CUNY NYPIRG STUDENTS STAND OUT AS RISING STARS — IN WHATEVER ENDEAVORS THEY CHOOSE TO PURSUE

With on-the-ground, professional-level experience across disciplines before they hit the post-college workforce, CUNY students working with NYPIRG are equipped to succeed. And succeed they do. Take a look for yourself.

CUNY NYPIRG’S OFFICE DIRECTORY

NYPIRG students across the five boroughs, armed with the confidence, tenacity, and determination developed through training and practice, reach out to thousands of their peers each year. They systematically learn more about other students’ issue interests, network with CUNY students throughout the city, and, in consultation with NYPIRG campus staff, provide effective, innovative avenues for action.

Since 1973, NYPIRG has been a proud member of the City University of New York community. Over the course of NYPIRG’s decades of work with CUNY students, hundreds of thousands have been empowered, enriched, and inspired at the nexus of experiential learning and civic engagement that embodies the NYPIRG mission.

NYPIRG offers students opportunities to participate in public affairs and advance responses to social problems in the areas that matter most to them. The range of programmatic options is broad, and the corresponding activities varied — performing service, developing media skills, analyzing policy, planning events, networking with campus and community groups, meeting with policymakers, and more.

In collaboration with and guided by NYPIRG’s professional staff — researchers, organizers, advocates, and attorneys — students tackle pressing issues, developing professional level experience that boosts their prospects for success in college, the job market, and throughout their lives.
EMPOWERING VOTERS, STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY

Hundreds of thousands of students have registered to vote, registered others to vote, and built their civic participation through NYPIRG’s nonpartisan voting project. Working alongside the NYPIRG staff who train them in best practices and coordinate strategy, CUNY students learn how to properly register voters, meet ambitious voter registration goals on their campuses, host workshops on voting rights, conduct Get-Out-the-Vote activities, staff NYPIRG voter helplines on Election Day, monitor election administration, and advocate for government accountability.

MAXIMIZING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Dramatic cuts in public funding, along with skyrocketing tuition have threatened access to affordable, quality higher education and contributed to rising student loan debt. NYPIRG’s Higher Education Project works to educate and empower students to become leaders in the effort to support accessible higher education for all. CUNY students working with NYPIRG have leveraged their collective power to win restorations of cuts to opportunity programs, fight for the passage of the New York State Dream Act, lower tuition, and reforms to financial aid.

SUPPORTING MASS TRANSIT RIDERS

Since 1979, the Straphangers Project has organized the riding public to speak up for affordable fares, more attractive service, and the continued rebuilding and expansion of city transit. With NYPIRG, CUNY students eliminated the bus-to-subway transfer charge and created the discount monthly metrocard. NYPIRG was a coalition partner to establish reduced-price metrocards for low-income New Yorkers. NYPIRG students at QCC brought a bus stop to campus, while CSI’s chapter helped to create an express bus line from Brooklyn to CSI.

BUILDING SOUND, EQUITABLE ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES

The range and complexity of environmental problems that CUNY students working with NYPIRG have tackled since the early 1970s has offered them exposure to a broad set of tactics and strategies based upon the power of their coordinated efforts across campuses and over time — organizing public actions building national awareness of the dangers of nuclear power, winning redress for toxic victims of asbestos, fighting garbage burning incinerators proposed to be sited in low-income communities, holding toxic polluters accountable, instituting or bolstering campus waste reduction and recycling, working for the successful passage of the bottle return laws of 1982 and 2009, and engaging in the ongoing battle against climate change.

ADVANCING THE RIGHTS OF CONSUMERS

Informed, active consumers can play transformative roles in making business and government more accountable. NYPIRG students at CUNY have offered their peers workshops on financial literacy and tenants’ rights, surveyed the safety of New York’s playgrounds and the availability of dangerous toys, collected NYC property tax assessment data to expose redlining, published reports on banking fees and prescription drug prices, and documented discriminatory car rental practices. CUNY students working with NYPIRG successfully pressed to ban the use of credit reports in employment decisions in NYC, and for more than 30 years, CUNY student counselors trained by NYPIRG have offered counseling to people seeking to navigate the city’s small claims court system.

ADDRESSING HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS

NYPIRG is dedicated to bettering the lives of New York’s homeless and hungry population by shedding light on the realities of poverty while providing direct relief to those who need it most. NYPIRG students attend regular service trips to soup kitchens, shelters, and LGBTQ Centers for disenfranchised youth. Additionally, NYPIRG has been instrumental in establishing food pantries across CUNY, paving the way to a mandate from Governor Cuomo to institute food pantries on all CUNY campuses. Recently, NYPIRG’s student leaders have pushed for the expansion of SNAP benefits, coordinated Hurricane Relief drives, and published the comprehensive Hunger on Campus report.

WHO Chooses WHAT NYPIRG WORKS ON?

Students do. NYPIRG’s Board of Directors, consisting entirely of college students elected by the student body at participating campuses, make the decisions key to the life and direction of the organization, including determining NYPIRG’s issue areas, establishing programmatic objectives, and prioritizing goals.