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CHANGE

MAKERS

AWARDS

2026

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 17**

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Welcome to the Fifth Annual

CHANGE MAKERS

AWARDS CEREMONY AND DINNER

Time flies, and it's hard to believe that we now have been hosting this signature event for *five* years. In that time, we've honored so many outstanding alumni who have made significant impacts on their industries, organizations, and communities. This year, we once again received an overwhelming number of nominations, and it was a joy to read about so many Baruch alumni across the city, country, and world who are making such a positive impact and doing amazing things.

Tonight's changemakers work in fascinating and varied industries, from filmmaking to healthcare, nonprofits to government agencies. They use their talents to advocate for maternal health and stand up for marginalized communities. They have lifted up their communities and made long-lasting contributions to their fields. Simply put: These are alumni who are changing the world.

They are also uniquely Baruch, displaying both the work ethic and grit that are so characteristic of our alumni.

We hope you enjoy tonight's program as we celebrate these outstanding individuals! This is always one of our favorite events of the year, and we are so delighted that you can be a part of it.

Sincerely,

Gregory M. Leporati
Director, Alumni Relations
and Volunteer Engagement

Honoring

KERRY CODDETT ('07)

Filmmaker, Comedian, Showrunner

DONALD DONAHUE (EMBA '89)

President, World Association for
Disaster and Emergency Medicine

SOMIA EL-ROWMEIM (EMPA '24)

Founder and CEO, Women's
Empowerment Coalition of NYC

DORIS B. GONZÁLEZ ('82)

Acting President,
NYS Higher Education
Services Corporation

MARNY SMITH (MSED '17)

Cofounder and Director
of Maternal Health Initiatives,
PUSH for Empowered Pregnancy

William and Anita
Newman Conference Center
Information Technology Building
Rackow Conference Room
151 East 25th St.,
7th Floor, Room 750

Registration/Check-in

5:30 pm - 6 pm

Cocktails/Awardee Photos

6 PM

ROOM 760

Welcome & Introductions

Gregory Leporati

Director, Alumni Relations and
Volunteer Engagement

Remarks

S. David Wu, Ph.D.

President, Baruch College

Dinner and Awards

Changemakers Group Photo



KERRY CODDETT (‘07)

Filmmaker, Comedian, Showrunner

Kerry Coddett (‘07) is a Brooklyn-born writer, director, actress, stand-up comedian, and all-around storyteller whose work explores the gray areas where nuance reigns, contradictions thrive, and preconceived notions unravel. Her career began when she graduated from Baruch College cum laude at just 19 years old and has only become more impressive.

Coddett recently made her directorial debut with the critically acclaimed short film *Zeke*, which premiered at the American Black Film Festival. In 2025, her one-woman show, *Mudhole*, made its sold-out off-Broadway debut at Ars Nova’s prestigious ANT Fest before being chosen for the 2026 Netflix Is a Joke Festival where it will be produced by Lena Waithe. Coddett was also selected for the 2025 Rideback Rise Program, a competitive fellowship founded by Netflix’s head of film to support and develop the careers of visionary filmmakers. She is also a graduate of the WGA Showrunner Training Program.

Coddett has most recently served as a coproducer on a pre-greenlight Apple TV crime drama executive-produced by David Oyelowo. She previously wrote on both seasons of *Flatbush Misdemeanors* on Showtime and was a recurring guest star in season one. She has also guest starred and appeared on several television shows including Hulu’s *Ramy*, Showtime’s *Desus and Mero*, and HBO’s *Pause w/ Sam Jay*.



DONALD DONAHUE (EMBA '89)

**President, World Association for Disaster
and Emergency Medicine**

Donald Donahue (EMBA '89) is president of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine and immediate past chair of the World Humanitarian Forum Global Health Programming Board. Donahue is also on faculty at the Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies and the Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians fellowship in disaster medicine. A fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Royal Society for Public Health, and International Board of Disaster Medicine, and a senior fellow at the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, Donahue serves on multiple boards of public benefit nongovernmental organizations. He is also past editor-at-large for the journal *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*.

Previous positions held by Dr. Donahue include professor with the University of Maryland Baltimore and University of Maryland Global Campus, Deputy Surgeon (Plans and Fiscal Programs) for the U.S. Army Reserve, and internal consultant and department administrator with New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. In addition to his Baruch degree, Donahue has a doctorate in health education from A.T. Still University, a master of jurisprudence (health law) from Seton Hall University, and a bachelor of science (sociology and political science) from the University of the State of New York. He resides in Maryland with his wife, Evelyn, a family nurse practitioner.



SOMIA EL-ROWMEIM (EMPA '24)

Founder and CEO, Women's Empowerment Coalition
of NYC

Somia El-Rowmeim (EMPA '24) is a Yemeni-American nonprofit executive, educator, and public policy advocate. As the founder and chief executive officer of the Women's Empowerment Coalition of NYC (WECNYC), she leads a growing community-based organization that provides education, workforce development, leadership training, social services, and civic engagement programs serving thousands of New Yorkers annually.

A passionate advocate for civic participation and public policy, Somia founded the Union of Arab Women, one of New York City's first Arab women's civic leadership organizations. She also played a key leadership role in the statewide advocacy efforts that contributed to the passage of New York's MENA category legislation, helping secure official recognition of Middle Eastern and North African communities in state data collection and public policy.

El-Rowmeim has earned numerous honors including recognition as one of *City & State New York's* Brooklyn Power 100; the Baruch College executive master of public administration Leadership Award for Social Justice; the Women of Distinction Award presented by New York State Senator Andrew Gounardes; and recognition as a finalist for The David Prize. In addition to her Baruch degree, El-Rowmeim is pursuing a doctorate of education in educational leadership, administration, and policy at Fordham University.



DORIS B. GONZÁLEZ ('82)

Acting President, NYS Higher Education
Services Corporation

Doris González believes every student deserves the chance to pursue their higher education. She joined the NYS Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) in August 2023 and was appointed by Governor Hochul in March 2026. From the start, Doris has been a driving force for change, helping develop the Governor's "Healthcare Workers for Our Future" scholarship and leading the modernization of financial aid systems to create a better experience for New Yorkers.

Doris also cares deeply about the people she works with. By fostering open communication where every staff member feels valued and heard, HESC earned a spot on both the *Albany Times Union* and *City & State's* 2026 Top Workplace lists.

Before HESC, Doris held leadership roles at Kyndryl Holdings, IBM, the NYC Board of Education, the NYC School Construction Authority, and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Beyond her title, Doris gives back. She mentors students through Governor Hochul's Latina Mentoring Initiative and serves on the boards of the Harlem Gallery of Science, the CUNY Bronx Community College Foundation, and ASPIRA of New York.

Her work has earned her recognition as a 2026 *City & State* NY Higher Education Trailblazer and on the 2025 Responsible 100 list, *El Diario's* Mujeres Destacadas award, and a Citation of Honor from the Queens Borough President.



MARNY SMITH (MSED '17)

Cofounder and Director of Maternal Health Initiatives,
PUSH for Empowered Pregnancy

Marny Smith (MSEd '17) is the cofounder and director of Maternal Health Initiatives at PUSH for Empowered Pregnancy, a nonprofit leading the call to address racial inequities in maternal healthcare and implement effective stillbirth prevention strategies.

After Smith's son, Heath, was born still at almost 37 weeks, she became a vocal advocate and activist in the fight against preventable stillbirth, racial disparities in maternal care, and the non-existent standard of care that expectant families experience in this country. She believes that educating and empowering birthing people, speaking out about stillbirth, and pushing for change at all levels is crucial to end this tragic, silent public health crisis.

In January 2022, Smith's essay "After A Death, Bringing Stillbirth Prevention To The US" appeared in *Health Affairs*, the leading journal of health policy thought and research. Her story has also appeared in *USA Today*, FOX 5, CBS, *Insider*, and *Lohud*.

Born, raised, and rooted in New York, Smith earned her bachelors degree at The New School, before earning her masters at Baruch College. She lives in New York with her husband and five year old daughter.

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a changemaker.



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