



The Colin L. Powell Center for Leadership and Public Service at The City College of New York: Building a Bright Future

Named for one of the most eminent military leaders and statesmen of our time, the Colin L. Powell Center for Leadership and Public Service at The City College of New York (CCNY) is preparing a new generation of leaders from populations previously underrepresented in public service and policy circles. Since its founding in 1997, the Center has provided scholarships and leadership development programs for a diverse group of students, along with service-learning and research opportunities that have bolstered civic activity in the surrounding communities and influenced policy discourse at the local and national levels.

General Powell himself grew up the son of immigrant parents in the South Bronx and was a 1958 graduate of CCNY. As the Center has expanded to benefit the many CCNY students who started out much like General Powell, and as its programs widen their reach and influence, the Center has outgrown its current quarters in a building annex on CCNY's historic Harlem campus.

To fulfill its vision for the future, the Center, together with CCNY and their partners at the city and state level, have proposed a \$85 million fundraising campaign to build the Colin L. Powell Center for Leadership and Public Service, a 14,000 square foot conference center in the heart of campus.

At the request of CCNY and General Powell, Graham-Pelton began a series of strategic conversations with key stakeholders, advisory council members and other business leaders as part of a planning exercise to establish a plan for the proposed fundraising campaign. The building, which is being designed by Ennead Architects, a New York City-based firm that also designed the William J. Clinton Presidential Library, is expected to be "shovel-ready" in 2013.

It is our honor and pleasure to assist in the planning and implementation of this monumental campaign – one that will serve the students of CCNY and also influence local, state and national governance for generations to come.