



Summer Principals Academy

Teachers College, Columbia University

July, 2025

Dear SPA Students, Alumni, and Friends,

We're excited to welcome the newest members of the Summer Principals Academy—Cohort 2025! This dynamic group of aspiring school leaders will kick off classes the week of July 7, bringing fresh energy, purpose, and a deep commitment to equity and excellence in education. We're equally thrilled to welcome back Cohort 2024 as they return to campus for their second summer of learning, collaboration, and leadership development. Their continued journey inspires us all.

This summer also marks the launch of a new initiative: most Wednesdays, we'll be showcasing SPA faculty and hosting guest speakers for events open to the public. These sessions are designed to promote leadership, expand learning opportunities, and deepen our connection with the broader education community.

There's much more in this newsletter—from upcoming events to program highlights and alumni updates. Thank you for being part of the SPA community. We're excited to share this next chapter with you!

Best,
The SPA Team

Upcoming SPA Events



IN JULY



2025

**MON
14**

SPA VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION

Join us for an information session about the Summer Principals Academy at Teachers College, Columbia University! Discover how SPA prepares future school leaders with hands-on learning, mentorship, and a rigorous curriculum.

↘ 10:30 AM EST | Virtual
3:30 PM EST | Virtual



**WED
16**

CAMPUS TOUR AND INFO SESSION

Join us for a campus tour and information session about the Summer Principals Academy at TC! Discover how SPA prepares future leaders and experience what life is like at TC!

↘ 3:00 PM EST
525 West 120th Street | Russel Hall 17 | New York, New York



**TUES
22**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON COLLABORATIVE CLASSROOMS

Join us for a one-hour professional development session focused on maximizing your human capital in the classroom! Learn how to share roles and responsibilities while collecting data to enhance classroom flow

↘ 10:00 AM EST | Virtual



ONGOING

OFFICE HOURS

Talk with Dr. Young to learn more about the SPA program and work on your personal statement and/or application!

↘ Schedule at your convenience!
<http://calendly.com/spa-nyc>



To request disability-related accommodations, contact OASID at oasid@tc.edu, or 212-678-3689, (646) 755-3144 video phone, as soon as possible.



SPA 2025

SEMINAR SERIES

Thompson Hall 136, 525 West 120th Street, New York, New York 10025

07
JULY

SPA OPENING CONVOCATION: GEN AI & LEADERSHIP

Dr. Alex Bowers

5:30 PM

16
JULY

AUGMENTED BY DESIGN: LEADING TEAMS & CULTURES IN THE AI ERA

Dr. Rebecca Stilwell

5:30 PM

23
JULY

CELEBRATING BLACK IDENTITY IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Dr. Gamze Ar

5:30 PM

30
JULY

WE COULD STILL LEARN HOW TO LISTEN: A LEADERSHIP SALON

Dr. Nicole Furlonge

5:30 PM

6
AUGUST

THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE

Dr. Mark Goodsen &
Dr. Dawn DeCosta

5:30 PM

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CHARTING LEADERSHIP AND LEGACY:

The Galindo Brothers

By: Kiara Haughton

Drs. Josh and George Galindo—brothers, educators, and leaders—are powerful examples of the impact of the Summer Principals Academy (SPA) at Teachers College, Columbia University. Having both gone through the program as students and later returned as faculty, their shared journey reflects a deep commitment to education, leadership, and giving back to the community that helped shape them.

Dr. Josh's SPA journey began in 2002 as a founding member of the New Orleans cohort. At the time, he was a second-year Teach for America teacher with aspirations for school leadership. Drawn to the program's unique approach and the ability to continue working while studying, Josh embraced the opportunity to enhance his leadership skills.

Inspired by his brother's path, Dr. George followed in 2014. He credits Josh for paving the way and setting an example of excellence, referring to him as a guiding light throughout his life. "If not for my brother's steps, I likely would not be a Teachers College graduate," George shared, emphasizing the power of mentorship within their family.



STUDENT EXPERIENCE SHAPING EDUCATOR APPROACH

Both brothers highlight that their student experiences at SPA deeply shaped their teaching and leadership philosophy. George leans on his memories of core frameworks and classroom activities, continuously adapting his teaching based on student feedback and evolving needs. He emphasizes providing practical, scenario-based learning that prepares educators for real-world conflict resolution and leadership challenges.

Josh describes SPA as a program that focuses on self-awareness and transformative leadership. "It was about understanding the parts of yourself you know and those you don't and recognizing how they shape your leadership," he explained. This reflective practice now informs his teaching, creating spaces for future leaders to confront and grow from their own disorienting dilemmas.

INFLUENCE ON CAREER PATHS

SPA has been instrumental in shaping both brothers' careers. George credits his Columbia degree for opening doors in higher education and district-level leadership. It allowed him to become a district curriculum specialist and support educational initiatives across multiple states.

Josh echoes this, noting how SPA taught him

to think critically about change management, resource allocation, and leadership at scale. As Regional Sales Director in Texas, he uses these skills to partner with school districts, helping them implement high-quality instructional materials and navigate complex decisions.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS AND LASTING IMPACT

Josh and George have not only been students in the program but have also returned as adjunct faculty. For both, the most rewarding part of teaching at SPA has been witnessing students' growth. George cherishes moments when timid students transform into confident leaders, returning year after year to share their successes. Josh finds fulfillment in seeing former students thrive—whether founding ed-tech companies, leading schools, or influencing





policy. "It's about planting seeds and watching them bloom in ways you couldn't even imagine," he reflects.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE SPA STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS

Having served as students, teachers, and instructional assistants, the Galindo brothers offer heartfelt advice for future members of the SPA community:

George encourages aspiring leaders to claim their seats at the table, approach the program with humility and openness, and embrace the challenge of self-reflection. "We will challenge you—not to break you, but to build you into the leader your community needs," he said.

Josh adds that SPA is an experience that will reshape you. He urges participants to come ready to be transformed, prepared for high-pressure moments, and develop resilience that will carry them through the toughest days of leadership.

The Galindo brothers' journeys exemplify how SPA shapes careers and lives. Their story is lifting as they climb, mentoring future leaders and leaving communities better than they found them. Through their ongoing contributions, they continue to embody what SPA strives to instill: transformative leadership grounded in self-awareness, reflection, and service.





IRB #25-163

Seeking Participants for Research Study: Examining the Lived Experiences of Black Women Principals with Invisible Chronic Illness



Are you a current or former Black woman principal with an invisible chronic illness? We welcome you to take part in a groundbreaking study that examines the unique challenges and experiences of Black women principals living with invisible chronic illnesses. Your insights will help to shape policies, support initiatives, and educational leadership practices that improve the well-being of principals like yourself.

Participant Criteria

**Identify as a Black
woman**

**Current or former
public school
principal**

**Have an invisible
chronic illness**



Purpose

The purpose of this study is to learn more about the lived experiences of Black women principals with invisible chronic illness



Time Commitment

- One 60-minute Pre-Interview
- Two 60-minute semi-structured interviews
- Two-week energy journaling (10-15 minutes per day)

This study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Teachers College, Columbia University, ensuring that all research practices meet ethical standards for participant safety and privacy.

**Submit your contact information
using the QR Code or Tiny URL**



<https://tinyurl.com/m9v3bfe3>



JOB OPPORTUNITIES



Explore the latest job opportunities in education and leadership roles to advance your career.

PS 154 District 7 Bronx

Assistant Principal

Seeking inspired, smart, and value-driven Assistant Principal candidates.

Interested candidates can send their resumes to acoviello@schools.nyc.gov

PS 384 Hunters Point Elementary School

Queens, New York

Assistant Principal

Special Education Teachers: Kindergarten, Grade 3

General Education Teachers: Kindergarten, Grade 1,

Grade 4, Grade 5, Science Cluster

Dual certification TESOL highly preferred

Contact CBritton2@schools.nyc.gov or visit their [website](#) for more information.

The Mind Trust

Director of Talent

Indianapolis, Indiana

[Position Overview HERE](#)

The Mind Trust is dedicated to creating an educational system that ensures every student has access to high quality education – no exceptions. We achieve this by fostering a supportive environment through policy advocacy, community engagement, and empowering talented educators to establish new schools.

East Mountain High School

Middle School Principal and Chief Financial Officer (MS & HS)

Sandia Park, New Mexico

East Mountain High School is seeking an outstanding Principal with a proven track record of success to lead the new middle school for the 2026-2027 school year with a year devoted to planning for the new school during the 2025-2026 school year. East Mountain is also seeking an exceptional Chief Financial Officer (CFO) with a proven track record of success to oversee and manage all financial operations of the organization.

Both job posts are [HERE](#) and can be found on their [website](#).

Please email resume and letter of interest to gbrown@eastmountainhigh.net

BRONX STEAM CENTER

WE'RE HIRING

JOIN OUR TEAM

WE ARE LOOKING FOR

- CTE Teachers
 - 🔒 CTE Computer Technology 7-12
 - 🏥 CTE Medical Assisting 7-12
 - 👩 CTE Nurse's Assisting 7-12

New York State certification in the appropriate content area, bilingual Spanish preferred, with satisfactory ratings and attendance.

Learn more about how to qualify for these positions through a Transitional A Certification [here](#). For specific guidance for each position search the certification requirements [here](#).

Non-Teaching Positions: Currently hiring for a Secretary and Paraprofessional to join our staff!

Apply Now on NYC Public Schools Open Market Transfer Application System or learn more on [NYCPS Jobs at New Schools](#)

Email bronxsteamcenter@schools.nyc.gov with any questions.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES



Explore the latest job opportunities in education and leadership roles to advance your career.

Maya Angelou Academy (Youth Services Center)

Washington, DC

The Maya Angelou Academy at the DC Department of Corrections is an alternative school serving incarcerated men and women ages 18-22 with individualized education plans.

Dean of Students/Restorative Justice Coordinator (SY 25-26)

[Position Overview HERE](#)

The Dean of Students/Restorative Justice Coordinator is a professional educator or counselor who provides direct scholar and teacher support.

Special Education Coordinator (SY 25-26)

[Positions Overview HERE](#)

The Special Education Coordinator will be responsible for the coordination of eligibility and the development of Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for students with identified special needs; coordinating with related service providers, and monitoring progress toward IEP goals.

Academic Counselor (SY 25-26)

[Positions Overview HERE](#)

The Academic Counselor will provide individualized support to help students navigate educational challenges, identify strengths, and overcome barriers. A key focus of the role is designing and leading comprehensive college and career readiness programming that reflects the diverse goals and interests of our students, ensuring a successful transition to life after high school.

WE ARE HIRING

JOIN OUR TEAM !

Join a team that empowers Brooklyn students to thrive and achieve!"

OPEN POSITIONS:

- ✓ Gen-Ed Teacher Lower School
- ✓ Gen-Ed Teacher Middle School
- ✓ Assistant Principal
- ✓ Principal

Learn More At: www.AscendLearning.org

APPLY NOW »