THE CHINESE PROVINCES

2015 Cahn Fellows Jeff Dase, Principal of Chicago’s Coles Language Academy, and Manhattan's P.S. 452 Principal Scott Parker had the opportunity to visit the Chinese provinces.

Parker said, “The Chinese Bridge Delegation was a wonderful opportunity to learn about and from the educational experiences of students and teachers in another country.”

“The experience informed my thinking in ways to promote world language and culture programs in our school. I look forward to growing the connections that were formed with educators from China and the delegates from the U.S.”

Dase presented the highlights of his visit to primary school students and teachers at Tianjin Normal University. He added, “This experience motivated me even more to ensure my students acquire a high-quality education. I came back excited about the possibilities for my students and community.”

Highlights of the trip for Jeff Dase:

- Getting an overview of the Chinese Education System.
- Having an opportunity to see what a typical day for a Chinese student was like.
- Looking at the roles parents play in the education system.
- Looking at the Chinese examination system.
- Establishing relationships/partnerships beyond the delegation trip.
- Networking with foreign and domestic educators.
- Realizing realistic possibilities and timelines for program implementation at his school, Coles Language Academy in Chicago.
SAM LOVE, 12-YEAR OLD MURRAY LANGUAGE ACADEMY STUDENT IN CHICAGO TO RAISE 10,000 TOYS FOR DISASTER VICTIMS
2015 Cahn Fellow and Murray Principal Greg Mason Supports Love’s National Campaign

For his fourth annual disaster relief Christmas toy drive, 12-year-old Sam Love, a 6th grade student at Murray Language Academy in Chicago, announced which cities will receive the 10,000 toys and gift cards he plans on raising thanks to some major supporters. The young humanitarian also gained additional support he hopes will make his goal become a reality.

“Throughout this year, there have been a lot of storms, floods and fires across the United States. My goal is to collect 10,000 toys...for children affected” by these acts of nature,” Sam said. “The reason I started this mission was the simple fact that I could not enjoy my Christmas when children had nothing....”

Joining Sam at a press conference at his school were his father, Victor Love and 2015 Cahn Fellow and Murray Principal Greg Mason, with his Cahn Ally and assistant principal, Rhonda Butler. “We believe in the efforts that Sam has brought to Murray,” said a proud Mason who supports Sam’s spirit of charity.

“Here is a young man at a very young age who three-years ago made a commitment to charity, and our school is built on those same principles. It’s a perfect marriage to what his beliefs are and to what we believe in as a school; so supporting this young man doing what he does is a no-brainer because it fits exactly what we believe in as a school,” Mason said.

Mason was not alone in supporting Sam. “At Sam’s Club, we believe that it is not about what you gather. It’s about what you scatter. We live in a community and that way the community can be stronger,” said LeShey. Besides donating a happy birthday cake to Sam, LeShey said Sam’s Club is also providing four toy donation and drop off sites as well.

Sam said he would be distributing toys to South Carolina, Rochelle, Fairdale, Robins, Illinois and a local children’s hospital. Given all of the destruction, young Sam said, “It’s his mission to help children affected by these disasters with the help of Walmart, Sam’s Club and Studio Movie Grill.
CAHN ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

2012 Cahn Fellow Rashid Davis
Principal, Pathways in Technology Early College High School, Brooklyn

DAILY NEWS HOMETOWN HERO AWARDED TO 2012 CAHN FELLOW RASHID DAVIS
By James Keivom/New York Daily News

Rashid Ferrod Davis, a 2012 Cahn Fellow, believes the high school to college transition can be seamless. He's principal of the ground-breaking Pathways in Technology Early College High School, where students receive a high school diploma and associate's degree in computer science. They also have opportunities for jobs at IBM.

He wants the program to expand so students can receive four-year degrees. Davis gives students the same message he received as a youngster - that education is the key to a better life.

Rashid Ferrod Davis is a Hometown Hero.
P.S. 100 IN BROOKLYN NAMED
A 2015 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

2009 Cahn Fellow Kathy Moloney One of Two New York School Principals Honored

The U.S. Department of Education has recognized 335 schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2015 based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. These schools demonstrate that all students can achieve to high levels.

2009 Cahn Fellow Katherine Moloney, Principal of P.S. 100 in Brooklyn, was one of only two schools representing New York State. Principal Moloney said she is extremely proud of her school, “This award is a testament to the hard work of our Staff and students and the support of our Families. It is a great honor to represent New York City and State.”

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honored 285 public and 50 private elementary, middle, and high schools where students either achieved very high learning standards or made notable improvements in closing the achievement gap. The award plaque affirms the hard work of students, educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content. The award flag gracing a school’s building is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.

Former Education Secretary Arne Duncan said in a hyperlink video message to the awardees: “This honor recognizes your students’ accomplishments and the hard work and dedication that went into their success.”

“Your journey has taught you collaboration, intentional instruction, and strong relationships in school and with your community. You represent excellence—in vision, in implementation, and in results—and we want to learn as much as we can from you.”
CAHN ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:
2010 Cahn Fellow Ann Gordon Chang

QUEENS PEOPLE OF THE WEEK:

VOLUNTEERS GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY TO REVITALIZE ASTORIA SCHOOL P.S. 85

2010 Cahn Fellow and P.S. 85 Principal Ann Gordon-Chang says thanks to New York Cares volunteers, her century-old school feels like new. New York Cares volunteers have been donating their time to P.S. 85 for the last 13 years. Principal Gordon-Chang says without them, the school would not be what it is today.

“I feel blessed, I really feel that we’re the luckiest school in the world to have so many people coming to our school to make it a better place.”

Volunteers from service organization "New York Cares" made their way into schools across the City. At P.S. 85, they helped out with everything from painting the fences, to shredding papers, to building a garden for the students.

“We really just came from neighborhoods where we could have used the help, so it comes from the heart when we come,” said Juan Viruet, a New York Cares volunteer. We can sit around and complain about everything we don't have but when we come and do things like this, we realize how much we do have. And it brings us all together,” added Jacki Friedmann, another volunteer with New York Cares.

For the volunteers, they say they get just as much out of the experience as they give. “It's really great to be able to know that the kids are going to come in on Monday and see the work that we've done and just enjoy school that much more,” added another New York Cares volunteer, Carol Issa.

“They're doing work we could never fund, at all, as a school. We need volunteers, volunteers make a difference in the lives of children,” said Gordon-Chang.

And so for getting their hands dirty for a good cause, the New York Cares volunteers are our Queens People of the Week.

Family Engagement was the center of our 2014 Cahn Project at the Grant Avenue Elementary School. We have successfully launched our Home Visit initiative and we are thrilled with how it is going thus far. We partnered with The National Teacher Home Visit Project (www.pthvp.org/); Carrie Rose and her team flew out to train our staff and Superintendent on the complexities of this work.

Our goal is to conduct home visits with all of our first grade families this year. The purpose is to demonstrate that we as a faculty care deeply about our community and want to get to know our families better, people to people.

We are going out in teams of two to meet our families on their home turf and to talk about hopes and dreams for their children, our students.

We have conducted about 20 of 90 visits and families and staff members are raving about the experience. As principal and a 2014 Cahn Fellow, I visited our student Rachel’s home with two of our teachers. Rachel met us at the front door and immediately grabbed our hands to pull us in and show us her bedroom with a princess theme and a sizeable library.

Rachel’s mom shared a little bit about her own educational history, growing up in Lima, Peru.

My Cahn Ally and Assistant Principal Asalmah George visited another one of our students’ Adrian’s home. Her mom was initially nervous and hesitant about the visit. After a few minutes, she relaxed and shared her journey and learning how to parent a child with special needs.

It is our hope that building strong relationships will result in improved student outcomes and community ties. An unintended consequence and benefit is that our teachers are really getting a deeper understanding of the children and families here in the South Bronx.

We have been blessed with many new partnerships in support of our children this year. Our reputation as a strong community has landed us partnerships with City Year, Change for Kids (Third Street Music School, Story Pirates, Children’s Museum of the Arts) and Expanding the Frame/Studio in a School.
CAHN ALLIES SPOTLIGHT:
2014 Ally Andy Szeto
Principal, Queens Adult Learning Center

Principal NOTES

From Chancellor Carmen Farina’s November 2015 Edition:

“I very much enjoyed my visit to the Queens Adult Learning Center (QALC) in Long Island City, where I observed students of all ages expressing enthusiasm for learning.

I believe that in order for students to succeed in school, no matter their age or marital or parental status, they must feel valued and be an active participant in their education.

As I toured the QALC with Principal and 2013 Cahn Ally Andy Szeto, I was impressed by the teachers’ commitment to meeting the needs of the school’s multi-ethnic population.

It was wonderful to see teachers incorporating real-life experiences and scenarios, such as making 911 emergency calls, into their lessons. Teaching practical skills will enable students to more easily assimilate into society.”

Quote from Chancellor Farina
“My leadership experience as a Cahn Ally prepared me to work with teachers with a variety of strengths, needs and personal learning styles.

The program helped me become aware of the need to be flexible in my expectations. Not everyone works or learns the way I do, nor should it be expected!”

Cynthia Lascano
In 2015, the Middle School 322 STEM team was invited to present two workshops at National Science Teachers Association’s 2015 STEM Forum & Expo in Minneapolis.

The first workshop, *Fostering a School-Wide Culture of STEM*, described our journey to becoming a STEM school, outlining the strategies that helped us establish a culture of scientific inquiry. Our team chronicled the real life obstacles that a school must overcome, and provided participants with learning experiences to test and expand their STEM skills.

Next, we turned our focus to the development of engaging STEM projects in *Creation and Evaluation: Sharing STEM Tasks and Student Work*. Participants explored the planning processes and techniques that could integrate multiple academic content areas.

This second workshop considered the role of accessibility and assessment in instructional design. They talked about developing projects that give all students a chance to access the material (including those with disabilities and English Language Learners). Participants also created rubrics and checklists to help students and teachers identify success.

The structure of the workshop mirrored some of the practices being presented, putting the participants into motion as they traveled from learning experience to learning experience between stations. The team hoped that with this practical experience, as well as armloads of teaching materials, participants would bring STEM to their classrooms across the country.
IN THE NEWS...

FRANCA CONTI
Principal
PS 271 Brooklyn
2011 Cahn Fellow

The Magnet Masters Fair
Club Celebration
P-TECH was launched in 2011 by IBM to give teens in New York a way into college that avoided the usual four-year high-school track.

Instead, P-TECH students complete a six-year degree. Boosted by mentorship and internships in STEM fields, the fifth and sixth years earn students an associate’s degree from the nearby New York City College of Technology, and many go on to pursue a bachelor’s degree afterward.

"P-TECH is transforming high school," IBM’s Stanley Litow, key architect of the P-TECH model, tells Tech Insider. This offers students "a clear pathway from school to career, giving young people options that they could not imagine, and directly advancing the nation’s economy."

The first graduating class left P-TECH this year, two years ahead of schedule, with both degrees under their belt.
CAHN-GRATULATIONS!
LEARNING PARTNERS
PRINCIPALS

ELISE BROWN
2007 CAHN FELLOW
Principal
P.S. 249, Brooklyn

LEARNING PARTNERS
HOST SCHOOL

NICOLE SCOTT
2013 CAHN FELLOW
Principal
P.S./I.S. 266, Queens

LEARNING PARTNERS
HOST SCHOOL
CAHN-GRATULATIONS
ON YOUR RETIREMENT!

WANDA SOTO
2007 CAHN FELLOW

Former Principal
P.S. 5, The Ellen Lurie School
Manhattan