

## Tanisha Billy, Bronx Leadership Academy II High School



“Many families in District 7 are facing a complex set of issues that are related to the level of poverty found throughout their neighborhoods, and I am eager to advocate on behalf of youth and families that hail from districts like these. The Single Shepherd program merges my two greatest interests: encouraging youth to do well in school, and helping families become more involved in their children’s academic progress.”

## Gregory Ventura, M.S. 223: The Laboratory School of Finance and Technology



“Before I applied to become a Shepherd, I was interning this past school year at the Laboratory School of Finance and Technology to complete my M.A. in Bilingual School Counseling at NYU. During my internship, I realized the significance of working in areas like NYC’s District 7, where many of the students are bright and possess amazing qualities despite the difficulties they face in their schools and neighborhoods. Single Shepherd enables counselors like me the unique opportunity to help students reach milestones that they may not have thought possible. Given that I grew up in the Bronx, I feel that as a Shepherd, I will be able to relate to the students on a personal level and help them succeed.”

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**Toyin Ajasin, LCSW**  
**Hostos-Lincoln Academy**  
**of Science**



“This new position is attractive because being a Shepherd provides me with more opportunities to play an active role in creating, monitoring, and modifying individualized plans of success in accordance with each student/family’s specific needs.”

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## Corinne Suarez, The Urban Assembly Bronx Academy of Letters



“What attracted me to Single Shepherd is that the program aims to accomplish what we ALL want to accomplish, which is increasing the graduation rate among high school students. I think this initiative is necessary not only in Districts 7 and 23, but in all districts.... I hope that in my first year, I establish great therapeutic relationships with my students so that they can trust me, believe in themselves, and trust the people who care for them.”

## Raquel Soriano, LMSW PS/MS 178 in Brooklyn



“I was attracted to the Single Shepherd Initiative due to its emphasis on supporting children in high need districts. I was also attracted to the Shepherd model, as I will now have students assigned to me for several years at a time. I understand the importance of consistency in a person’s life, especially when you are given the time to really work with someone for a number of years and watch them grow. Being a Shepherd will allow me to build long lasting relationships with the families I work with, as I will be able to invest more time and energy into seeing both the students I work with and their families become empowered and ready to thrive.”

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