

Anthony John Plonczynski-Figueroa

Summary of Qualifications

- Over 20 years of governmental and political affairs, community engagement, and advocacy experience with proven impact on the Rochester community and region
- Over 20 years of higher ed leadership in the areas of program and grant management
- Over 20 years of working in support and on behalf of first-generation, low-income, minority student populations
- Over 20 years of event management experience in the community, business, and university arenas. I have developed, implemented, and managed events, partnerships, and wide-ranging and multi-disciplinary programs, both small (50 or less) and large (1,000+) in scale
- Over 15 years of grant writing experience leading to over \$11 million in funds awarded

Governmental + Community Advocacy Experience

New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) (March 2020- Present)

Regional Political Organizer, Office of the President

- Organize advocacy efforts out of the Rochester/Elmira Regional Offices supporting Local affiliate unions from Rochester to Elmira (North to South) and Ithaca to Batavia (East to West) areas for the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT)
- Serve out of the Office of the President to implement NYSUT's advocacy program assisting over 200 local unions and close to 60,000 members in becoming politically active
- Manage the local endorsement processes and campaigns to support candidates for the School Board, City Council, County Legislature, Mayor, New York State Assembly and Senate, Congress, U.S. Senate, and President of the United States.

Councilwoman Jacklyn Ortiz, Member-At-Large (2012 – 2020)

Legislative Aide

- Manager of constituent services and the legislative priorities and agenda for the Councilwoman, including a diverse portfolio focused on fiscal management, tax-liens, Rochester's Land Bank Corporation, and various neighborhood, business, and housing issues.
- Fielded constituent calls and concerns and connected community members with critical resources to meet their needs.
- Drafted and led policy agenda to be implemented at a government and community level

Association for Equality and Excellence in Education. (AEEE) (2009 – 2016, 2022)

Chair of Policy Initiatives, President-Elect (April 2022)

As Policy Chair, organized in-district advocacy meetings and events and annual visits to Capitol Hill on behalf of the New York State delegation.

- Scheduling and meetings consisted of communicating with the entire New York Congressional Delegation and managing meeting assignments, talking points, and advocacy strategy

- Conduct advocacy training on talking points and advocacy strategy

Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute (PR/HYLI) (2004 – Present)

Statewide Trainer

- A program of the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Assembly-Senate Taskforce.
- Serves over 200 youth yearly, providing leadership, civic engagement education and training, and an overview of the New York State legislative process.

New York State Office of the Attorney General (2005 – 2006)

Mediator, Consumer Frauds and Protection Agency

Higher Education Experience

Center for Academic Equity, Tulane University, (2021-Present)

Project Consultant for the Center for Academic Equity in pursuit of a Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program through the United States Department of Education

- Project lead in assisting with program development, strategy, and alignment for McNair within Tulane’s current institutional infrastructure
- Lead Grant Writer

David T. Kearns Center for Leadership and Diversity, University of Rochester, (2006- 2020)

Director of Operations (March 2018- March 2020)

- Manage the day-to-day operations for four U. S. Department of Education grants (Upward Bound Classic, Upward Bound Math/Science, Educational Talent Search, and Ronald E. McNair Programs), four National Science Foundation (NSF) Grants, and Gift and Endowment funding totaling over \$11 million
- Oversaw the implementation of our strategic plan in service of more than ten sponsored programs and over 3,000 students annually
- Managing over 20 FTE’s and ~100 part-time employees
- Advanced training in managing grants, sponsored programs, audit, budget, fiscal management, human resources, government relations, and leadership development on the local, state, and national levels
- Provided substantial input and control over the strategic direction of the Center.
- **Coordinator of the NSF INCLUDES: Redefining Potential - the Upstate NY Design and Development Pilot for Diverse Student Populations.** Lead a multi-campus partnership between the University of Rochester, Cornell University, Monroe Community College, and D’Youville College to develop pre-collegiate, collegiate, and community partnerships to improve exposure and access to science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM)
 - o Assisted with an 100% increase in faculty engagement with pre-college populations at Monroe Community College (MCC) and D’Youville College

Senior Associate Director (2016 – March 2018)

Associate Director (2010 – 2016)

Assistant Director, Pre-College Programs (2008 – 2010)

Academic Advisor, Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program (2007 – 2008)

Graduate Assistant, Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program (2006 – 2007)

Thomas Jefferson High School, East High School (2006 – 2007)

Student Teaching Intern, “Merchants of Hope” Entrepreneurial Academy; East High School “Teaching and Learning Institute”

Rochester City School District (2001 – 2002)

Teaching Intern

National Youth Sports Program, Monroe Community College (1997 – 2004)

Professional Staff

Event Management & Planning

University of Rochester

Kearns Center Summer Undergraduate Research Conference (2010 - 2019)

- Managed and implemented the program of research between faculty members and scholars. Managed research submissions, content review, and practice sessions for scholars and faculty.
- Implemented program, managing over 1,000 community and university guests and presenters.

Multi-cultural Visitation Program Planning Committee (2008 – 2015)

- Assisted in the planning and implementing the premier visitation weekend for over 300 first-generation, low-income, minority student scholars through the Office of Enrollment

Inaugural Mayoral Forum (2005)

- Planned and organized the invitation of candidates, management of guests, and implementation of the program agenda during the 2005 Mayoral election

Society for Hispanic Professional Engineers (U.R. Chapter) (2003 – 2006)

- Coordinator for the Student Outreach Conference, “Pathways to Technology”

Camp Wellstone (2006)

- Organizer and sponsor; brought Minnesota based Wellstone Action trainers to the University of Rochester to provide professional development to students on organizing and community engagement

Minority Student Advisory Board, Student Leadership Conference (2005)

- Planner and organizer for the first-ever leadership conference for Black and Latino undergraduate students at the University of Rochester. Worked with local government offices at the city, county, and state levels to provide guest lectures and presentations for U.R. students

Hip-Hop Symposium (2007)

- Organized event which investigated the culture of hip-hop and its relationship to women, culture, and entrepreneurship
- Symposium included lectures from Richard Nichols, manager for hip-hop group The Roots, DJ Kool Herc, and Bakari Kitwana, former editor of Source Magazine
- “An Evening with Multi-Entrepreneur Russell Simmons”
- “Entrepreneurship, Politics, Hip Hop, and Def: An Evening with Mos Def”

Community

Regional Latino Advocacy Coalition Campaign Academy (2004 – 2006))

- Organizing Committee for the planning and implementation of regional professional development of aspiring Latino civic leaders
- Managed the planning and execution of workshops, panels, and social events

Youth Lifeline America’s Free Life Skills and Football Camp (2005 – 2012)

- Board Chair & Organizer of state-of-the-art camp, which uniquely combines athletics and entertainment with educational life skills training for America’s middle and high school population
- The camp was founded by Roland Williams, former National Football League player, and Super Bowl Champion
- Managed the implementation of a three-day high-impact camp.
- Worked with partners from the City of Rochester, County of Monroe, State of New York, University of Rochester, and National Football Foundation (NFL)

Grant Writing

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- Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program Proposal. *United States Department of Education*. 1.2-million-dollar award. Co-Author (2022) *In Progress*
 - Student Support Services Proposal. *United States Department of Education*. \$1.2-million-dollar award. Co-Author (2020)
 - NSF-REU: Computational Methods for Understanding Music, Media, and Minds - explore an exciting, interdisciplinary research area that combines machine learning, audio engineering, music theory, and cognitive science. *National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experience for Undergraduates*. \$405,000 award Co-Author, (2020)
 - NSF INCLUDES: Redefining Potential - the Upstate NY Design and Development Pilot for Diverse Student Populations at the University of Rochester, Cornell University, Monroe Community College. *National Science Foundation (NSF)*. \$300,000 award Co-Author, (2016)
 - Upward Bound Math/Science Proposal. *United States Department of Education*. \$1.2-million-dollar award. Co-Author (2016)
 - Upward Bound Classic Proposal. *United States Department of Education*. 1.2-million-dollar award. Co-Author (2016)
 - Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program Proposal. *United States Department of Education*. 1.2-million-dollar award. Co-Author (2016)

- CERTL Kearns Fellows Grant. *Center for the Integration of Education and Research in Teaching and Learning. A grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).* \$20,000 award. Co-Author (2016)
- Support for STEM and Undergraduate Research. *Xerox Foundation.* \$400,000 award. Co-Author (2016)
- Educational Talent Search Proposal. *United States Department of Education.* 1.2-million-dollar award. Co-Author (2015)
- Upward Bound Math/Science Proposal. *United States Department of Education.* 1.2-million-dollar award. Co-Author (2011)
- Upward Bound Classic Proposal. *United States Department of Education.* 1.2-million-dollar award. Co-Author (2011)
- Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program Proposal. *United States Department of Education.* 1.2-million-dollar award. Co-Author (2011)
- College Prep Center Proposal, Vanguard High School. *Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation.* \$150,000 award Co-Author, (2011)
- College Prep Center Proposal, East High School. *J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation.* \$250,000 award. Co-Author (2010)
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). *New York State Department of Education.* \$195,000 in funding. Author, (2007 to Present)

Service

Community Service

Member, The REAL Steering Committee of the Rochester City School District, Office of the Superintendent. (2020)

- Created by Board Resolution to “work with the Superintendent to assist in developing, implementing, and monitoring the District’s Racial Equity Action Plan and advising the Superintendent on racial equity issues within the school system.
- Assist the Superintendent in racial equity strategic planning, annually evaluating the impact of current racial equity initiatives on student achievement and making commitments to address newly identified race-based inequities to ensure that racially equitable educational opportunities are being provided to all students who attend our schools.

Board Member-At-Large, Treasurer, Association for Equality and Excellence in Education. (AEEE) (2009 – 2016)

Chair & Member, Latino Education Taskforce, Ibero American Action League & La Cumbre (2008-Present)

Founder & Organizer, La Cumbre: Latinos United for Progress. The organization was developed for the advancement of the Latino community agenda in the Greater Rochester Region (2013 – Present)

Founder & Co-Chair, Greater Rochester Latinx Roundtable, Founded to develop and organize a unified advocacy agenda and strategy to achieve critical resources to serve the Greater Rochester Latinx community.

Chair & Founder, Friends of TLI (2014 – Present)

- The Teaching and Learning Institute (TLI) is a magnet program dedicated to training urban educators. Located in East High School in the City of Rochester, the program has trained

more African American and Latino urban teachers than any other program in the district's history.

Editorial Board Member, Annuals of the Next Generation, periodical journal publication of The Center for African American Research & Policy (2012)

Member, City School District Superintendents' Latino Community Collaborative, Rochester City School District (2008-2010)

Board Member, Metro Justice (2006 – 2008)

Board of Directors and Treasurer, Puerto Rican Youth Development Agency, (2007-2009)

- The Board is responsible for the agency's overall vitality and operation, and as treasurer, I led the maintenance of a \$1-million operating budget. I served through the merger of the agency with Ibero American Action League Inc.

University Service

President, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)

Committee Member, University of Rochester Sub-Committee for accreditation for The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)

Committee Member, Search Committee for the Vice President and Robert L. and Mary L. Sproull Dean of the Faculty of the College, University of Rochester

Chapter Advisor, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc., University of Rochester

Committee Member, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Committee Member, College Diversity Roundtable, University of Rochester **Member**, Consortium of Independent Colleges and Universities

Professional Associations

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) University of Rochester

The College Board

National Association for College Admissions Counseling (NACAC)

Council for Opportunity in Education (COE)

Association for Equality and Excellence in Education (AEEE)

Rochester Area Council for the Social Studies

Education

University of Rochester

EdD candidate in Teaching & Curriculum, Education Policy (ABD)

Teaching of Activism & Advocacy: Understanding how movements are developed and taught through collective action and strategy.

University of Rochester

Master of Science, Teaching & Curriculum

Concentration in Urban Teaching & Leadership; Secondary Social Studies Education

University of Rochester

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science

Honors / Awards: Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program Scholar, Percy Dutton Prize, Keidian Honor Society, Francis Price Student Leadership Award

Leadership Development + Continuing Education

Leadership Development

- Sticks & Stones: Understanding Implicit Bias, Microaggressions & Stereotypes (2020-Present)
- Train the Trainer training through the National Education Association's Center for Social Justice.
- Overview and implementation strategies for organization-wide racial justice training
- Member of the implementation team, training an organization of over 300 FTE's
- Skidmore Project on Restorative Justice (2019)
- Theory of R.J., evidence of effectiveness, and strategies of implementation
- Case studies of restorative applications in conduct administration, community building, and restorative approaches to improving climate (including bias incidents and rape culture).
- Overview of restorative practices, including restorative mentoring (one-on-one conversations), conferences, and circles.
- Dale Carnegie Course: Effective Communications & Human Relations/Skills for Success (2015) *Continuing Education*
- Certificate in Sponsored Programs Management (CLASP), University of Rochester, (Recertified since 2010)
- Pre-award Functions: Proposal/Budget Development, Costing Issues, Award Administration, Effort Reporting, Fiscal Management, and Cost Sharing, Close Out, Research Compliance, Ethics and, Audit, Human Resources
- U.S. Department of Education Program Management Training (2007 - 2020) ○ Priority #1 – Evaluation, Recordkeeping, and Reporting Student/Project Performance ○ Priority #2 – Budget Management and Statutory/Regulatory Requirements
○ Priority #3 – Assessment of Student Needs, Retention and Graduation Strategies, Use of Technology ○ Priority #4 – Student Financial Aid, Admissions Policies and Procedures, and Financial/Economic Literacy ○ Priority #5 – Recruiting and Serving Hard-to-Reach Populations ○ Priority #6 – New Directors (two years or less) General Project Management
- NYS Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition, Summer Food Service Sponsored Program Training (2007 to 2020)
- Camp Wellstone, Movement Building Project: Working Families Party and New York State United Teachers (2014)
- Camp Wellstone, Working Families Party Conference, Ellenville, NY (2011)
- Campus Camp Wellstone, Event Organizer & Sponsor (2006)

Presentations

- COE ED-TALK 3: Advocacy Today: An Analysis of the Council for Opportunity in Education's Federal Advocacy Model after 40 Years of Work. Session presented at the Council for Opportunity of Education's 40th Annual Conference. Plonczynski-Figueroa, A. (2021, September)
- Fighting for La Raza: Latino leadership through political action. Session presented annually for the Latino Leadership Development Program of the United Way of Greater Rochester. Plonczynski-Figueroa, A. (2012 to 2020).
- Developing Emerging Leaders through Teaching and Policy. Session presented at the Association for the Equality and Excellence in Education 38th Annual Conference. Plonczynski-Figueroa, A. (2015, May).
- Developing Models for University and Community Collaboration around College Readiness. Workshop and training presented to Washington College Office of Enrollment. Plonczynski-Figueroa, A. (2012, August).
- Advocacy 101: Improving TRiO through representation. Session presented at the Association for the Equality and Excellence in Education 34th Annual Conference. Plonczynski-Figueroa, A. (2011, May).
- The McNair model at the University of Rochester. Session presented at the Association for the Equality and Excellence in Education 33th Annual Conference. Plonczynski-Figueroa, A. (2010, May).
- The Kearns Center model: Advancing first-generation, low-income, and minority students while successfully navigating the culture of the academy. Session presented at the Association for the Equality and Excellence in Education 31th Annual Conference. Plonczynski-Figueroa, A. (2008, May).
- Mobilizing the village: Creating successful partnerships with school districts, community organizations, government, and the academy for the success of pre-college populations. Session presented at the Association for the Equality and Excellence in Education 31th Annual Conference. Plonczynski-Figueroa, A. (2008, May).

Technology

- Advanced training and knowledge in Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Access and Outlook), Filemaker Pro and Filemaker Pro Go, SPSS, MailChimp, Think Wave, Nation Builder, Fieldedge for Nation Builder, Voter Activation Network (VAN), Mini Van, Calendly, Canva, Jotform, and Asana.
- Working knowledge of website development software (Square, WordPress, WizzyWig, and Wix).
- Advanced training on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, LinkedIn, Google Platforms (drive, docs, sheets, PowerPoint, forms).
- Advanced training with cloud-based software Box, Dropbox, Google Drive, Adobe Cloud Services, OneDrive.

Community Honors, Awards, and Recognition

- Hermandad Award for Dedicated work in the community, Lambda Upsilon Lambda (LUL)

- Named to Rochester City Newspapers' "The Rochester 10: Rochesterians doing great things in the community."
- Dedicated Service Award, Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute
- Youth Lifeline America, Dedicated Service Award
- Salsero Award, Spanish And Latino Students Association (SALSA), for Service & Dedication to students and the University Community, University of Rochester
- Black Students' Union Award for Service & Dedication to students and the University Community, University of Rochester
- President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction, University of Rochester

References

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