

# Mercy College Honored 10 Exemplary Alumni at ALUMNI *of* DISTINCTION Awards

**O**n February 10, 2023, Mercy College recognized 10 exemplary alumni for their accomplishments at its Alumni of Distinction Awards. The annual event celebrates alumni for their contributions to the community and to the College and helps raise funds for student scholarships. This year, for the first time, honorees included four alumni from The College of New Rochelle, as part of Mercy's commitment and agreement to preserve CNR's legacy after it closed in 2019.

"I am delighted to honor these 10 remarkable alumni from Mercy and The College of New Rochelle who exemplify what it means to be a leader and engaged citizen," said Tim Hall, president of Mercy College. "These incredible individuals are examples for Mercy's students to learn from and to follow, and we are proud to call them all Mavericks."

Mercy College and CNR Alumni of Distinction Awards honorees and Class of 2023 inductees into the Alumni Hall of Fame are **Pamela Cole '72**, Professor, Penn State University; **Phillip Grant, M.B.A. '08**, Chief Executive Officer, Hunts Point Produce Market; **Liz Longmore '09, M.S. '11**, Chief Operating Officer, Stamford Health; **Shannon Freeman '14**, Television Director, CBS News; **Cynthia LaMonica '69**, Social Worker (retired), Mount Vernon School District; and **Brian Sweeney '07**, Pitching Coach, Kansas City Royals. The 2023 CNR Alumni of Distinction Awards honorees are **Dr. Shango Blake SNR '93, GS '96, GS' 11**, Founder and CEO of TRU SK Consultants and Executive Director



Top Row: Dr. Shango Blake, President Tim Hall, Pearl Sullivan, Phillip Grant, Sandy Cayo, Shannon Freeman, Edward Sweeney; Front Row: Chris Morrison, Pamela Cole, Emily Saunders '65, Cynthia LaMonica



Rosa Napoleone CNR SAS '75, Marlene Tutera CNR SAS '71, Wanda Borges '72, Eileen Niedzwiecki CNR SAS '72, Joe Gantz, Cynthia LaMonica, Rosemarie Sibillo '71



Shannon Freeman and Assistant Professor of Media Studies and Program Director Lou Grasso

of NYC Speaks; **Dr. Sandy Cayo DNP, FNP-BC, PhD(c) SN '08**, Family Nurse Practitioner, Assistant Professor, Yale University; **Chris Morrison, Esq. SAS '72**, Assistant Attorney General (retired), New York State Department of Law; and **Min. Pearl M. Sullivan MS, MPA SNR '03, GS '15**, Minister Administrator, Miracle Worship Center.

The Alumni of Distinction Awards event helped fund the Mercy College Endowed Alumni Legacy Scholarship Fund as well as the CNR Legacy Scholarship Fund. The Mercy College

scholarship fund — which was created by the Mercy College Alumni Advisory Council to support the children of Mercy College alumni — is the only fund specifically designated to provide educational support to second-generation Mercy students. The CNR scholarship provides support for students pursuing a bachelor's degree at Mercy College who are the first in their family to attend college. You can find a video recording of the event here: [www.mercy.edu/alumawards23](http://www.mercy.edu/alumawards23)