



# Youth Vision For Long Island's Future



**Nathalia Rogers – Dowling College**

Nathalia Rogers, Ph.D., is an associate professor of sociology and director of the American Communities Institute at Dowling College. She received her Ph.D. from McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

For the past 20 years, Rogers has researched the dynamics of the relationship between politics and markets in both emerging and advanced economies. She has published her findings in leading national and international journals such as *International Sociology*, *The American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, *Political Power and Social Theory* and others. In 2012, Rogers served as the principal investigator of a federally-funded study that researched the ways to improve the small business climate in the United States.

Rogers is the founder and co-chair of the Long Island Youth Summit, an annual conference for high school students that focuses on developing solutions for socio-economic, political, environmental and socio-medical issues on Long Island.



**Kendra Armstead – Stony Brook University**

Kendra Armstead is a Sustainability Studies major at Stony Brook University. She grew up in Suffolk County and attended SUNY Geneseo before transferring to SUNY Stony Brook to pursue interests in environmental studies. She plans to attend graduate school upon completion of her degree next month, focusing on urban planning and helping existing communities that possess vast potential to create urban and suburban centers reflecting the lasting benefits of Smart Growth.



**Tara Bono – EmPower Solar**

As marketing manager at EmPower Solar, Tara Bono oversees various aspects of the marketing department. Bono educates homeowners about the environmental and economic benefits of going solar, and encouraging them to make the switch.

She earned her bachelor's at SUNY Stony Brook and her MPA at CUNY Baruch, both with a focus on environmental studies. She is also a "Semester at Sea" alumni, traveling by sea to different global ports. In 2011, she was one of the U.S Climate Change Professional Fellows for the Australia cohort, working with Australian researchers, industries, and advocates on energy and climate issues.

Since 2011, Bono has been a weekly blogger for the Long Island Business News "Young Island" blog. She is active in professional and environmental organizations, including Citizens Climate Lobby and the USGBC-LI Emerging Professionals Committee. She serves as secretary for Llincs, an association for Young Professionals seeking to become more engaged in social, environmental and economic issues on Long Island.



**Danielle Cirimello – Dowling College**

In December 2013, Danielle Cirimello will graduate from Dowling College with a bachelor's degree in Aviation Management as an Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative (AT-CTI) student. She began her career in the aviation industry as an aircraft dispatcher at Republic Airport. Currently, she works as an intern with the Federal Aviation Administration Airports Division, providing technical and administrative support to the Eastern Region Airport Certification Safety Inspectors.

In addition, she was elected as the president of the Student Government Association at Dowling College last spring and reelected this past May. She serves as a liaison between the student body and administration.



**Jeff Guillot – Millennial Strategies**

Jeff Guillot is a partner at Millennial Strategies, a company specializing in campaign development, fundraising, communications and grass roots organizing.

Guillot is a veteran political operative from Long Island. His prior campaign experience includes working as finance director for Congressman Gary Ackerman and City Councilman James Gennaro. Additionally, he has served as Legislative Director for Assemblyman Richard Brodsky during his tenure as the chairman of the Assembly Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions. Prior to that, he served as director of the Nassau County Government Efficiency Project and helped pass the "New New York Government Efficiency and Citizen Empowerment Act" into state law.

He has worked on dozens of political and issues advocacy campaigns throughout the state in various roles specializing in development and policy.

Guillot graduated from Sacred Heart University and earned his master's degree in American Government from LIU Post. He currently serves as a member of the adjunct political science faculty at SUNY Farmingdale and Suffolk County Community College.



### **Joshua Lafazan – Syosset Board of Education**

Joshua Lafazan became one of the youngest elected officials in the history of New York State at 18 when he was elected to the Syosset School Board of Education with 82 percent of the vote in May 2012. He is currently a sophomore in the Honors Program at Nassau Community College.

Lafazan is the founder and CEO of Safe Ride Syosset, Inc., a community outreach program dedicated to ensuring that no Syosset teenager gets behind the wheel of a car while intoxicated, or is the passenger in a car with a drunk driver.

Lafazan is a member of the Board of Directors of the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (LICADD). He is a member of both the Nassau County Heroin Prevention Task Force as well as the Long Island Youth Safety Coalition. He was also appointed and confirmed to the Nassau County Youth Board of Directors this past August and serves as a volunteer firefighter in the Syosset Volunteer Fire Department.