



THE NEW YORK HOTEL TRADES COUNCIL
TRAINING & SCHOLARSHIP FUND
THE HOTEL ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.

**HOTEL and GAMING TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO &
HOTEL ASSOCIATION of N.Y.C., Inc.
AND
LOCAL 6 CLUB EMPLOYEES
AND
DIVISION A HOTELS**

**2025
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DONATIONS

The Hotel & Gaming Trades Council and Hotel Association of NYC, Inc. Scholarship Program is once again honored and grateful to receive a generous donation from Mr. Mario Gabelli and Ms. Elisa Gabelli Wilson, President of the Gabelli Foundation, Inc.

Mr. Gabelli's father, Joseph Gabelli, was a longtime Local 6 member who worked as a sous chef in a number of shops, including the historic Hotel Astor and Savoy Plaza Hotel, as well as the University Club and Luchow's. The Gabelli family's kindness has once again made additional scholarships available this year.

We sincerely thank Mr. Mario Gabelli, Ms. Elisa Gabelli Wilson and the Gabelli Foundation for its generous contribution to our scholarship program.

A scholarship has once again been donated this year by John Turchiano, a retired member of the union's staff, in recognition of the hard work of the students and their parents and as an expression of sincere appreciation to Mario Gabelli, Elisa Gabelli Wilson, and the Gabelli Foundation for their strong support of the Scholarship Fund.

**The Hotel and Gaming Trades Council & Hotel Association of NYC,
Inc. ITP & Scholarship Fund is grateful to the following employers
for its generous donations to help defray the cost of this event:**

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AMASHI ARACHCHI	CROWNE PLAZA – TIMES SQUARE
VALERIE BUILES	SHERATON NY TIMES SQUARE HOTEL
RYAN CHAIN	W NEW YORK UNION SQUARE
MAGGIE CHEUNG	THE PENINSULA
MOHAMMED CHOWDHURY	THOMPSON CENTRAL PARK HOTEL
OCEAN DEGRAAF	RESORTS WORLD CASINO NYC
ABRAHAM HERNANDEZ	CROWNE PLAZA – TIMES SQUARE
ARIANA HERNANDEZ	SHERATON NY TIMES SQUARE HOTEL
OLIVIA LANGTON	THE DOMINICK HOTEL & CONRAD NY
MINYINTA LEMANE	INTERCONTINENTAL BARCLAY NY
ALICE LEUNG	DREAM DOWNTOWN, BY HYATT
CELISE LIN	THE BEEKMAN HOTEL
SIMON LIU	POD TIMES SQUARE
STEPHANIE LIU	PARK LANE HOTEL
DAMIAN MAZEWSKI	W. NEW YORK UNION SQUARE
TAMAR MCPHERSON	HASBROUCK HEIGHTS HILTON
NAHOM MENGISTU	WATSON HOTEL & HARVARD CLUB
LUBINA NEUPANE	THE PLAZA HOTEL
ASHLEY PADILLA	HYATT REGENCY MORRISTOWN
JOSHUA RIVERA	JAMES NOMAD
JETT ROSADO-TRAN	ST. REGIS HOTEL
AISHA SAID	THE LUXURY COLLECTION HOTEL
ANIYA SHAH	THE PLAZA HOTEL
MARCO SPANEDDA	THE FOUR SEASONS NY DOWNTOWN
MARISSA TALUSHLLARI	THE MANHATTAN CLUB
TENZIN TENPHEL	LOEWS REGENCY
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ALFRED WONG	THE PIERRE HOTEL
FANNY WU	THOMPSON CENTRAL PARK HOTEL
ANGELA YAN	PUBLIC HOTEL
RYAN YANG	THE WESTIN NY AT TIMES SQUARE
JIAYI YU	THE DOMINICK HOTEL
SARAH ZEKRAIKHANFRI	ST. REGIS HOTEL
WEN ZHANG	THE BOWERY
OLIVIA ZHOU	YOTEL NEW YORK

FRANK E. SARIS CLUB AWARD WINNER

ASHRAF ASIM METROPOLITAN CLUB

DIVISION A SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

DANNY LI ARTHOUSE HOTEL
ABRIL TREJO ROCHA ARTHOUSE HOTEL

2025 VITO J. PITTA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

AMASHI ARACHCHI – Crowne Plaza Times Square

At Bethpage High School, Amashi is a member of the National Honor Society, the Science Honor Society, the Math Honor Society, a member of the Robotics Club and is Treasurer of the Mock Trial Club. Her outside activities include working as a summer Camp Counselor, instructing STEM Workshops, working in her family's business and interned in the Teaching Hospital at Ratnapura. Amashi is the overall winner of the 2023 and 2024 Annual HTC Writing Contest. She will attend Stony Brook University and major in Chemical Engineering.

VALERIE BUILES – Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel

Valerie attends Island Trees High School and is the Secretary of the National Honor Society, Co-President of the Brave Club, member of the Key Club, member of the Environmental Club, member of the Spanish Club, member of the Science Research Club, participated in the Science Olympiad and was a member of the Badminton Team. Her outside activities include working at the Scope Summer Program/Camp, volunteering at her Church's soup kitchen, tutoring students in biology and participating in Brown University's online Summer Program. Valerie will be attending the University of Miami majoring in Neuroscience.

RYAN CHAIN – W New York Union Square

Ryan attends the Bronx High School of Science and is the House Manager of the member of SING Program in charge of design and merchandising. His volunteer service includes working at the National Humanitarian Fundraising for Myanmar (NHFMM), working as an Assistant to a community Physician where he organizes and tracks electronic medical records/patient charts, updating databases and provides overall support to the office. Ryan's outside interests include community planning, playing basketball at the YMCA, an appreciation and love for music, streaming content online and playing video games. He will be attending New York University majoring in Civil Engineering.

MAGGIE CHEUNG – The Peninsula

At Brooklyn Technical High School, Maggie is a member of the National Honor Society and the Secretary and former Treasurer of the Executive Club. Her outside activities include volunteering at the New York Hall of Science instructing on STEM topics, is a Mentor in the ACE Mentor Program fostering professional skills, volunteers virtually at the Southern Connecticut Chinese School teaching reading and writing, tutors English and Mathematics for elementary school age children. Maggie is also a NYSSMA Level 4 Pianist and enjoys journaling. She will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology (RTI) and will major in Civil Engineering.

MOHAMMED CHOWDHURY – Thompson Central Park Hotel

Mohammed attends the Trinity School and is a member of the Model Congress, President of the Urban Explorers Club, President of the Ping Pong Club, President of the Pickle Ball Club, member of the Varsity Soccer and Wrestling Teams, participant in the Science Olympiad and a member of the Green Team. His other activities include service as a volunteer at the West Side Campaign Against Hunger, is a participant of the Science Research Mentoring Program, completed research at the Columbia Engineering Research Program (SHAPE), worked at Goddard Early Childhood Community Services and is an Advanced Bouldering enthusiast. Mohammed will attend Bowdoin and major in Computer Science.

OCEAN DEGRAAF – Resorts World Casino NYC

Ocean attends Poly Prep and is Co-Founder of the Race Within Film Club, Co-Leader of the Mixed-Race Affinity Group, Community Service Helper in the Service-Learning Team, member of the Basketball Team and an Actor within all the school's performances. His other activities include participating as a Cybersecurity student in the NYU/Poly Prep Computer Science Program, participating in the Actors Technique NY Acting Intensive and has worked as a Business Development Intern at TrustD Solutions. Ocean will attend New York University and major in Political Science.

ABRAHAM HERNANDEZ – Crowne Plaza Times Square

Abraham attends Collegiate School and is Editor in Chief of its history publication, *1628*, Vice President of the Law Club, performs in the Upper School Chorus, is a Peer Leader mentoring underclassman, is a member of the Varsity Soccer Team, a Founding member of the Volleyball Team and a member of the Science Olympiad. His outside activities include interning at a Community Development Corporation, being awarded the LISC AmeriCorp's Cashin Fellowship and working as a Workforce Development and Media Specialist at Program and volunteers at a Group Family Daycare organization. His interests include history, law, politics, government, sports and fitness. Abraham will attend Williams College majoring in Economics.

ARIANA HERNANDEZ – Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel

Ariana attends Immaculate Heart Academy and is a member of the National Honor Society, a member of the World Language Honor Society, a Peer Mentor, a member of the Baking Club and a member of the Varsity Softball Team. Ariana's other activities include volunteering at Hackensack Meridian Hospital, volunteering with Camp Acorns helping differently abled community members live enriched and purposeful lives, providing training lessons for young softball players and enjoys poetry, music and books and participates in weightlifting and fitness training. She will attend the University of Hartford majoring in Psychology.

OLIVIA LANGTON – The Dominick Hotel & Conrad NY Downtown

At Montclair High School, Olivia is the Founder and President of the Fiber Arts Club, Founder and President of the American Sign Language Club, a Varsity member of the Rowing Team and a member of the school's Tech Crew. She volunteers as a Camp Counselor, is a Small Business Owner and Social Media Influencer focusing on the Fiber Arts and has attended the Rutgers University Pre-College Screenwriting Program and the Montclair State University Pre-College Film Academy. Olivia will attend Tufts University majoring in Film and Media.

MINYINTA LEMANE – InterContinental Barclay New York

Minyinta attends Bronx Preparatory High School where she is the Secretary of the Korean Honor Society, Founder and Treasurer of the Muslim Students Association, Class Representative in Student Government/Council, a member of the Chess Club, a member of the Coding Club, Co-Captain of the Soccer Team and member of the Softball Team. Her outside activities include interning at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, volunteering as a Counselor at a Youth Employment Program, participating in community park clean-ups and being a member of the Girls Who Code organization. Minyinta will attend Bentley University and major in Economics.

ALICE LEUNG – Dream Downtown, by Hyatt

Alice attends the Bronx High School of Science and is a member of the National Honor Society, Founder and President of the 3D Modeling Club, Programming Department Committee member of the AtomHacks Hackathon and Chief of Operations for the Academic Math Journal. Along with her activities at school, she has interned at the Floating Hospital as the Finance and Community Outreach member, volunteers as a Research Assistant with the St. Bonaventure University Chair of Chemistry, volunteered at the Queens Library and is currently a Scholarship Participant at Columbia University's Science Honors Program. Alice will attend Princeton University majoring in Electrical Engineering.

CELISE LIN – The Beekman

At Stuyvesant High School, Celise is the Co-Founder and President of the Taiwanese Club, Secretary General of Administration for the Model United Nations and is the Co-Leader and Teacher for the Cope With Crochet Club. She interns as a Youth Insights Leader at the Whitney Museum of American Arts, is the Assistant Concertmaster and First Vice Student Body President for the CYCNY Youth Orchestra within the violin section and works as a Graphic Designer within the textile and merchandising field. Celise will be attending Georgetown University majoring in Business.

SIMON LIU – POD Times Square

Simon attends Brooklyn Technical High School and is a member of the Chess Club, a member of the Wellness Club and organizes and leads workshops emphasizing mental and physical well-being. His other activities include working as a Campaign Intern for a candidate running for Congress, volunteered as a Community Engagement Leader and a Field Volunteer for two New York State Assembly candidates, volunteered at the Friends of MacDonald Park and worked at JAPAN Fes assisting in logistics. Simon's hobbies include competitive badminton, reading nonfiction, soccer, long-distance running and chess. He will be attending Case Western Reserve University majoring in Political Science.

STEPHANIE LIU – Park Lane Hotel

Stephanie attends Staten Island Technical High School and is a member of the National Honor Society, a Chemistry Teacher's Assistant and Demonstration Leader and the Co-President of the Protecting Animals Welfare Club. She volunteers assisting healthcare professionals at Maimonides Medical Center, works at the New York Public Library, Tutors various subjects to students in need of academic assistance, worked at the Health Professions Recruitment and Exposure Program (HIPREP) and performs in a Chamber Orchestra participating in an ensemble and plays both the Violin and Piano. Stephanie will be attending Hunter College's Macaulay Honors Program majoring in Biochemistry.

DAMIAN MAZEWSKI – W New York Union Square

Damian attends Roselle Park High School and is a member of the National Honor Society, Founder of the Roselle Park Book Club, Founder and Fundraising Coordinator of the Honor Society Mentorship Program, is a member of the STEM and Robotic Club, is a member of the Garden Club and is a member of the Soccer Team. His outside activities include interning for the Roselle Park School District as a Tech Assistant, being involved in his church as an Alter Server, participating in the Polish Cub Scouts and volunteering and working on his community's Arts Festivals. He will be attending Kean University and majoring in Data Analytics.

TAMAR MCPHERSON – Hasbrouck Heights Hilton

At Sussex County Technical School, Tamar is a member of the National Honor Society, member of the Spanish National Honor Society, President of the Key Club, member of the Varsity Soccer Team, Peer Mentor for middle school students and a member of the Varsity Track Team. Tamar's other activities include working as a Math Tutor, being a Referee and Coach in a recreational soccer league, working as a Cashier in a local store and she has also served as a Youth Employment Trainee with the Sussex County Community College. She will major in Mechanical Engineering at Bucknell University.

NAHOM MENGISTU – Watson Hotel & Harvard Club

At the Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics, Nahom is the Founder and Lead Mentor of the Tutoring Program, volunteers to Teach beginner level Coding to his classmates and is involved in the Math and Science Clubs. His outside activities include working as a Research Intern at the American Museum of Natural History, volunteering at his local church, creating applications as an App Designer in the Personal/Congressional App Challenge, volunteering as the Lead Educator/Social Worker under the NYC Department of Education and worked as an Engineering Apprentice under the Harlem Launch Alliance. Nahom will attend Cornell University and major in Computer Science.

LUBINA NEUPANE – The Plaza Hotel

Lubina attends Stuyvesant High School and is a member of the school's Board of Election, serves as a member of the Tech Crew within its Theatre Community, is a member of the Big Sib organization and is a player and manager of the Varsity Volleyball Team. Her other activities include working as a Youth Leader in the Nepali-speaking community, is a Tutor at the Scholar Studio teaching Math, has interned at a Law Firm and is an Instructor teaching English language courses. Lubina will attend Cornell University and major in Political Science.

ASHLEY PADILLA – Hyatt Regency Morristown

At Morristown High School, Ashley is a member of the National Honor Society, a member of the French Honor Society, President of the Key Club, a member of the French Club, is a Peer Group Connections (PGC) Leader, a member of the Health professions Club, is a mentor in the Big Brother-Big Sister organization, participates in the Latinos United in North America (LUNA) Club, is a four-year member of the Varsity Volleyball Team and a member for the Track & Field Team. Ashley will attend the American University and major in Business.

JOSHUA RIVERA – James NoMad

At Briarcliff High School, Joshua is a member of the National Honor Society, the Treasurer of the school's Ensemble Chorus, the Founder and Manager of the Volleyball Club and is a member of the Varsity Cross Country and Track & Field Team. He also works as the Assistant Manager of a local food establishment, provides private tutoring on various subjects, is the Co-Founder of a local moving company business and serves as a Sempai supporting the Sensei at his Karate school. His outside interests include running, reading and cooking. Joshua will attend North Carolina State University and major in Construction Engineering.

JETT ROSADO-TRAN – St. Regis Hotel

Jett attends NYC Lab School for Collaborative Studies and is the Secretary-General of the Model United Nations, is a member of the Basketball Team and a member of the Cross Country Team. He was a Research Intern at the CCNY Stem Institute of Research, volunteered as a Child Supervisor at the Midtown West Elementary School, was the 2024 Congressional App Challenge winner for designing an application of exceptional functionality and lead a Research Project that was showcased at the American Museum of Natural History. Jett will attend Northeastern University majoring in Computer Science.

AISHA SAID – The Luxury Collection Hotel

At the High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering, Aisha serves as a Student Equity Ambassador, leads efforts to improve the school's social justice climate and inclusivity and is the Captain of the Cheerleading Team. She is currently an Intern at the ICAHN School of Medicine's Center for Excellence in Youth Education programs in the field of biotechnology, has volunteered as a Teacher's Assistant for the East Harlem Tutorial Program and has interned as a teen volunteer at DOROT, working and connecting with elderly members of the community. Aisha will attend Case Western Reserve University majoring in Nursing.

ANIYA SHAH – The Plaza Hotel

Aniya attends Fort Hamilton High School and is a member of the National Honor Society, member of the Senior Council, President of the Board Games Club, Vice President of the Make a Difference Club, member of the Drama Publicity Crew, Manager of the Jewelry Club and member of the Varsity Handball Team. She interned at the NYPD Midtown South Police Precinct accompanying officers on operation, interned at the Women's Empowerment Coalition of NYC and exhibited her artwork at the local Public Library. Aniya will attend Hunter College majoring in Biology.

MARCO SPANEDDA – The Four Seasons New York Downtown

At Brooklyn Technical School, Marco is Co-Founder and Treasurer of the Neurodiversity Club, a member of the Jewish Student Union, a member of the Model United Nations and a member of the Varsity Soccer Team. His outside activities include working as a Counselor-in-Training at a Boy's summer camp, volunteering as a Community Service Collaborator, being the Captain of multiple Club Soccer Teams in the community and working weekly as a Child Care Coordinator for three different families. Marco will attend the University of California, Santa Barbara majoring in Economics.

MARISSA TALUSHLLARI – The Manhattan Club

Marissa attends The Bronx High School of Science and is a Copy Chief and Editor of the school's newspaper - The Science Survey, is a member of the Girls Who Code Club and volunteer for many school activities. Her other activities include working as a Teaching Assistant at a learning institute, is a self-employed Tutor for middle school children for SHSAT preparation and volunteering as a Tutor for reading and writing subjects at an educational organization. Marissa's interests include reading, cooking, baking and writing. She will attend Fordham majoring in English.

TENZIN TENPHEL – Loews Regency Hotel

At Forest Hills High School, Tenzin is a member of the National Honor Society, Co-President of the Society of Engineering Club, a member of the Robotics Club and Captain of the Track and Field Team specializing in the Sprinting and Pole Vault groups. His outside activities include interning as an Explainer at the NY Hall of Science, lifeguarding at a community pool and delivering Public Speaking presentations at Socratic seminars. Tenzin will attend Northeastern University majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

SAMANTHA TICOL – Thompson Central Park Hotel

Samantha attends Sachem High School North and is a member of the National Honor Society, Secretary of the Business and Marketing Honor Society, member of the Foreign Language Honor Society, member of the Math Honor Society, member of the Science Honor Society and Captain of the Varsity Tennis Team. Her other activities include volunteering at the community Public Library, volunteering for the Leos Club and working at her Church reaching out to communities in need. Samantha will attend Binghamton University majoring in Accounting.

ALFRED WONG – The Pierre Hotel

At Brooklyn Technical High School, Alfred is a member of the Aerospace Engineering Club, member of the Math Club and a member of the Asian Diversity Inspired Club. His outside activities and experience include working at the Chinese-American Planning Council, tutoring elementary school children in academics, volunteering at a Food Pantry, participates in a Swim Club, plays the Piano and is a certified Lifeguard. Alfred will attend the University of Virginia majoring in Aerospace Engineering.

FANNY WU – Thompson Central Park Hotel

At Brooklyn Technical High School, Fanny is the Executive of the Finance Club, member of the Girls Who Code, member of the Interact Club, member of the Varsity Handball Team and Manager of the Boys' Soccer Team. Her other activities include being a Marketing Intern at the Summer Design Institute, volunteering at a community Pharmacy, interning at the Bella Abzug Leadership Institute working at an Optical Boutique and volunteering as a Design Marketing Intern at the Cultured Kids Cuisine. Fanny will attend Binghamton University majoring in Accounting.

ANGELA YAN – Public Hotel

At New Dorp High School, Angela is a member of the National Honor Society, Co-President of the Algebra Club, Content Media Manager of the Pre-Drivers Club, member of the Asian Culture Club and a member of the Girls Who Code Club. Her other activities include working as a Data Analyst Aide, volunteering as a Teaching Assistant, interning as a Graphic Designer, working as a Tutor at a local Music Center and participating in the SEM Program at Columbia University's Comprehensive Cancer Center. Angela will attend Stony Brook University majoring in Biochemistry.

RYAN YANG – The Westin New York at Times Square

At Fort Hamilton High School, Ryan is the Assistant Advisor of the Historical Debate Club, member of the Make a Difference Club, member of the Chess Club and member of the Track and Field Team. His other activities include being an Assistant Instructor teaching elementary school children, serving as an Assistant Counselor for the United East Athletics Association, volunteering at the Chinese-American Planning Council and working as a self-employed childcare Coordinator. Ryan will be attending George Washington University and major in Business.

JIAYI YU – The Dominick Hotel

At Brooklyn Technical High School, Jiayi is a member of the Outreach Club, the Vice-President of the Mahjong Club and a member of the Paw Patrol. Outside of school, she is a volunteer Tutor helping elementary school children, a paid Teacher at the Elite Learning Group, Inc. and is a Student Community Volunteer for the SYEP NYCID Younger Youth Program. Her interests include crocheting/sewing, reading/writing, volleyball, photography and jewelry making. Jiayi will attend Stony Brook University majoring in Biochemistry.

SARAH ZEKRIKHANFRI – St. Regis Hotel

At Cliffside Park High School, Sarah is a member of the Psychology National Honor Society, member of the Science National Honor Society, Captain of the Varsity Soccer Team, member of the Varsity Spring & Indoor Track Team and is a member of the Wonder Girls Society. She is a Camp Counselor for Children with Special Needs, volunteers at the Humanities Academy and is the recipient of the 2025 NJSIAA Scholar Athlete Award and Scholarship. Sarah will attend Rutgers University majoring in Finance.

WEN ZHANG – The Bowery Hotel

At Stuyvesant High School, Wen is a member of the Competitive Coding Club and Captain of the Track and Field Team. Outside of school, he Manages a local food outlet, is a Mentor at the Google Research Program, is a Coordinator at the NYC Teens for 9 million Reasons coordinating food distribution and participates in Columbia's Engineering Summer High School Academic Program for Engineers (SHAPE). Wen will attend Cornell and major in Computer Science.

OLIVIA ZHOU – Yotel New York

At Staples High School, Olivia is a member of the Model United Nations, Captain of the Fencing Team and member of the Culinary Club. Her other activities include interning at the Queens Botanical Garden, volunteering as a Teacher's Assistant tutoring academics and focusing on environmental studies and urban planning. Her hobbies include drawing, arts & crafts and filling sketchbooks. Olivia will attend North Carolina State University majoring in Horticulture Studies.

2025 FRANK E. SARIS
CLUB SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER

ASHRAF ASIM – Metropolitan Club

At Queens High School for Sciences at York College, Ashraf is a member of the ARISTA Honors Roll and a Peer Mentor in math and science over the course of his four years. His outside activities include working as Manager and Head Tutor at a Community Tutoring Center, Organizer of a Geocaching Group, worked as a Graphic Designer, teaches Chess at a Youth Employment Program and is a Food Reviewer writing detailed reviews across NYC. Ashraf will attend Cornell and major in Mathematics.

2025 DIVISION A
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER

DANNY LI – Arthouse Hotel

At the NYC Lab School, Danny is the Founder and Leader of the Mahjong Club. His other activities include being the Lead Game Developer at Roblox, interning as an Athletics Coordinator at Apex for Youth-Athletics, being an Ecommerce Business Owner where he creates and sells digital merchandise, works on Coding Games/Apps and worked at the Summer Youth Employment Program instructing elementary school children. Danny will attend New York University majoring in Computer Science in Engineering.

ABRIL TREJO ROCHA – Arthouse Hotel

At Lynbrook High School, Abril is a member of the National Honor Society, Vice-President and Secretary of the American Sign Language (ALS) Club, writer for the school newspaper the Horizon, member of the Culture Club and a member of the National Society of High School Scholars. Her other activities and interests include volunteering for Community Service mentoring students, writing stories, drawing and singing. Abril will attend Hofstra University majoring in Biology with a specialization in Neuroscience.

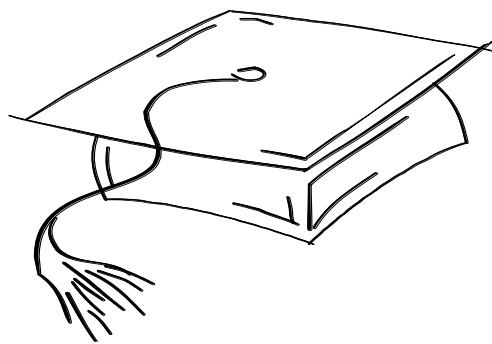
CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE

2025

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

WINNERS!



THE NEW YORK HOTEL TRADES COUNCIL
TRAINING & SCHOLARSHIP FUND
THE HOTEL ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.
