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Single Stop USA, Inc. Makes a Stop at Hostos

Wednesday, March 21, 2012 (Bronx, NY) – Single Stop USA, Inc. Board members visited the Single Stop site at Hostos Community College on March 6th to see the program in action. The visit, which took part in conjunction with the Board’s meeting on-campus, provided the attendees with a firsthand look at the Hostos Single Stop operations, which have been recognized for its excellence.

Hostos Vice President of Student Development and Enrollment Management (SDEM) Nathaniel Cruz led the tour of the Single Stop facilities. Board members spoke directly with students receiving tax preparation services and heard how the site has assisted them with other various needs.

Among the Single Stop Board members that participated in the visit were: Geoffrey Canada, President & CEO of the Harlem Children’s Zone; John Kennedy, Partner at Dewey & LeBoeuf; Matthew Klein, Executive Director of the Blue Ridge Foundation of New York; Perri Peltz, distinguished television news journalist, public health advocate, and former anchor and reporter for WNBC-TV; Daniel Simkowitz, Managing Director at Morgan Stanley; Michael Weinstein, Director of Programs at the Robin Hood Foundation; and, Elisabeth Mason, CEO at Single Stop USA, Inc.

Following the tour, the Board members met with Hostos Community College President Félix Matos Rodríguez to discuss the College’s Single Stop operations and how it has helped their students. As part of the meeting, the members also had the opportunity to speak with two students, Fannie Gutiérrez from Hostos and Ty Leveridge from BMCC, who benefitted directly from the services provided by Single Stop.

“One of the main benefits of having a Single Stop program at a community college is that it serves as an extremely effective mechanism to connect students and their families to needed public benefits. Thanks to these benefits students can concentrate on their studies, make progress and stay on track to graduate,” said President Matos Rodríguez.

About Hostos Community College Single Stop

Single Stop connects students at Hostos with a variety of public benefits such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, health insurance, free legal and financial counseling, and tax preparation. In as little as 15 to 20 minutes students can receive a free and confidential screening for up to 44 public benefits. Single Stop has also assisted students with housing, childcare, transportation, and tuition needs, amongst other things. The staff at Single Stop is prepared to help students identify how to best handle each individual situation.

Like many community college students, the students at Hostos are not “typical college students” – many are immigrants, single parents, blue collar workers and/or the first in their family to attend college. At Hostos, 76% of students speak a language other than English at home; 72% make less than \$30,000 in household income annually; and 73% receive financial aid.

About Hostos Community College

Eugenio María de Hostos Community College, part of The City University of New York system, was founded in 1968. In addition to associate degree programs that facilitate easy transfer to CUNY’s four-year colleges or baccalaureate studies at other institutions, Hostos also has an award-winning Division of Continuing Education and Professional Studies that offers courses for professional development and certificate-bearing workforce training programs. In four decades, Hostos has grown from a class of 623 in the fall of 1970 to the spring 2012 enrollment of over 7,000 students. The college also serves an additional 10,000 students through its Division of Continuing Education and Professional Studies. For more news and stories about Hostos Community College, visit www.hostos.cuny.edu.

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