

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **BROOKLYN STUDENTS RECEIVE CONGRESSIONAL HONORS FOR COMMUNITY RESEARCH STUDY**

*Students spent the summer surveying Southwest Brooklyn residents on economic, social, and cultural factors they feel may be affecting their health, and tangible changes they think could make a difference.*

**BROOKLYN, NY—December 20, 2019**—45 Brooklyn high school and college students were honored with Congressional Commendations Tuesday night, recognizing their work on a study of social determinants of health in Borough Park, Bay Ridge, Sunset Park, Midwood, and Kensington. The Commendations were provided by Congressman Max Rose (NY-11) and Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez (NY-7).

In addition to receiving these honors, students presented findings before community members, union representatives, nonprofit leaders, hospital executives, and university administrators to highlight the challenges affecting the health of their communities' residents and bring this diverse group together to discuss opportunities to pool resources to facilitate and encourage better health where possible.

"Where I live," said Jaycob Sanchez, student at Sunset Park High School, "there isn't much community care. Knowing that there's a program out there trying to help Brooklyn shows that there's hope that we can fix these problems."

Aisha Nazlin, a student of the Urban Assembly School for Criminal Justice, followed, to say, "I usually only pass through these neighborhoods to go to school, but surveying and interacting with the people let me really understand the community. It changed the way I looked at it, and that was important to me when I was working on [this study]."

While Community Care of Brooklyn (CCB), the DSRIP performing provider system led by Maimonides Medical Center, Kingsborough Community College, Medgar Evers College, Brooklyn College, and the MIT Community Innovators Lab supported this project, it is the fourth that CCB has organized in Brooklyn. Each study follows the principles of participatory action research, which asserts that those most affected by issues have the most insight into finding solutions that benefit the community as a whole. CCB has used this style to better understand health issues facing Brooklyn communities.

In turn, results of these studies have informed initiatives including Governor Cuomo's Vital Brooklyn Initiative, the [East Brooklyn Call to Action](#), a [youth-led food justice initiative](#) in Brownsville, and a new non-profit, Brooklyn Communities Collaborative, which brings together health, education, labor, community based organization, and government leaders across Brooklyn to strengthen health, wealth, and leadership in Brooklyn communities.

"NYC governments are celebrated for their commitment to integrating new generations of immigrants into our social fabric," said Roger Green, CUNY law professor, former NY State Assemblyman, and member of CCB's Community Action and Advocacy Workgroup. "CCB has demonstrated leadership through this study, in which 68% of survey respondents were racial minorities, by making a concerted effort to engage and empower the voices of immigrants who aspire to have healthy neighborhoods and homes."

For more information on past studies, please see [here](#).