



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Union Settlement Association Celebrates 50th Anniversary of its College Readiness Program

*Mayor Bill De Blasio Proclaims
June 7 “Union Settlement College Readiness Day”*

New York City – June 6, 2014 – [Union Settlement Association](#), the oldest and largest social service provider in East Harlem, will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of its College Readiness Program with over 100 alumni, staff, board members, friends and family tomorrow at the New York Academy of Medicine. In honor of this anniversary, New York City [Mayor Bill De Blasio](#) has declared June 7, 2014, to be “Union Settlement College Readiness Day.” This formal municipal recognition honors a half century of dedication to helping young people gain admission to college.

In the proclamation, Mayor De Blasio states: “Since the college readiness program launched in 1964, it has helped more than 20,000 students prepare for and attend college. Many participants are the first in their families to advance beyond high school. Like Union Settlement’s other education, wellness and community-building initiatives, the college readiness program and related Upward Bound program are now woven in to the fabric” of East Harlem. The Mayor’s full proclamation can be [read here](#).

“We couldn’t be more proud of the more than 20,000 young people who have benefited from the program and gone on to college, and whose lives have been transformed,” said [David Nocenti](#), Executive Director of Union Settlement. “This proclamation about the importance of making higher education attainable and affordable for all young New Yorkers comes at an especially opportune moment, since many students make the decision not to return to high school or pursue higher education during the summer break.”

“Our talented staff members help young people pursue higher education,” said Charmaine Messiah, Director of the College Readiness Program. “Like our founders 50 years ago, we know our students can succeed in college and are dedicated to supporting them as they pursue their dreams.”

About Union Settlement Association

Union Settlement Association is an on-the-ground resource for East Harlem residents of all ages, and a passionate advocate for the needs of underserved communities. Since opening our doors in 1895, we have brought education, wellness and community-building programs to our neighborhood, empowering New Yorkers with opportunities to better their lives. By helping our neighbors realize their goals, we build the vitality and success of East Harlem. For more information visit www.unionsettlement.org.

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