



Steve Weinberg, DDC co-founder, with James Valentini, Dean of Columbia College, Olger Twyner, former DDC Executive Director (right), Bob Lichterman and Bill Heinbach (left)



Yarisell Hernandez, Alumni and Career Counselor, with DDC Alumni, class of 2017

June 10 was Alumni Reunion at DDC!

On June 10, DDC welcomed alumni, friends and former staff to its first in-person Alumni Reunion in over 2 years! They came together to this unique all-class celebration to reminisce, reconnect, and renew their involvement with the Center.

Five decades of DDC classes were represented at the event, which was hosted by Steve Weinberg, DDC's co-founder. This was a magical opportunity to share and celebrate together as a community the accomplishments of the Center and its vision – to create a more equitable society where all students, regardless of income or background, can access the resources they need to achieve their academic dreams and life aspirations.

I was so energized by this DDC Alumni event! says Steve Weinberg. I may have aged a bit since that glorious first DDC summer of '65, but I am so proud that today, over fifty years later, thousands of DDC students have graduated from college and enjoyed a fulfilling career.

At the event, James Valentini, Dean of Columbia College, was presented with the James P. Shenton Award for Excellence. During his acceptance remarks he explained that he understood some of the struggles that DDC students were facing on their journey to college because he had to go through similar challenges himself. *I am a first-generation college goer, he said. I grew up in a coal mining town in Appalachia, with only one school - a Catholic school with no indoor plumbing. It is because of that school that I am here today; the nuns encouraged us through it all, they cared. It is my hope that some day, the Dean of Columbia College will be a former DDC student!*

James Y., DDC '94, Columbia School of Social Work, shared that his time at DDC was one of the best memories of his youth. *If I could do it all over again, I would in a heartbeat! It is essential that the Double Discovery Center not only continues but also expands its mission, he added. I believe it is up to each and every single one of us, DDC alumni, to keep it going. DDC college access program bridges the gap in education and upward mobility and helps produce the talents that our economy needs.*

[Click here to hear Alcides M., DDC '07, and James Y., DDC '94, remember their college journey with DDC!](#)

All Things ALUMNI

We would love to hear from you. **[Click Here to reconnect!](#)**

Want to volunteer? Visit our [Volunteer page](#)

Interested in teaching? Please email our Pedagogical Specialist, Rabiyya Smith at rqs2103@columbia.edu

Opportunities:

Summer Day Camp Counselor at New York Edge:

New York Edge is seeking passionate and enthusiastic people to fill the seasonal role of Summer Day Camp Counselor. Apply [Here](#)

Simulation Coordinator at The Columbia School of Nursing:

The Simulation Coordinator will provide administrative support for the Center, including scheduling rooms and preparing simulation sessions. View job requirements and responsibilities [Here](#)

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AmeriCorps and Reading Partners New York City is a great opportunity to help kids learn to read AND plan your future career goals. Apply to [join our team](#) and see how AmeriCorps can also impact your life! Learn more about [Reading Partners NYC](#) .

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For any other alumni related questions, please email [Yarisell Hernandez](#)

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