

## 2024 LEAD HONOREES

### **Sunita Manjrekar '98GE**

Deputy Commissioner for Public Assistance  
and Employment Services  
Nassau County (NY) Department of Social Services

Ms. Manjrekar earned a master's degree from St. John's University in rehabilitation counseling with a focus on employment and disabilities. She is a certified rehabilitation counselor and earned a master's degree in sociology from the University of Bombay, India.

Ms. Manjrekar currently works as a Director of Employment Programs for the Department of Social Services for Nassau County, NY, with more than 25 years of experience and proven leadership specializing in the field of substance abuse and workforce development. In this capacity, she has developed innovative and creative programs to help the public assistance population achieve self-sufficiency and economic independence.

She is a member of Hofstra University's Professional Advisory Board and is also an Adjunct Professor at Hunter College (CUNY), where she teaches rehabilitation education at the master's level. In addition, she is also an Adjunct Professor at Hofstra University in their Counseling and Mental Health Professions Department.

Ms. Manjrekar is an elected School Board Trustee for the Hicksville, NY, School District, where she cochairs the Curriculum Committee.

### **Br. David Anthony Migliorino, O.S.F. '79GE**

Principal  
St. Anthony's High School  
South Huntington, NY

Brother Migliorino has been a member of the Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn, NY, for the past 50 years. He is currently the Principal of St. Anthony's High School. Prior to that, he was the Principal of Notre Dame Regional High School in Cape Girardeau, MO, for 20 years.

Brother Migliorino is currently on the General Council for the Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn. He earned an undergraduate degree in History and Secondary Education from St. Francis College, a master's degree in Administration from St. John's University, and an Educational Specialist degree from St. Louis University. He holds New York State Certification in History and Administration.

Brother Migliorino has taught at the elementary and secondary school levels for the past 48 years in New York, Connecticut, and Missouri. He has served on various councils of religious for the Dioceses of Bridgeport and Springfield-Cape Girardeau, and the Archdioceses of Washington, DC, and St. Louis.

### **Jorge Santos '10CPS, '12G, '18GE**

Author and Teacher  
Metropolitan Expeditionary Learning School  
Queens, NY

Mr. Santos was born and raised in Queens, NY. He is a special education high school mathematics teacher and teacher leader ambassador at Metropolitan Expeditionary Learning School. His roles have included being a peer collaborative teacher, grade team leader, restorative justice coordinator, and member of the instructional leadership team. His main focus is centering curriculum and pedagogy around equity and restorative justice practices.

As a teacher leader, he's developed schoolwide training to support teachers in equity practices and dismantle structures limiting student opportunities. He leads this work through lab classrooms and supporting colleagues in implementing a practice in their own classrooms.

Mr. Santos published his first children's book, *Soy Bella*, a story celebrating the diversity and culture of Latinos. It's a hope of his to diversify literature for youths. This summer he will publish his second children's book, *Little Dreamer*.

His Instagram @RestoringRacialJustice is a platform where he talks about his work in engaging students of color through equity and restorative justice. He has two master's degrees in Criminology and Special Education from St. John's University, which influences his work around understanding social and economic inequities.

“  
Education is  
not preparation  
for life; education  
is life itself.  
”

—John Dewey,  
Educator



ST. JOHN'S  
UNIVERSITY

THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

13TH ANNUAL

*Leaders in Education  
Awards Dinner*

QUEENS, NY

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024

# PROGRAM

## Master of Ceremonies

Joseph Sciamè '71Ed  
*Vice President (Retired)*  
*Office of Community Relations*  
*St. John's University*

## Welcome

Anna Maria Montuori '68Ed, '70GEd, '82PD  
*Chair*  
*Dean's Advisory Board*

## Invocation

Rev. Aneesh Mathew, C.M. '23Ed.D.  
*Coordinator*  
*Institute for Catholic Schools*

## Dinner

## Presentation of Leaders in Education Awards Dinner (LEAD) Awards

## Dean's Remarks

James D. Wolfinger, Ph.D.  
*Dean*  
*The School of Education*  
*St. John's University*

# 2024 LEAD HONOREES

## Christopher Cuccia '97CBA, '01MBA, '07PD, '09Ed.D.

Associate Provost for Academic and Graduate Affairs  
Seton Hall University

Christopher Cuccia, Ed.D., has more than 25 years of experience and leadership in higher education administration. He is presently the Associate Provost for Academic and Graduate Affairs at Seton Hall University, where he has served for the last 10 years. In this capacity, Dr. Cuccia is responsible for all aspects of graduate education, recruitment, and new academic program development. In addition, he provides strategic leadership and direction to the Office of Institutional Research, and leads or contributes to a variety of other projects and committees within the Division of Academic Affairs.

Prior to this appointment at Seton Hall, Dr. Cuccia had the privilege of working for more than 16 years at his alma mater, St. John's University, in a variety of capacities across Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management, and on both the Staten Island and Queens, NY, campuses. During his years at St. John's, he received both the Outstanding Administrative Achievement Medal and a Founders Week award, and participated in the Vincentian Mission Institute.

Dr. Cuccia earned the degree of Doctor of Education and a Professional Diploma in Instructional Leadership from The School of Education, as well as a Master of Business Administration degree in Executive Management and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marketing from The Peter J. Tobin College of Business. In addition, he has taught educational leadership and administration courses at the School of Professional Development at Stony Brook University, as well as in the Department of Administrative and Instructional Leadership at The School of Education at St. John's.

Dr. Cuccia and his wife recently moved from his hometown on Staten Island to West Orange, NJ, and are awaiting the birth of their daughter. During his far-too-infrequent spare time, he is an avid sports fan, as well as an arts and Broadway enthusiast. He especially enjoys reading, walking, travel, urban photography, and history, and virtually any cuisine.

## Casey Lomangino '14Ed, '16GEd, '23Ed.D.

Assistant Principal  
Carrie P. Weber Middle School, Port Washington, NY

Casey Lomangino, Ed.D., born and raised on Long Island, NY, holds her alma mater, St. John's University, very close to her heart. Her journey—shaped by the support of many mentors, colleagues, and loved ones—is deeply intertwined with St. John's University.

As a proud triple alumna of St. John's University, Dr. Lomangino has achieved academic excellence, earning bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from this esteemed institution. She has not only excelled in the academic realm; she has also made her mark on the Women's Soccer team, embodying the values of discipline, teamwork, and leadership.

From meeting her husband, James, at St. John's to being a member of the President's Society and working as a Graduate Assistant, the University has played a pivotal role in shaping her personal, academic, and professional identity.

As a former high school mathematics teacher and current Assistant Principal in Port Washington, Dr. Lomangino is dedicated to cultivating a nurturing environment where every student can achieve their full potential academically, socially, and emotionally. Her commitment to fostering meaningful relationships and empowering others resonates deeply with her philosophy of education. While her dedication to education is of utmost importance, it is second to her roles as a devoted wife and loving mother to her two beautiful children, Peyton and JP.

Reflecting on her life's journey, St. John's University has provided Dr. Lomangino with the essential skills and knowledge needed to navigate both her personal and professional endeavors with confidence and purpose. As she continues to lead by example, she is committed to upholding the St. John's University mission in her everyday life.