

Human Capital and Higher Education:

Historical Lessons from the City University of New York (CUNY)

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City University of New York (2009)

- 22 campuses and 500,000+ degree and non-degree students



Two-Year Colleges: Manhattan, Bronx, Horos, Kingsborough, LaGuardia, Queensborough

Four-Year Colleges: Baruch College, Brooklyn College, City College, Hunter College, Lehman College, Medgar Evers College, Queens College, York College, College of Staten Island

Graduate and Professional Schools:

CUNY Law School
CUNY Graduate Center
CUNY Graduate School of Journalism
CUNY School of Professional Studies
CUNY Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education

* John Jay College of Criminal Justice
* Macaulay Honors College

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■ Three Eras

- First Era: 1880 – 1950
- Second Era: 1950 - 1980
- Third Era: 1980 - present

The Founder

- Townsend Harris (1808-1878)



“Let the children of the rich and the poor take their seats together . . .”

Portrait commissioned by faculty of the Free Academy, 1855.

Free Academy (1847)

- Original building at 23rd Street and Lexington Avenue



Townsend Harris in Asia, 1847-67

Depiction of Harris and his interpreter, c. 1855



Harris carried in a procession of Western representatives, Tokyo, c. 1855.

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■ Three Eras

- **First Era: 1880 – 1950**
 - Jewish immigrants
- **Second Era: 1950 - 1975**
- **Third Era: 1975 - present**

City College of New York (1906)

- Neo-Gothic Campus at 137th Street (Harlem)



The “New York Intellectuals”



Daniel Bell,
City College, 1935- 1939

Irving Howe,
City College, 1936-1940

Jewish Students in the 1930s



Irving Kristol,
City College, 1936- 1940

Nathan Glazer,
City College, 1940-1944

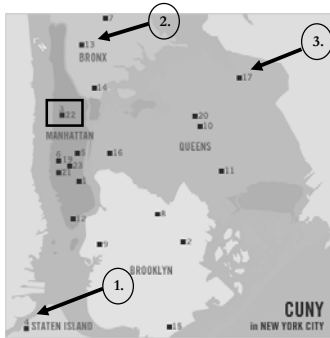


Human Capital and Higher Education: Historical Lessons from the City University of New York (CUNY)

■ Three Eras

- **First Era: 1880 – 1950**
 - Jewish immigrants
- **Second Era: 1950 – 1980**
 - Black and Spanish-speaking immigrants
- **Third Era: 1980 - present**

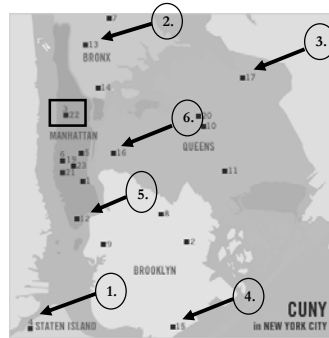
CUNY Community Colleges, 1950s



□ * City College
(Harlem campus)

1. **Staten Island**
Community College, 1955
(#4)
2. **Bronx**
Community College, 1957
(#13)
3. **Queensborough**
Community College, 1958
(#17)

CUNY Community Colleges, 1960s



□ * City College
(Harlem campus)

1. **Staten Island**
Community College, 1955
2. **Bronx**
Community College, 1957
3. **Queensborough**
Community College, 1958
4. **Kingsborough**
Community College, 1963
(#15)
5. **Manhattan**
Community College, 1963
(#12)
6. **LaGuardia**
Community College, 1968
(#16)

Newark (New Jersey) Race Riot, 1967



Newark (New Jersey) Race Riot, 1967

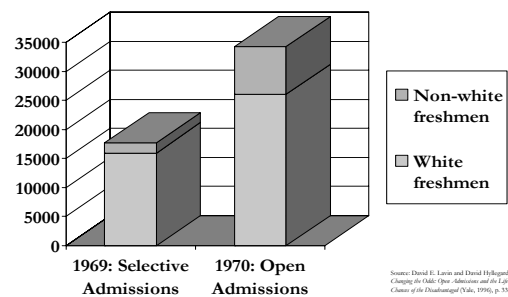


Clark Kerr
(photo: 1964)

CUNY Student Protests, 1969-70



CUNY Freshman Enrollment, 1969-1970



Source: David E. Levin and David Hyland, *Changing the Odds: Open Admissions and the City University of New York* (New York, 1976), p. 35.

Anti-tuition protests, 1970s . . .

- * 1973-75: Economic recession/ city budget crisis
- * 1976: Tuition imposed for the first time
- * 1977: Freshman enrollment at CUNY dropped 30%
 - 36,606 freshmen in 1976
 - ↓
 - 25,741 freshmen in 1977

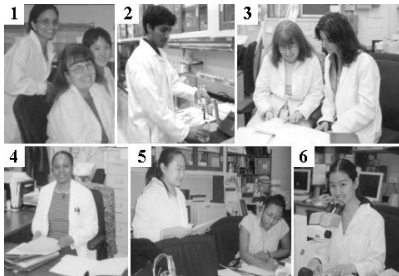


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■ Three Eras

- First Era: 1880 – 1950
 - Jewish immigrants
- Second Era: 1950 – 1980
 - Black and Spanish-speaking immigrants
- Third Era: 1980 – present
 - Academically talented immigrants

Strengthening Advanced Programs



CCNY Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education,
established 1976

CUNY Macaulay Honors College (2005)



Some of the Macaulay Honors College
students and staff, 2009

Thank you!

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