
Political Science

HONORS AND AWARDS



Commencement 2022

Political Science

Thursday, May 12, 2022, 5–6:15 pm
Dining Hall, Patio Room

WELCOME

François Pierre-Louis
Professor of Political Science
Chair, Honors and Awards Committee

REMARKS

Frank H. Wu
President

Elizabeth F. Hendrey
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Kate Pechenkina
Dean of Social Sciences

PRESENTATION OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS OF THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AWARD

Presented by Professor Patricia Rachal
Chair, Political Science Department

John Kastanis
Distinguished Alumnus

PRESENTATION OF STUDENT AWARDS

Patricia Rachal, Chair
François Pierre-Louis

PRESENTATION OF THE ZADOIAN HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD AND YALE WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

Professor John Bowman

CLOSING REMARKS

François Pierre-Louis

John N. Kastanis

Your road toward being an agent of change in the healthcare industry began when you earned your bachelor's degree in political science from Queens College in 1972.

In further pursuit of your studies, you went on to earn your Master of Business Administration in Healthcare Administration from Baruch College, and you also completed the Health Executive Development Program from Cornell University.

You began a career in the healthcare field where you have thrived in challenging environments. During your career, you have successfully revitalized six organizations, including bringing two back from the brink of bankruptcy. In each situation, you skillfully balanced the missions of research, teaching, and providing quality care.

For ten years combined you have served as a principal and consultant at JNK Consulting in New Rochelle, an independent healthcare consulting practice. You have leveraged your expertise in hospital management and organizational turnarounds to provide strategic advisory services to diverse healthcare organizations and deliver interim executive leadership at teaching hospitals and health systems. Your expertise has led you to serve as an advisory board member at MedSign International and McGinley Orthopedics. You are on the management team at StoneBridge Healthcare and a liaison for the Greater New York Hospital Association.

Prior to your time as a consultant, you were the president and chief executive officer at University Hospital in Newark, New Jersey from 2016 to 2018 where you oversaw a 519-bed, publicly owned acute care teaching hospital and the only level-1 trauma center in Northern New Jersey. You were hired to deliver a financial turnaround, and you did just that, growing revenue by \$50 million. You did this all while improving patient care. From 2011–2016, you held a similar role as president and CEO of Temple University Hospital where you formulated and executed a financial turnaround strategy that generated a \$2 million gain in 2012 versus a previously projected budgeted loss of \$36 million. You implemented quality and safety improvements and increased patient satisfaction by 16 percent.

Your earlier roles in healthcare included a position as an associate director of Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital; vice president and operating officer at New Rochelle Medical Center; executive director and executive vice president of Sister of Charity Healthcare System and Bayley Seton Hospital; and president and chief executive officer of Mount Sinai-New York University Health System.

You have multiple professional affiliations, including as a fellow for the American College of Healthcare Executives and an advanced member of the Healthcare Financial Management Association. You previously served as a board member for the Greater Newark Healthcare Coalition, the Greater New York Hospital Association, and the New Jersey Hospital Association.

In recognition of all your outstanding accomplishments, it is our great honor to bestow upon you the Queens College Political Science Department's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Dated this twelfth day of May, two thousand twenty-two.

Patricia Rachal, PhD
Chair, Political Science

