



Welcome to our 2021 Kick-off Week!

HERE to HERE sees 2021 as a year of great possibility, especially for young people. Our commitment is to work with all of you to transform possibility into action and long-lasting impact. We know that good work and good news is contagious — and that our continued collaboration results in positive outcomes when we approach it collectively with excitement, drive, joy, and purpose.

That's why today we're launching our 2021 Kick-off Week, to highlight all the great work underway to braid critical job experience with academics and better position Bronx and NYC students for future success! We believe our shared efforts to bridge the gap between young people's education and meaningful, family-sustaining careers are vital as we continue to address the inequities of today, and lay the foundation for the justice we demand, now and tomorrow. It won't be easy, but when we work together to unlock the talent of an entire generation, our community is stronger, our businesses benefit, and all of New York thrives.

Here's what you can expect this week:

- **MONDAY:** Join us for a number of terrific upcoming events
- **TUESDAY:** SYEP and Virtual Internships — learn the latest
- **WEDNESDAY:** Exciting initiatives to elevate student career success
- **THURSDAY:** Our latest work on the Key Distinguishers
- **FRIDAY:** More news, updates, and reflections

Throughout this week, we invite you to share your own good news with your network, using the hashtag **#2021Kickoff** and tagging [@heretoherebx](#) on Twitter, and [@HERE to HERE](#) on LinkedIn. Have an idea or good news share related to braided work and learning opportunities that put young people on the path to a family-sustaining career? [Let us know!](#)

So, without further ado...HERE we go....

Join Upcoming HERE to HERE Events



Teens Take Charge Launches Project 14 24

Join us at the [Teens Take Charge](#) Project 14 24 event, which celebrates the launch of an initiative focused on building youth employment and equitable post-secondary opportunities for all young people aged 14 to 24. During the first half of the event, La'Toya Beecham and Kai-Lin

Kwek-Rupp will present The Story of #SaveSYEP, a forthcoming report authored jointly by HERE to HERE and Teens Take Charge. More details on this report in tomorrow's mailing!



Date: January 26th, 2021

Time: 3-4:30 PM EST

[REGISTER HERE](#)



RELAY Course Offering: Facilitating Pitching Yourself Workshops With Students

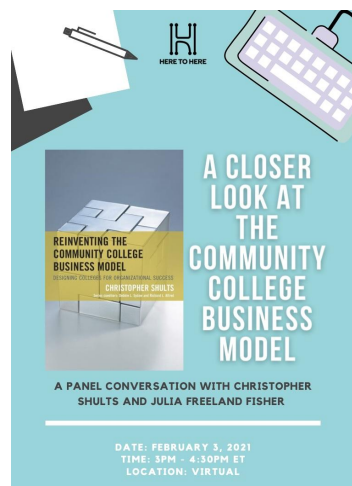
In partnership with [Relay Graduate School of Education](#), HERE to HERE's Work-Based Learning Labs team has developed two CTLE-eligible (Continuing Teacher and Leader Education) professional development courses focused on preparing students for the world of work. Following the

successful first course, "Facilitating Resume Workshops with Students", educators from around the state can now enroll in "Facilitating Pitching Yourself Workshops With Students."

Date: January 28, 2021

Time: 4-6 PM EST

[REGISTER HERE for Facilitating Pitching Yourself Workshops With Students](#)



A Closer Look at the Community College Business Model: A Panel Conversation With Christopher Shults and Julia Freeland Fisher

[Christopher Shults](#) recently released a thought AND practice provoking book, [Reinventing the Community College Business Model](#). Join Shults and other notable panelists including [Julia Freeland Fisher](#), [Cherise Jones](#), [Zamaris Molina](#), and [Apurva Mehrotra](#) to discuss the book and its implications for talent development here in New York. HERE to HERE's goal of ensuring that Bronx and NYC students launch into family-sustaining careers demands that our city's education institutions, non-profits, employers, and policymakers adapt quickly to New York's very dynamic 21st century economy. Only then will our economic recovery be resilient, equitable, inclusive, and long-lasting. Fortunately, we are not starting from scratch. We have incredible leaders in the field who are helping to rethink talent development and pioneer

strategies to enhance our higher-learning institutions. Join us in learning from these leaders!

Date: February 3, 2021

Time: 3-4:30 pm EST

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Bronx Youth Action Showcase

On February 11, we're celebrating the power of authentic co-creation with young people through our Bronx Youth Action Showcase. This youth-centered, student-led event will amplify the Bronx-based organizations that provide young people with meaningful, work-based learning experiences. During the event, you'll hear best practice from our partners at [DreamYard](#), [The Thinkubator](#), [Children's Aid](#), [Youth Ministries for Peace & Justice \(YMPJ\)](#), and [CareerWise New York](#). Join us for an afternoon of youth voice, impact stories, and a discussion of the policies and campaigns critical to the pursuit of equity for all students in New York, regardless of zip code.

Date: February 11, 2021

Time: 4-6 pm EST

[REGISTER HERE](#)

** Note: this is a student-led event, focused on youth voices*

2021 Kick-off Day 2: The Story of #SaveSYEP

Today, we are pleased to share with you a new publication from Teens Take Charge and HERE to HERE: [The Story of #SaveSYEP!](#)

During the summer of 2020, following New York City's cancellation of the [Summer Youth Employment Program \(SYEP\)](#), young people came together to fight for its reinstatement. This incredible advocacy work assured partial restoration last summer, and the Mayor's proposed budget for this summer is almost fully restored, at \$132 million and 70,000 slots, many of which will be SYEP opportunities connected to school-year learning (school-based). We see that as a great starting point!

[The Story of #SaveSYEP](#), a new student-led report, authored by La'Toya Beecham and Kai-Lin Kwek-Rupp and published jointly by HERE to HERE and [Teens Take Charge](#), documents how youth advocates rescued SYEP from the fiscal chopping block. Through texts, images, screenshots, petitions, and more, this report



shows how young people ultimately saved the program, and saved the summer for tens of thousands of students.



“We need youth voice, and youth in the room. Countless times we don’t have a say and we’re left to deal with the repercussions. If we hadn’t fought back we know we would have gone a year without learning, leaving us with the job of filling the gap ourselves.”

- La'Toya Beecham

Don't miss today's event!

Today, you can join HERE to HERE and Teens Take Charge at [Teens Take Charge's Project 14 24 event](#), which celebrates the launch of an initiative focused on building youth employment and equitable post-secondary opportunities for young people aged 14 to 24. During the first half of the event, HERE to HERE and Teens Take Charge will present The Story of #SaveSYEP.



Best Practice for Virtual Internships

While we stood with our youth advocates to fight for SYEP, HERE to HERE also thought critically about their core demand: for a radical rethinking of how our city offers paid work experience, through Covid and long after. In response, we shared our [Key Distinguishers for Virtual Internships](#)—a set of virtual best practices for work-based learning—and helped practitioners pivot to offer high-quality [online experiences](#).

You can learn more about our shared experience, learnings, and findings in our [Virtual Internships Case Study](#), a new HERE to HERE publication.

[Read the case study](#)



2021 Kick-off Day 3: Introducing The Bronx Recovery Corps

The Bronx Recovery Corps at Lehman College [launches](#) today!



[The Bronx Recovery Corps](#) at Lehman College is a Peace Corps-inspired initiative aimed at preparing CUNY students for the careers that are essential not only to NYC's recovery but also the future health of our city's economy.

The Bronx Recovery Corps will provide both new work opportunities for students and embrace students who are already working. In the first cohort of 40 Recovery Corp Fellows, 25 will be placed in new jobs, and the other 15 will join the cohort with the job they already have. Recovery Corps Fellows will earn academic credit while gaining employer-recognized skills and competencies for in-demand occupations working for small businesses and nonprofits rocked by the economic fallout of the pandemic. Two redesigned Lehman courses will braid workplace learning into academics so that students gain the core competencies critical for careers with promising trajectories in high-demand industries, such as healthcare, technology, infrastructure, and education.

"The Bronx Recovery Corps program and the partnership with HERE to HERE and Bronx businesses and community groups really illustrate what we mean when we refer to Lehman College as an anchor institution in the Bronx," **said President Daniel Lemons.**

"In the most difficult of times, we can continue to support not only our students, 60% of whom live in the borough, but to also be able to support The Bronx itself by connecting with the community to develop creative and innovative solutions to meet the critical needs of The Bronx community."



HERE to HERE is proud to partner alongside visionary employers who will offer young people paid employment, teach them technical skills that can be applied across industries, and provide career preparation support to position them for future work and civic success. These employer partners include: American Red Cross Greater New York, Ariva, BronxCare Health System, The Bronx Is Blooming, The Career Exploration and Development Center @ Lehman College, Cents Ability, Inc., Duro Workforce, Fromer Eye Centers, HERE to HERE, Janet Collection, Lasgay's Construction & Development Co., Inc., New Visions Charter School, Office of the Bronx Borough President, Office of International Programs & Community Engagement @ Lehman College, Office of Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-15), The Thinkubator, and We Stay/Nos Quedamos, Inc.

Lehman and HERE to HERE are recruiting additional employers for Recovery Corps placements; please reach out to [Jennifer Cortez](#) if you'd like to become a participating employer.

"The Bronx Recovery Corps at Lehman College embodies the true spirit of us Bronxites and New Yorkers. When devastation occurs, we act," said **Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.**, whose office is one of the program's employers.

"I am glad to partner with HERE to HERE and Lehman College, two organizations I have been working with for several years. This pandemic devastated our borough and I am grateful for the many donors who funded this pilot program for our college students to gain work experience while still pursuing their degree(s)."

The Bronx Recovery Corps is a win-win-win for the Bronx economy, CUNY, and students. All have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Recent CUNY employment surveys indicate that 50% of students have lost their jobs or were furloughed since COVID and as many as seven out of ten are looking for work. Local employers gain a talented student employee who is supported by their educational institution. Finally, additional resources will be pumped into The Bronx economy because of the new dollars accessed by Lehman from Federal work-study to support some of the students' wages.



HERE to HERE paired Lehman students with more than 15 employers throughout the borough. HERE to HERE has also provided support to Lehman for the design of the Recovery Corps model through a grant made possible by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. We are eager to learn from this initial prototype and expand it to reach 25% of Lehman's incoming students. We also hope it will serve as a model for leveraging work-study, national service funding, and other potential recovery resources to create opportunities for Lehman, CUNY, and NYC students to receive academic credit for workplace learning, gain 21st century career competencies, and earn the money they need while attending school.



Thank you to Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for providing catalytic funding that makes this work possible. And a very special thank you and hats off to everyone involved—the Lehman and CUNY teams, students, faculty, employers, and funders—who all worked tirelessly to design The Bronx Recovery Corps so that we could [launch this cohort](#) of 40 students this week!

2021 Kick-off Day 4: What's Next for the Key Distinguishers?

Shared Criteria: Making Best Practice Common Practice and Elevating Student Career Success

HERE to HERE believes the talent of young people fuels our economy and our world. Yet New York City as a community is more vulnerable because we do not enable all young people to develop and contribute their talent.

A thriving, inclusive economy demands we cultivate the success of ALL young people. To achieve this, we must reinvent our youth talent development system to embrace a core set of practices that



help practitioners—educational institutions, employers, and community-based organizations—offer high-quality opportunities that braid workplace learning and academics. [HERE to HERE's Key Distinguishers](#), developed with and for practitioners, identify and define this core set of practices.

This year, we'll begin rolling out the Key Distinguishers so that our partners can further test, develop, and champion the Key Distinguishers as a tool and resource for making best practice common practice and elevating student career success as a shared priority. The Key Distinguishers framework focuses on four interrelated areas critical to high-quality, integrated work-based learning: high schools, postsecondary programs, employers, and paid work experiences. The first three categories speak to the institutional settings in which integrated work-based learning does—or too often does not—happen, and the last category addresses the work experience itself.

The Key Distintuishers are already adding value: a pilot project leveraging the Key Distinguishers was used by HERE to HERE in the Summer of 2020 to design an RFP for virtual internships, offer guidance to applicants and funders, and support a learning community of the selected providers. You can read about that work in [What's Next: The Promise of Remote Internships in the Future of Work-Based Learning](#).

Here's what some of our partners have said about the Key Distinguishers:

"I'm a fan of models like the Key Distinguishers because you're trying to ensure equity in implementation." - **Julissa Figueroa, Children's Arts and Science Workshop**

"These are great standards. If [organizations] are not geared toward [the Key Distinguishers], they should get that way . . . everything you have here [is what] you need to do a remote program successfully . . . I struggle to come up with a company that would not be able to [meet] these and still do a good program." - **Gabriel Forman, Duro Workforce**



In the coming weeks, we'll bring together stakeholders from across the field of work-based learning to help introduce the Key Distinguishers to the field. Through wider adoption of the Key Distinguishers, we aim to deepen our shared language, expectations, and methods of support for stakeholders invested in the future generation of young people!

For more information on the Key Distinguishers, contact [Apurva Mehrotra](#), Director of Research and Analytics at HERE to HERE.

2021 Kick-off Day 5: There's More to Come!

Wrapping Up Our 2021 Kick-off

Good afternoon, and TGIFWGN (Thank Goodness it's Friday With Good News)! Today we're wrapping up our 2021 Kick-off with a few more updates from our team, and a review of the news we shared earlier this week. Thank you for joining us this week, and every week, as we continue to reflect, learn, and move toward our shared goal of successfully launching young people into rewarding careers. Together, and with intention, we're moving closer to our vision of a thriving, inclusive economy, in The Bronx and NYC. We're honored to stand with you.

In partnership,



More updates from HERE to HERE and our partners:

Big Staff News



[Abja Midha joins VOLS as new Executive Director](#)—On February 1st, Abja will begin her new role as VOLS' Executive Director. We are so grateful for the time Abja spent at HERE to HERE and with our school partners. Abja has been an invaluable leader, mentor, and friend, and we can't wait to see all she achieves in her new role! [Joshua Poyer](#) and [Brandon Slaughter](#) will support the Work-Based Learning Labs team as they work to elevate student career



success as the shared priority of stakeholders, and make best practice common practice with our schools and CBO partners.



[Lucy Friedman](#) joins HERE to HERE as a Strategic Advisor—Lucy joins HERE to HERE with over 40 years of nonprofit expertise and leadership, as the founding Executive Director and President of two catalytic New York City institutions, Safe Horizon and ExpandEd Schools; and a Visiting Fellow at The Pinkerton Foundation. Lucy’s experience and deep knowledge of the K-12 system, CBOs, and policy is an incredible contribution to our work of ensuring student career success.



[Brandon Slaughter](#), HERE to HERE's Director of 9-16 Education Partnerships, named one of [Council for Urban Professional's 2021 Fellows](#). The Fellows Program offers professionals of color who exhibit an outspoken commitment to their communities a dynamic, one-year leadership development experience. During his Fellowship, Brandon and his peers will focus on the challenges and opportunities in the civic sectors, and help to drive meaningful change through board service, political engagement, volunteerism, public-private partnerships, and social entrepreneurship. We are so proud of Brandon and look forward to learning from and alongside him.



[Sherrisse Lewis](#), HERE to HERE’s Operations Manager, has been part of the team for three years, and continues to bring new approaches and skills to our work. With recent certification in Event Leadership Institute Program for Virtual Meeting & Events, HERE to HERE will expand our capacity to convene stakeholders and spotlight the work of our partners through virtual events including the High School Learning Community, Key Distinguishers Working Groups, and the upcoming Youth Action Day.



[Ally Margolis](#) joins HERE to HERE as Project Director, Key Distinguishers in February! Ally will provide key support for a range of initiatives, with a focus on two areas of work that are critical to our organization: the Key Distinguishers of Work-Based Learning (KDs); and direct advocacy efforts to generate support for expanded and enhanced work-based learning and career pathways in New York City’s public high schools, CUNY’s postsecondary programs, and employers. Welcome, Ally!

HERE to HERE is hiring! We’re looking for an experienced Communications professional for a new position: Director, External Affairs. [More information on our job portal.](#)



Learning from the Swiss: CUNY and CEMETS Update

[Last year](#), HERE to HERE gathered City University of New York (CUNY) staff, representatives from Community-Based Organizations, employers, and public officials to participate in the 2020 Swiss [Center on the Economics and Management of Education and Training Systems](#) (CEMETS). Together and with guidance from CEMETS researchers, we're learning how the Swiss dual system of education—a model that credentials learning where it happens, both in the classroom and on the job—can be mapped to an NYC context with CUNY positioned as a leading credentialing institution. Since coming together in the fall, we've been working alongside our CEMETS partners and listening to students to determine how we can transform credit for learning at work into a foundational element of every young person's pathway. CEMETS team members have led some promising examples of accreditation, and in the coming months we'll learn more about the guidelines, partnerships, and infrastructure key to expanding credit for learning at work.

Contact [Abby Jo Sigal](#) or [Apurva Mehrotra](#) for more information on our CEMETS team work.

Deepening our Student Ambassador Work:

HERE to HERE aims to develop strategies to support increased physical and intellectual space for students to contribute to, inform, co-design, and advocate for a reimagined youth talent development system. One of the ways we do this is through the work of our [Student Ambassadors](#), a youth collective representing schools in the HERE to HERE high school network and committed to expanding and enhancing work-based learning opportunities. In late fall, we launched our second year of the Student Ambassador Fellowship and welcomed 24 students from across our high school network. We are extremely lucky to work everyday alongside the greatest youth champions we know—students. We look forward to another year of student-led work, including our upcoming [Bronx Youth Action Showcase](#). Contact [Joshua Poyer](#) for more information on our Student Ambassadors' work.





Imblaze 2.0:

[ImBlaze](#), an opportunity platform for high schools and the young people they serve, is a best practice tool to aid school administrators and faculty in documenting youth opportunities, sharing openings with students, and supporting students throughout the work experiences they embark on. This fall, HERE to HERE and our founding partner [Big Picture Learning](#) brought together educators and school administrators representing the fifteen high schools in our [network](#) to reimagine what a [training for ImBlaze 2.0](#) could look like in their schools.

Are you a school, district, community college, or youth/workforce development program already using ImBlaze? [Check out Big Picture Learning's latest blog post for grounding goal-setting tips and recommendations.](#) If you're not yet using ImBlaze and want to learn more, you can schedule an introductory demo on the [ImBlaze website](#).

Emerging Leaders Program



The Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) is a collaborative initiative by the Laboratory School of Finance & Technology and JPMorgan Asset Management. Led by [John Garibaldi](#), the program combines career readiness curriculum, work exposure, mentorship, and internship to help LAB school and Comp Sci High students boost their financial literacy, gain financial knowledge and skills, and activate their

learnings through the development of business proposals that solve real-world challenges. John recently joined us as a HERE to HERE Fellow and we are so excited to lend our support to John and ELP, both as a thought partner and a resource for work-based learning best practice. In January, ELP students presented proposals to a panel of business executives and investors for a new terminal at JFK airport that could help jumpstart NYC's recovering economy by bolstering revenue and creating jobs. The winning concept and team will be awarded \$3,000, and a total of \$10,00 will be awarded to various teams! Stay tuned for the forthcoming announcement.

Thank you Eric Lincoln, Assistant Principal at the Lab School, John Campos, Director of Partnerships at Comp Sci High, and The NYState Teachers' Retirement System—your support and partnership have been critical to the success of this program!



In Case You Missed It:

Upcoming HERE to HERE Events

- [Teens Take Charge Launches Project 14 24](#) — Watch the recorded session from January 26th [here](#).
- [Panel: A Closer Look at the Community College Business Model](#) (Feb 3)—Join Christopher Shults and other notable panelists including Julia Freeland Fisher, Cherise Jones, Zamaris Molina, and Apurva Mehrotra to discuss the book and its implications for talent development here in New York.
- [Bronx Youth Action Showcase](#) (Feb 11) — A youth-centered, student-led event to amplify the Bronx-based organizations that provide young people with meaningful, work-based learning experiences.

The Story of #SaveSYEP: [Our new student-led report](#) from HERE to HERE and [Teens Take Charge](#), which documents how youth advocates rescued SYEP from the fiscal chopping block. Check out the [Gates Foundation's Equitable Pathways newsletter](#), [Wayfinders](#), which features our report.

Launching [The Bronx Recovery Corps](#) at Lehman College: A Peace Corps-inspired initiative to prepare CUNY students for the careers that are essential to NYC's recovery and the future health of our city's economy. Thank you to the Lehman and CUNY teams, and the students, faculty, employers, and funders who all worked tirelessly to make the launch of this initiative possible!

What's Next for the [Key Distinguishers](#)?: In the coming weeks, as a part of our work to roll out the Key Distinguishers to the field, we'll be gathering stakeholders to further test, develop, and champion the Key Distinguishers. Through wider adoption of the Key Distinguishers, we aim to deepen our shared language, expectations, and methods of support for stakeholders invested in the future generation of young people. Read our brief, [What's Next: The Promise of Remote Internships in the Future of Work-Based Learning](#), to learn how the Key Distinguishers are already adding value to work experiences for young people.

The Good News Doesn't Stop Here!

We invite you to continue sharing your own good news with your network, using the hashtag #2021Kickoff and tagging [@heretoherebx](#) on Twitter, and [@HERE to HERE](#) on LinkedIn. Have an idea or good news share related to braided work and learning opportunities that put young people on the path to a family-sustaining career? [Let us know!](#)