

Community Education Council – District 28

Candidates

Candidate: Nina Monica Doster

DBN: 28Q140

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I greatly value community service and volunteering. I am actively engaged my children's education and their school activities. The school administration and PTA body value my participation and seek my support in several efforts.

Personal Statement

I reside in Jamaica Queens, New York. I am a proud single mother of four children ranging from 5-16. I juggle motherhood with full-time employment and various volunteering efforts. I have volunteered with 100 men 100 suits helping give out free business suits to young men seeking employment, and have given out free book bags to school-aged children in need. I have also held several events in the community including an asthma awareness fair and a back-to-school family event. I am interested in being apart of CEC 28 because I am a public school parent always looking for ways to actively engage in my children's education. I strongly believe education is an important part of our future and I believe every child deserves a fair shot through a great public school education. Being apart of the CEC, I will help improve our district's public school system and help bring new ideas to the table. I would represent all District 28 parents and will speak up regarding our children's needs to make sure they receive a great education!

Candidate: Paula Steisel Goldfarb

DBN: 28Q303

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Mansoor AftaboDeen (aka Deen)

DBN: 28Q196

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am actively engaged and abreast of the changes and enhancement in NYC education system. I have worked in the federal government over the past 7 years, both for the Bush and Obama's Administrations. During my 23-year career, I have been a mentor to NYC high school students. The students spend one afternoon per week in my office, shadowing me. It provided them incredible insight of how a major corporation operates. My experience and community oriented values will be an asset to the council due to my strong belief in a making our country's education system the best in the world.

Personal Statement

The education system in our country, states and cities needs to improve. The U.S. place in the top 20 in the develop countries for education. Unfortunately, NYC is still way below peer cities compare to national and international school districts; Less than 50 percent of NYC students perform better in math and reading compare to peers. The school system needs an 'overhaul'. This means, administrators, teachers, parents and students need to be held accountable and responsible for the student's performance. Charter schools are making an impact due to this model but it's unclear of their effectiveness due their target demographics and the historical poor economic conditions in those districts. The necessary school materials needs to available to everyone. More qualified teachers are essential in the overpopulated NYC school system to have an impact. In addition, clear action is necessary when assessments confirm deficiencies in the system. Changes and enhancement or reaffirmation of improvements starts at the ground level such as the education council. A long-term system-wide approach is necessary to achieve consistent improvement. I look forward to serving on the council to help achieve better results in NYC school districts.

Candidate: Donna Matthews

DBN: 28Q099

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I volunteered in my older daughter's catholic school for 5 years. I was handling the fundraising, Christmas events, participated in decorating the church on Holidays, assisted with Pre-K when the teachers was out on sick leave.

Personal Statement

I believe a child's education is the responsibility of all parents and educators not just our own children but each individual child we see going in & out of that school. We can share our life experience and bring our own gifts to the table.

Candidate: Carolyn Ferguson

DBN: 28Q080

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I am a mother of a child enrolled in the public school general education setting with special education needs that requires a weekly in school counselling session to assess and monitor overall performance with behavior.

Personal Statement

To better understand and align myself with the importance of the role of education within our community, its effectiveness with regards to educating our students, parents and the general public at large about special needs. To speak for those of us who are afraid or unable to address the matter of special education in our school system and its acceptance.

Candidate: Olga Addison

DBN: 28Q121

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I am a active member of the PTA.

Personal Statement

Candidate: Mairead M. Dorry

DBN: 28Q144

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I started teaching in the NYC DOE. I worked as a classroom teacher and then as a Reading Recovery teacher. After 6 years, I left the city and currently work as a reading teacher/ testing coordinator in a Nassau County district. I have worked with all student populations on the elementary level.

Personal Statement

As a parent and an educator, I have a strong desire to see all students reach their full potential as learners and members of the larger community. As an educator, I know that this is cannot be achieved

with the commitment and cooperation of students, parents, teachers, and administrators. I would bring to the table a thorough understanding of state curriculum and standards. I am also very knowledgeable of the testing requirements and procedures set forth by NY state.

Candidate: Maria Gabriela Fuentes

DBN: 28Q086; 28Q182

IEP/ELL: IEP

Applicant Background

I HAVE BEEN PART OF THE PTA FOR THE PAST 4 YEARS AT MY CHILDREN'S/ COMMUNITY SCHOOLS. THIS BEING MY 4TH SCHOOL YEAR VOLUNTEERING, I AM CURRENTLY PART OF MY SONS PTA AND SLT AND MY DAUGHTER'S PRE-K PTA AS WELL. I AM ALSO A CEC D28 MEMBER SINCE JULY OF 2012. I DO A LOT OF VOLUNTEERING AT THE LOCAL SCHOOLS, I LOVE WORKING ALONG WITH THE SCHOOLS TO BRING PARENTS TOGETHER TO WORK WITH THE SCHOOL TO HELP OUR CHILDREN.

Personal Statement

I am a Parent Leader, School and Community Volunteer, Mother of 4 precious children who receive special education services to ensure their academic as well as their social/emotional success. I am always looking for ways to help them achieve their goals even though it is not an easy task. Working along with teachers, Doctors, and other specialists I ensure they are kept well, even though incidents due to impulsiveness never fail. I try my best to keep positive and see it as "tomorrow anything can be made up better if today was not so great". I volunteer and become involved because I feel in my heart that we as parents can make such a difference in the schools, in our children's lives, and in our communities. I truly believe each one of us has a lot of power to help and do so much and when we become united we can certainly move mountains. Nothing is ever perfect but if we are involved, we can make sure at least we are aware of the changes that go on, and if we have a say we can make a difference in making those changes needed. Why I volunteer? I love my children, I believe in them and I love my community, I hope and pray for a better tomorrow and I don't mind working hard as a team to ensure that our kids are able to have one.

Candidate: Yun Wang

DBN: 28Q157

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Crystal L. George-Moses

DBN: 28Q310

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

I BELIEVE IN QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS AND BELIEVE THAT PARENTS CAN ENSURE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION BY BEING INVOLVED. SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE ON THE COUNCIL IS MY CONTRIBUTION OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT. THERE IS POWER IN INVOLVEMENT. INVOLVEMENT IS ACTION.

Candidate: Samir Karmakar

DBN: 28Q217

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Personal Statement

Candidate: Renee Harrielal

DBN: 28Q680

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Attended Touro College - Masters in General & Special Education

Personal Statement

It takes a village to raise a child. I will be an integral part of creating that village and support for the students. My success will be determined by the success of the students I represent. As a TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) we will achieve our goals.

Candidate: Rezaul Karim, MD

DBN: 28Q082

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background**Personal Statement**

I am very much interested to join in to this council.

Candidate: Michelle Holmes

DBN: 28Q099

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I have had the pleasure of working with students of all ages. Most notably, when I lived in Washington, DC, I volunteered with the DC College Success Foundation. The program was geared towards helping low-income high school students achieve their dreams of attending college upon graduation. I have also had previous experience working (in a professional capacity) with college admissions and graduate student admissions.

Personal Statement

Candidate: WillieFlora Gaines

DBN: 28Q082

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

I recently earned my Master's in Education with an emphasis on Special Education. I am an active member of the PTA by participating in meetings and workshops. In addition I was the PTA president at my son's school. Presently I am a CEC member for District 28. In my undergrad I was a peer tutor for students with a disability. I volunteered with the York College Choir. Lastly I participated in an a parent representative training for IEP meetings. To assist my community I raked leaves and shoveled snow.

Personal Statement

I believe that parents, teacher, and administrators must work together to prepare our children for the future. One can not work without the other.

Candidate: Nyraene Simmon

DBN: 28Q157

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Currently, I am the Travel Dance Team Director at Genesis Dance in Rosedale, NY. I have been teaching at Genesis Dance for the last 15 years. Genesis is an entity dedicated to inner city youth, aspiring dancers, and those that possess the love of the art of dance. My accomplishments range from a collective to individual success. Programs that I supervise are Disneyland's Summer Dance Classic Parade, Disney Dance Camp and Disney's Showcase Performance, Premiering Disney's Dance the Magic Broadway Summer of 2012 and currently preparing students to participate in Disneyland, Paris in 2014. All of the above programs preliminary training and travel planning are responsibilities I have become fond of implementing training programs. In addition to teaching at Genesis Dance I also teach dance to children ages 6 and up at the Devore Dance Center. As part of my growing commitment to youth, I also volunteer with the Luis Danvers Leukemia Fund in recognizing health issues that are part of our community.

Personal Statement

I am a well-rounded teacher who wants to share my talents by influencing others through teaching. I am patient and determined towards anyone who has the heart and the passion to fully learn the craft. I extend this by motivating and educating students from all levels, from all walks of life, to feel confident in themselves and their talent no matter the size. I continue to teach students with a nurturing, yet challenging environment. Pushing all of my students to not only meet, but exceed their own expectations and goals. I believe that even as an instructor, I am still a student in the ever changing world of dance. To live is to dance, my gift to all my prospective students. I continue to teach students in a nurturing manner and within a challenging environment. Pushing all of my students to not only meet, but exceed their own expectations and goals. I believe that even as an instructor, I am still a student in the ever changing world of dance. To live is to dance - my gift to all my prospective students.

Candidate: Vera Venerdi Daniels

DBN: 28Q310

IEP/ELL: N/A

Applicant Background

Volunteer for the Beacon Program - Queens Women Leadership Council Stem (Science Technology Engineer and Mathematics program) - Sponsorship, fundraising, Awards Events BassaMa Foundation Corporation - Life Coaching for adolescents - focused on young adults of low income and underserved communities

Personal Statement

Personal Statement Education is, by far, the most critical component of our civility. It sustains us as individuals, and propels us as a nation of substance and great significance. Consequently however, the paradigm shifts of inequality and challenges of our school system threatens the success of our children; particularly, that of our low income and underserved urban school districts. These shifts remain in constancy hidden within the crevices of our social and political dynamics devastating our future - our children. It is my absolute obligation, and that of others, to champion what ails our educational system

by being an integral component of “the process”. I am a product of the New York City public school system, and I am Ph.D. I submit my application to serve on the Council and help champion these educational challenges in order to cultivate worthy individuals who will succeed for “self”, their families, their communities, and ultimately society. As a member of the Community Education Council I will assist in revolutionizing the educational system for innovative alternatives that will help assure the success of “all” our children. There is absolutely no better cause worth committing to. Vera V. Daniels