Sarah Carroll
Director of Preservation
Landmarks Preservation Commission
Years of Service: 18

Sarah Carroll oversees the nearly 10,000 applications submitted annually to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for preservation operations to landmarked sites in all five boroughs, including buildings in historic districts. Collaborative and applicants alike praise her for her vast knowledge of law and precedent and her keen ability to help architects, developers, contractors, and property owners successfully navigate the regulations governing New York City’s 29,000 landmarked sites. Although applications to the Commission can sometimes be contentious, Carroll’s calm and admirable calm, sensitivity, and impartiality have made her a singularly effective negotiator, helping broker compromise to which all sides can agree. In New York City architect, “Sarah’s one of the most respected members of the preservation community. In an environment in which preservationists may be pitted against developers in heated opposition, they’re consistently gifted in being able to find middle-ground solutions.”

James McConnell
Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Data
Office of Emergency Management
Years of Service: 27

Be it hurricane or blackout, fire or flood, New York City turns to James McConnell and his team to provide the GIS capability that New York City’s emergency responders need. A trailblazer in GIS—a technology that manages, analyzes, and presents geographically referenced data—McConnell has become one of the country’s foremost GIS experts, committing his expertise to New York City for the past twenty-seven years. Drafted into the Office of Emergency Management on September 12, 2001, McConnell worked tirelessly with his colleagues to create thousands of maps that were critical in rescue and recovery efforts. He has forged unique partnerships with hundreds of public and private agencies to collect the economic, demographic, social, health, education, and physical infrastructure data that the city needs when disaster strikes. “Quantifying and mapping New York City is McConnell’s passion,” says OID Commissioner Joseph Bruno. “It would be hard to overstate the benefits that accrue to New Yorkers because of his quiet and constant leadership.”

Donna Leno Gordon
Director, Behavioral Health Nursing and Palliative Care
Coney Island Hospital
Health + Hospitals / Corporation
Years of Service: 23

Donna Leno Gordon is a pioneer in the field of palliative care, the branch of medicine concerned with helping patients manage pain and discomfort and with easing the overwhelming emotional, psychological, and spiritual distress of patients and families facing chronic or terminal illness. Under Gordon’s leadership, Coney Island Hospital has become a local and regional leader in palliative care, launching programs that have cared for more than 7,000 patients and their families since 2006, including a pioneering 19-bed unit, a rarity in hospitals. Gordon is also an innovator in providing more inclusive, dignified care for the mentally ill. Her team’s initiatives have significantly reduced the use of restraints and sedation. Her colleagues praise her innovative and unwavering commitment to making palliative care a formalized part of institutionalized medicine. HHC’s Chief Medical Officer Ross Wilson says, “Donna has the reach, the scope, and the heart of a champion.”

Ruth E. Stark, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Acting Dean of Science
The City College of New York
Years of Service: 27

Defying convention to become a chemist at a time when few women entered the field, Ruth Stark is an eminent scientist and inspiring role model for hundreds of women and men. Joining CUNY’s College of Staten Island in 1985, Stark became the institution’s first woman to build her own scientific research program, attracting 95 highly cited academic papers. She is known for her unique ability to assemble talented across disciplines. She initiated the Research Coordination Network, a worldwide support network for emerging biomolecular technologies, and is the Founding Director of CUNY’s Macromolecular Assemblies Institute, where she leads a pioneering interdisciplinary research team of chemists, engineers, and physicists. Stark has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to supporting fledgling researchers in the sciences, engineering, and mathematics. “Young scientists need a broad and continuous range of support,” says Stark. “It is not only about the science.”

Phil Weinberg
Principal
High School of Telecommunication Arts and Technology, Brooklyn
Years of Service: 28

Brooklyn’s High School of Telecommunication Arts and Technology (HSTAT) is a large, non-specialized school with a student body of 3,600 that mirrors the community it serves: half Hispanic, 20 percent black, 70 percent from low-income families. Under Phil Weinberg’s leadership, HSTAT has become a model of innovation. New students are divided into four “schools within a school,” each with its own set of teachers, providing small school advantages in a large school setting. A team-teaching program integrates special education classes into the main student body. But getting ready for college is the main focus at HSTAT, a focus anchored by a demanding curriculum that requires students to carry the toughest courses they can handle. “If we determine you can take calculus,” says Weinberg, “you take calculus.” Freshmen visit college campuses, juniors write a college entrance essay, and seniors dress up one day in November to ceremoniously turn in their applications for college. Said one senior, “No one can tell me to go to college in this school.”

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