

# March 2025

## College & Career Readiness Newsletter



This month at **Global Kids**, our staff focused on exploring post-secondary options with students. Bronx Aerospace High School students had the pleasure of attending a college fair hosted by the **Bronx Borough President's Office at Mercy University**, where they learned about local colleges in The Bronx offering selective programs specifically for Bronx students.

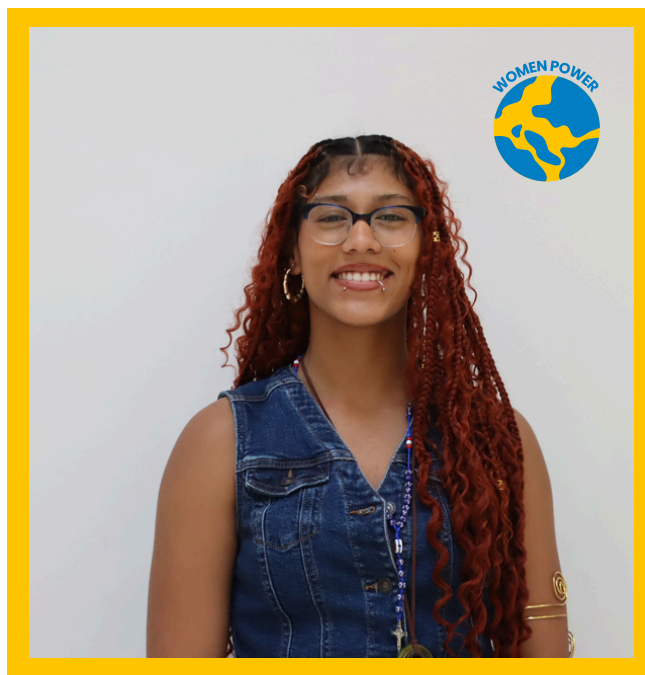
Along with exploring post-secondary options, students also engaged with our **new CCR curriculum**, which focuses on career exploration, resume-building workshops, and job readiness.

**Students: If you missed any of these workshops and would like access to these resources, be sure to check in with the CCR staff at your school!**



# MEET JULISSA ROUGE

## GK SCHOLAR CLASS OF 2025



Julissa, a **Senior at Careers in Sports High School**, has overcome numerous challenges to reach where she is today. From facing housing insecurity during her freshman year to navigating her identity, she has grown into a resilient leader and role model.

She is deeply involved in her school community, serving as Captain of both the Varsity Volleyball Team and the Female Physical Fitness Team, as well as being an active member of the GSA and various other organizations.

Through **Global Kids**, Julissa had the opportunity to present to the planning committee for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and travel to Costa Rica during the summer of 2024. She aspires to study Linguistics and Global Studies in college, with the goal of becoming an interpreter and traveling the world.

# MEET BLERINA HOTI

## Supporting Students at High School for Medical Professions



At the **High School for Medical Professions**, Blerina is at the heart of programs that help students feel connected, supported, and empowered.

Lunch Clubs offer a welcoming space where students can take a break, check in with friends and mentors, and join activities focused on community building, studying, and mental wellness. It's a place where they can speak openly about their experiences, challenges, and goals.

The No Hard Feelings after-school program gives students the tools to manage stress, build resilience, and handle conflicts in a healthy way. It's all about creating a safe space to explore emotions and grow.

Through mentorship, leadership development, and skill-building activities, these programs make HSMP a place where students don't just learn—they thrive.



**Hey HSMP students! Be sure to stop by and introduce yourselves to Blerina and make the most of all the amazing resources Global Kids has to offer!**

# RESOURCE HUB

Your go-to guide for college applications, scholarships, career opportunities, and more. Find the tools and resources you need to succeed and take the next step toward your future!



## LIMITLESS PATHS: UNLOCKING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

When most people think about trade jobs, they might not immediately consider women in the conversation—but they should! In fact, women have been part of the trades for a long time. In 1993, the first women's trade union was created to protect women working in factories.

**Scan the QR code below to explore career and scholarship opportunities for women!**



<https://bit.ly/3R7GUI6>

## HISTORICAL WOMEN'S COLLEGES

In the past, women were not allowed to attend college alongside men, which led to the creation of women's colleges. Many colleges in NYC have roots in this history of segregation.



**Scan to Learn about Some Historical Women Colleges**



<https://bit.ly/4bW1kNZ>

### **Why Did You Choose to Be a Fire Fighter?**

I chose the FDNY because I have a lot of family members who are civil servants and advised me to take any city exam I could. In 2017, my college held a job fair where all city institutions attended. You could ask questions, gather information, and sign up to take the test—which I did.

### **Do You Have Any Advice for Young Women Looking to Pursue This Path?**

The advice I would give to young women students is: you won't know unless you try. The fear of the unknown made me nervous going into the academy, and while some days felt harder than others, I pushed through. I pushed myself so hard until I made it to the finish line. I wouldn't have been able to accomplish anything if I had never tried. We only have one life—why not spend it trying to make a difference?

You don't always have to feel like you need to prove yourself to someone. I had nothing to prove to anyone but everything to prove to myself—that I could be a New York City firefighter.

**Learn More About Careers at FDNY**

<https://bit.ly/3DDsa0L>



## **MEET AMBER VILLEGAS**

### **FDNY FIRE FIGHTER**



**Meet Amber Villegas, a 30-year-old Filipina-Dominican from South Ozone Park, Queens, who is proudly serving as a firefighter with the FDNY.**

## **MEET SERGEANT RATLIFF**

### **SPECIAL OFFICER FOR CHILD SERVICES**



**Meet Sergeant Aisha Ratliff from Brooklyn, NY. Sergeant Ratliff is a Supervising Special Officer with Child Services in New York City, dedicated to working with at-risk youth.**

### **Why Did You Choose to Be in Law Enforcement For Child Services?**

I chose a career in law enforcement with NYC Children because I wanted to give back to my community. My brother was incarcerated for most of his youth, which inspired me to serve and protect at-risk youth.

### **Do You Have Any Advice for Young Women Looking to Pursue a Career in Law Enforcement?**

The advice I would give to any female student interested in this career path is to always remain courteous and compassionate. Within 3 years of being in my role I was promoted to a sergeant. There is no limit to what we as women can accomplish.

**Learn More About Civil Service Exams**

<https://on.ny.gov/4iPADfY>



# JUNIOR & SENIOR CORNER

## JUNIORS

Junior year is all about growth and discovery. Stay focused, embrace challenges, and trust that you're building a strong foundation for your future!

### TODO LIST

- **Create a Resume:** Showcase your skills, activities, and experience.
- **Apply to a Job/Internship:** Gain experience and build your professional network.
- **Research Spring Open Houses:** Learn more about colleges through virtual or in-person events.
- **Seek SAT Prep:** Start preparing for the SAT to boost your score and college readiness.
- **Complete Your Summer Internship Applications!** Speak with the CCR Staff at your school to get your application completed.



#COLLEGEBOUND

## SENIORS

Figuring out life is a journey, not a destination. Stay open, embrace change, and trust the process—you're on the right path!

### TODO LIST

- **Review Your FAFSA Packages** compare your offers with your counselors
- **Visit Accepted Colleges!** It's almost time to start choosing your college, so make sure you explore all your options.
- **Apply to a Job/Internship:** Gain experience and build your professional network.
- **Complete Your Summer Internship Applications!** Speak with the CCR Staff at your school to get your application completed.



#GKALLDAY

# PARENT CORNER

Global Kids is dedicated to supporting our students and their families. We strive to provide resources for students and families

## TRADES AND NON-TRADITIONAL CAREER OPTIONS

College isn't the right path for every student, and while trade school hasn't always been a typical choice for women, it can be a fantastic option. Many women excel in skilled trades and non-traditional careers, earning recognition for their dedication and hard work. Scan the QR Code to find out more.



<https://bit.ly/3R7GUI6>



### CIVIL SERVICE



- Stable jobs with great pay, benefits, and pensions.
- Make a real impact in your community.
- Flexible career paths in government, law enforcement, and public service.

### COLLEGE



- Higher earning potential and career growth.
- Access to specialized fields and leadership roles.
- Networking, internships, and personal development.

### TRADE



- Quick, affordable path to high-demand jobs.
- Hands-on work with great earning potential.
- Opportunities for self-employment and business ownership.

# STAY CONNECTED WITH US

## COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS TEAM

### **Assistant Director of College & Career Readiness**

Shannell Bellamy

shannell.bellamy@globalkids.org

### **Careers in Sports High School**

Shaquaya Weaver

shaquaya.weaver@globalkids.org

### **Bronxdale High School**

Kumba Nyang

kumba.nyang@globalkids.org

### **Transit Tech Career & Technical Education**

Whitney Clare

whitney.clare@globalkids.org

### **Independence High School**

Emily Ortega

emily.ortega@globalkids.org

### **International High School**

Jovanda Darden

jovanda.darden@globalkids.org

### **High School for Global Citizenship**

Jeremaeh Torres

jeremaeh.torres@globalkids.org

### **Bronx Lab High School**

Kassie Davis

Email: Kassie.davis@globalkids.org

### **Bronx Studio School for Writers & Artists**

Tiffany Flores Moran

Email: tiffany.moran@globalkids.org

### **High School for Public Service**

Cristin Biscotto

cristin.biscotto@globalkids.org

### **High School for Medical Professions**

Blerina Hoti

blerina.hoti@globalkids.org

### **William Cullen Bryant High School**

Kavita Jaggarsal

jKavita.Jaggarsal@globalkids.org

### **John Adams High school**

Namrata Ghosh

namrata@globalkids.org

### **Bronx Aerospace High School**

Robert Cayne

Robert.Cayne@globalkids.org