



SOCIAL WORKERS 'STAND UP



Albany 2007

York College, CUNY
Social Work Student Scholars
Lobby Day in Albany, NY
2007 - 2017



Reality Reconnect: York College Social Work Students in Albany on the Legislative Action Day - April 3, 2008



2017



2015



2009



2016



2014



2010



2011



2013

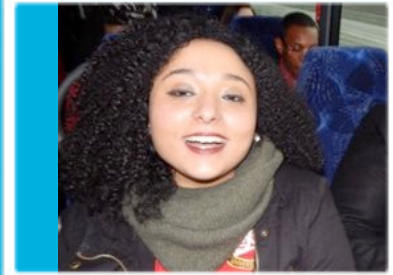


2012

Reflections From 2017 Social Work Delegation

I am surrounded by social work student scholars who are ripe for a revolution which is evident through their dedication for social change. I would like to highlight the importance of speaking with Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook, Assemblywoman Jaime R. Williams, Assemblyman Clyde Vanel, and Assemblywoman Alicia L. Hyndman. Each took the time to listen to our platform issues and provided valuable feedback. It was a delight to listen to Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook, who offered her wisdom and knowledge. As for Assemblywoman Jamie R. Williams, her story will remain at the forefront of my consciousness, as I continue to serve our community with dedicated effort. Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman was very thoughtful. Assemblyman Clyde Vanel spoke with passion as he discussed what he felt it would take for budding social workers to succeed. His advice inspired within me the importance of applying passion to our profession. I am also grateful to Ms. Julia and Ms. Joyce, for the wonderful meals (chicken and rice, and who can forget the homemade brownies) they make for us each year. Lastly, this trip marked the first time we went onto the Senate House Floor while it was in session. To be recognized by so many honorable officials was truly a heartfelt moment. My favorite part, was the entire cohort standing up as we were being welcomed and honored by local legislators. Having the opportunity to represent social issues and advocate with our local legislators will always remain with me.

This was my second year attending Lobby Day in Albany, NY and I must say this will go down as one of my most cherished memories. To see the growth in some of my fellow student scholars holding powerful conversations with some of our local assembly people was humbling. This was especially impactful, because several of the scholars are normally quiet in class, yet were now advocating our platform issues with ease. Moments such as this reminds me that it was well worth the four months of planning and training in preparation of this trip. The 11 years that Dr. Rodgers has been taking student scholars such as myself to Albany, which in turn, affords us the opportunity to be a part of history, is testimony to the power of great mentorship on a student's development. As always, the meeting with Assemblywoman Vivian Cook, (instrumental to both York College and the Jamaica community) continues to provide us with memorable lessons. I left her office with more knowledge on how to strengthen my advocacy skills when speaking to local officials. Meeting Assemblywomen Jaime Williams, who is a living testament to us all, as a former York and YC S.W.E.E.T. alumna, reaffirms my belief that my peers and I can accomplish anything we set out minds to. Assemblyman Clyde Vanel offered a powerful testimony of the importance of giving back to our community. Overall I enjoyed my entire Albany Trip and all that it offered.



**Fatima
Mabrouk**

PRESIDENT

YORK COLLEGE
SW.E.E.T. CLUB
2016-2017



**Durrell
Washington**

VICE PRESIDENT

YORK COLLEGE
SW.E.E.T. CLUB
2016-2017

S.W.E.E.T. 2017 DELEGATION



LOBBY DAY - ALBANY, NY



We are our brothers and sisters keepers. Peace and power to the people!

SHEILA (TALIBAH) REYNOLDS
TREASURER, YORK COLLEGE S.W.E.E.T. CLUB (2015-2017)



Going to Albany, NY for NYS Lobby Day is always an experience. March 2017 marked my third time attending. I was able to speak with NYS assemblymembers and senators. I always gain a valuable lesson when meeting with assemblywoman Vivian Cook. This year, I was especially in awe of assemblywoman Jaime Williams and the fact that she is a former York college social work student and vice president of the social work club. In such a short span of time she has elevated herself to the status of assemblywoman. This is a real example of a change agent. Assemblywoman Williams is making a difference in the lives of so many people. I have also watched assemblyman Clyde Vanel become the representative for the 33rd Assembly district. I see in him sincerity and commitment in his words. Senator Leroy Comrie (14th Senate District) also remains committed to his constituents. I believe that each of these elected officials are true agents of change. Some of us will go on to become public leaders always in the spotlight while others will be leaders behind the scenes out of the public eye. We are all leaders in some aspect. Dr. Rodgers has helped me become more critical in my thinking and intellectual ability. As a student scholar, I understand the concept of being a change agent and affirm my passion help people.



AYANNA C. KAALUND

YORK COLLEGE S.W.E.E.T. MEMBER AND PRESIDENT ELECT (2017-2018)

Lobby Day in Albany, NY on March 7, 2017 was inspirational. I had the opportunity to meet with Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook from Assembly District 32, Assemblyman Clyde Vanel of Assembly District 33, Assemblywoman Jaime Williams of Assembly District 59 and NY State Senator James Sanders Jr. of the 10th Senatorial District. The opportunity to voice our concerns regarding public education was empowering and impactful. There were three highlights for me during the educational journey: Assemblywoman Cook speaking about the demonstrations she participated in decades ago for York College to be located in a community where the majority of people were of color, Assemblywoman Williams speaking about her journey from the York College Social Work Program to becoming an advocate for her assembly district and Senator James Sanders Jr. thanking me for voting for him in the last senatorial election. It was truly amazing and exciting to witness Assemblywoman Jaime Williams present Dr. Rodgers and The

Social Work department of York College with a Proclamation for the excellent education they provide. Albany Lobby Day has ignited a passion in me to become an advocate for my community and to motivate others to become part of the progress they wish to see. I am already looking forward to next years Social Work Lobby Day!



PRINCE SHAKUR (CHARLES R. CLINK, JR.)

YORK COLLEGE S.W.E.E.T. MEMBER AND VICE PRESIDENT ELECT (2017-2018)

My first time attending Albany was a new experience for me. I did not really know what to expect. I mean, I knew what issues (tuition hike and loan forgiveness) would be discussed, but I had no clue what the process of advocacy looked like up close and personal. I watched in awe as my student colleagues sat in front of assembly members letting their voices be heard. All I could do was just and soak it in. The second trip was indeed more rewarding than my first. I met Assemblywoman Jamie R. Williams, who is an alumna of York College. I met one of my role models, Assemblyman Charles Barron. I had the opportunity to sit on the Senate floor and proudly listen to Assemblywoman Williams present York College Social Work Program with a State Of New York Proclamation. I also shared my story to

Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook and to my student colleagues. I would like to give a special peace and blessings to Dr. Rodgers, who has been orchestrating these lobby day trips for us to Albany for eleven years. Huge Kudos go out to Councilman I. Daneek Miller and Congressman Gregory W. Meeks, who both represent my community in Cambria Heights.



AIMEE N. LAY DUNN
YORK COLLEGE S.W.E.E.T. MEMBER AND
TREASURER ELECT (2017-2018)

As for my experience, the opportunity to attend the Albany trip was enlightening and mentally stimulating. When you have a desire to be a part of a collective body that represents positive change and growth for the greater good, it is always a refreshing feeling to physically see those who make the choice to live it daily. Dr. Rodgers has continually emphasized the importance of being knowledgeable when addressing all matters concerning social change, especially on the macro level. It was gratifying to walk the halls and brush shoulders with those who are adamant about social justice. Lastly, it was an honor to know that although we were amongst such distinguished men and women such as, Dr. Rodgers, Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook, Assemblywoman Jaime R. Williams, Assembly member Clyde Vanel, Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman, Senator Leroy Comrie and other elected officials, the respect we were treated with was encouraging. This has sparked in me the importance to press forward in my career and to do so with excellence.



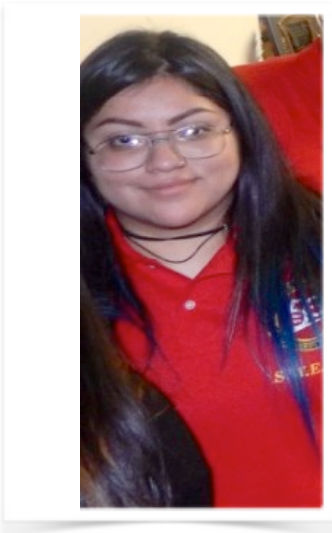
IONE LEWIS
YORK COLLEGE S.W.E.E.T. MEMBER

Our trip to Albany started out with a positive attitude. We had a plan and the motivation to accomplish a task that was relevant. The day came with surprises and miracles of gratitude. In the end, the day was productive, educational, purposeful, and filled with experiences of growth and change. Mission accomplished! Albany 2017 shout out to all Social Work S.W.E.E.T. club members and Professor Selena T. Rodgers.





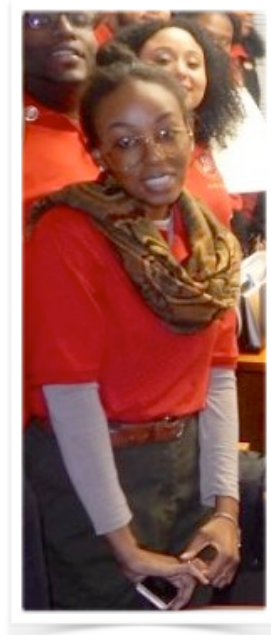
GUADALUPE LUNA
YORK COLLEGE S.W.E.E.T. MEMBER



Still in my journey at York College, I finally took the initiative to partake in the Albany Trip. It was an unforgettable experience. I was nervous for fear of the unknown, but the trip turned out to be an enriching, and inspiring moment. Meeting individuals who have the power to impact lives left me with aspirations of the great social worker I plan to be. I learned something from each member of the assembly and state representative that we met. But the highlight was Assemblywoman Jaime Williams. Her narrative inspired me to push myself in my professional life while respecting those who helped me throughout my journey. It was an honor to watch the S.W.E.E.T. Club, York College, and Dr. Rodgers while on the Senate Floor, be acknowledged not only by all those in attendance.

SIMONE SOLOMON
YORK COLLEGE S.W.E.E.T. MEMBER

Going up to Albany was an experience I will never forget. Being able to advocate for others that don't have a voice, really touched my heart. This made me realize that I picked the right major (Social Work).



HANNEL D. MARTINEZ

YORK COLLEGE S.W.E.E.T. MEMBER

The trip to Albany was filling, both the food and the experience. The opportunity was rewarding because we were able to come together as Social Work scholars and advocate for social issues that we felt were important for our assembly members to hear. One of my favorite moments was when Assemblymember Jaime Williams spoke about her journey in becoming elected as the 59th District representative. Hearing her story was so impactful and personal to me because we share in common attending both Kingsborough Community College and York College. It made me feel as if anything is achievable with hard work and dedication. My second favorite moment was when Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook's staff cooked an amazing meal and were so hospitable and welcoming. Overall, I absolutely enjoyed this trip and would like to thank the S.W.E.E.T. club president and vice president and Dr. Rodgers for this memorable opportunity.





York College Social Work Students 'Stand Up' in Albany



Hon. NYS Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook (32nd AD),
Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (York College S.W.E.E.T. Club Faculty Advisor) and
York College S.W.E.E.T. Club 2017 Delegation

March is Social Work month and the National Association of Social Workers is commemorating the month with a "Social Workers Stand Up" campaign. On March 7, 2017, 35 members of the York College Social Work Club, Social Work Empowering & Encouraging Together (S.W.E.E.T.), along with Faculty Advisor, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, traveled to Albany, New York for Social Work Legislative Day.

The social work delegation attended scheduled meetings with several elected officials—Honorable NYS Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook (32nd Assembly District), NYS Assemblymember Jaime R. Williams (59th AD), York College Alumna of the Class of 2010 and former vice president of the club; Assemblymember Clyde Vanel (33rd AD) Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman (29th AD), and with chiefs of staff for Senator Kenneth LaValle (Senate District 1) and Assemblymember Deborah Glick (66th AD). Additionally, the social work delegation met with and posed for pictures with Senator Leroy Comrie (14th Senate District), Senator James Sanders, Jr. (10th Senate District), Assemblywoman Michele Titus (AD 31) and Assemblyman Charles Barron (AD 60). York's President,

Dr. Marcia V. Keizs and Dr. Earl Simons, Director of Government and Community Relations joined the student scholars for several legislative meetings and in the Assembly Chamber.

Social Work student scholars diligently advocated for funding and support on policies grounded in economic, educational and environmental sustainability, including reinforcement of policies—Choices of Education Act of 2017, Redlining in School Districts, intended to uphold equitable funding and practices for public school education. Monies to extend childcare services to evening hours throughout CUNY and advocacy for funding to fix York’s infrastructure, were among the top advocacy agenda items for student scholars this year. CUNY budget priorities including increasing the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), the Proposed Excelsior Scholarship Program, critical maintenance funding. York College Social Work students have a tradition of attending "Lobby Day" in Albany, this being their 11th year. As a student, Assemblymember Williams was part of past York College student delegations who lobbied in Albany. She now has the distinction of being the first York College graduate to hold a New York Assembly seat.

Social Work student scholars extend their deepest gratitude to Hon. Assemblywoman Cook for her continued support of York College and NYS Assemblymember Williams for her leadership and unwavering commitment to social justice issues. While in Albany, NYS Assembly member Williams presented a Proclamation to the York College Social Work Program, which was also introduced on the floor by Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Morelle. The proceedings were supported by Assemblymembers Vanel and Hyndman and can be viewed the New York State Assembly Website.



Social Workers 'Stand Up' 2017 Photo Reflections E-Booklet was created by Dr. Selena T. Rodgers and S.W.E.E.T. Club members to commemorate New York State Legislative Day in Albany, NY

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Social Work Club

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Selena T. Rodgers

New York State Legislative Advocacy Day: 2007-2017

Albany, NY

Year	<p align="center">Advocacy Priorities</p> <p align="center"><i>Special thank you to Hon. Assemblymember Vivian E. Cook for her long time support to York College, CUNY, the Social Work Program, and students, providing fundings for many the educational programs</i></p>
2007	<p>Advocated with elected officials for funding for higher education; CUNY 2007-2008 State Budget - York College Child and Family Center.</p>
2008	<p align="center">2008: York College Featured in Hon. Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook Reports to the People</p> <p>Public service loan forgiveness; action against tuition increases, cuts to Tuition Action Program (T.A.P.), and state funding for higher education, loan forgiveness CUNY 2008-2009 State Budget Priorities - York College Child and Family Center.</p>
2009	<p>Action against tuition increases, cuts to Tuition Action Program (T.A.P.), and state funding for higher education, loan forgiveness; CUNY 2009-2010 State Budget Priorities, invest in CUNY Campaign, including York College Child and Family Center.</p>
2010	<p>Issues that impact student learning, the Social Work Profession, and the college community. York College/CUNY 2010-2011 State Budget Priorities, including York College Child and Family Center; enhancements and repairs to the Academic Core Building: including outdoor seating, student common space renovations, and a down payment for the construction of the York College Academic Village (student union building).</p>
2011	<p align="center">2011: York College Featured in Hon. Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook Reports to the People</p> <p>Support to allow higher education to meet TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) work requirements at 4-year colleges; funding for The Safe Harbor Act—legislation to provide housing, legal, educational, and other services for commercially sexually exploited youth; funding to build safe houses for these victims; York College/CUNY 2011-2012 State Budget Priorities, funding a tuition credit for New York-resident students who receive Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) awards, ensuring those students most in need of financial assistance aren't put at a further disadvantage; the York College Academic Village Center.</p>
2012	<p align="center">2012: York College Featured in Hon. Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook Reports to the People</p> <p>Support passage of the Anti-Cyberbullying Bill (S6132/A8978) which prohibits cyberbullying of minors; New York Dream Act (S.4179/A.6829) allowing undocumented students (an estimated 146,000 youth in New York) to access state financial aid to help pay for college; advocate on behalf of York College and the CUNY 2012-2013 Operating State Budget Priorities, including, restore funding for Student Services: CUNY LEADS Program; Restore funding for the 17 licensed CUNY campus-based child care programs currently providing services to over 1,600 student parents and 2,400 children. Funding for the York College Academic Village Conference Center. This project intends to create a new Academic Village and Conference Center at the current site of the Classroom Building. The Center would be a hub for student life activities, providing students with classrooms, offices for student government clubs, lounges, conference rooms, a bookstore and a coffee shop. The conference rooms would be open to the community. securing \$5 million for the building of the land-marked York College Child and Family Center, now officially open; and (2) for securing \$11 million, for enhancements and repairs to the Academic Core Building (e.g., outdoor seating, student common space renovations) and as a down payment for the construction of the York College Academic Village.</p>
2013	<p align="center">2013 - York College Featured in Hon. Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook Reports to the People</p> <p>Advocate for support for a new MSW at York College; support of NASW-NYC Chapter and other organizations for a two-year temporary exemption to give agencies the opportunity to further clarify functions of licensed social workers. York College and the CUNY 2013-2014 Operating State Budget Priorities, including York College Academic Village.</p>
2014	<p align="center">2014 - York College Featured in Hon. Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook Reports to the People York College, CUNY Student Reflections: Social Work Lobby Day in Albany, NY [Video]</p> <p>Youth who age out of foster care, without achieving adoption or independent living at the time of their discharge. Advocate the enhancement of resources for youth who age out of care – New York State (NYS); support for the CUNY 2014-2015 State Budget Priorities. In particular, funding to support the York College Academic Village & Conference Center to support state-of-the-art space for students. Child care and the Black Male Initiative were also strong advocacy points.</p>
2015	<p align="center">2015 - York College Featured in Hon. Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook Reports to the People</p> <p>Advocate for social justice initiatives, including an increase in New York City and New York State minimum wage and loan forgiveness for social workers. The York delegation also urged NYS elected officials to restore and allocate funding for critical resources identified as York College/CUNY 2015-2016 State Budget Priorities—the Black Male Initiative, childcare, and the York College Academic Village/Conference Center to support state-of-the-art space for students.</p>