



Press Kit

The Thinkubator is a Bronx-based innovation and workforce development nonprofit organization.

We craft innovative strategies to complex local challenges that have global implications. The Thinkubator approaches our work with a racial and economic equity lens through three major areas: **education, research, and community.**



Dr. Edward Summers

Dr. Edward Summers is a Bronx-Native, son of Edward and Desiree Lee-Summers, brother to 11 siblings, dad of an 8 year old named Jules John and to two pups: Sammy and Max, friend, mentor, advisor, and social justice soldier. Dr. Summers is a nationally known scholar of urban and economic development policy, higher education, and community engagement and development. He is the Founder, CEO, and President of The Thinkubator, a Bronx-based entity focused on bringing power to youth voices through internships, youth consultancy, work-based learning experiences, a Think Tank, Youth Council, and direct connection to employment.

Prior to The Thinkubator, Dr. Summers was the Executive Director of The Bronx Private Industry Council (Bronx PIC) Powered by HERE to HERE, an employer-led alliance transforming how businesses, schools, and community organizations develop talent pipelines in the Bronx. During Dr. Summers tenure, The Bronx PIC grew its membership from 20 to 37 members, added the Thinkubator program, which is now referred to The Thinkubator Solves, and expanded the number of internships provided to Bronx youth.

Prior to his role with The Bronx PIC, Dr. Summers was an Assistant Professor of Public Administration and Chief Strategy and Planning Officer at Long Island University, where he was principally responsible for university-wide strategy and implementation, special institutional initiatives, internationalization, and the University's Global College. Before that, he served as the inaugural Executive Director of the Brooklyn Education Innovation Network (BE.IN), an alliance of ten colleges, universities, and one law school that worked on collaborative student, faculty, alumni, and administrative programs.

Previous roles include Chief of Staff and Director of the Kelly Adirondack Research Center at Union College, Assistant to the President and Presidential Fellow at Marist College, and adjunct professor of Political Science and Public Administration teaching courses in Nonprofit Management, American National Government, Public Policy, South African Politics, Ghanaian Politics and Community Development, and Program, Planning, and Evaluation.

Dr. Summers received a bachelor's in Political Science and a master's of Public Administration from Marist College. He holds a M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Public and Urban Policy from The New School.



Dr. Lessie Branch

Dr. Lessie Branch, Director at The Think Tank at The Thinkubator, is a Racial Policy Scholar, Fulbright Specialist, and Affiliated with Scholars Strategy Network. She earned a Ph.D. in Public and Urban Policy from The New School. Dr. Branch's research examines the gulf between Black optimism, group progress and the actual data on continuing disparities speaks to wider questions of social knowledge, social beliefs and relative group position. She is the author of *Optimism At All Costs: Black Attitudes, Activism, and Advancement in Obama's America*, published by the University of Massachusetts Press.



Dr. Duleep Deosthale

Duleep Deosthale (PhD UCLA) is a Spanish/Global Studies/International Business professor and a Silicon Valley ed-tech entrepreneur who has helped build a university, a branch campus and study centres and programs in over 50 countries. He has served on the leadership of international education organizations like AIEA, CIEE, EAIE, and NAFSA, and received the EAIE Presidents Award and the AIEA Rutenber Award for his contribution to International Education. He was "Teacher of the Year" at The University of Alabama at Birmingham.



Perrin Kennedy

Perrin Kennedy is a public speaker, political commentator, and a lifelong learner. A native of Southfield, Michigan, Perrin recognized at an early age his passion for political discourse and community involvement and decided to take his talents to Fisk University, a historically black institution, to study political science. While at Fisk, Perrin was active in several local political campaigns and worked for lawmakers at a local and state level. After graduating from Fisk in May 2020, Perrin decided to continue his educational journey at Columbia University to study Nonprofit Management on a full scholarship. At Columbia, Perrin excelled in his studies and published an article for the school titled, "Let's be Honest They Didn't Care about Racial Justice Until it was Popular." After graduating, Perrin hopes to use his public policy and leadership experience to transform legislation at a local, state, and federal level.



The Thinkubator aspires to a world where young people from the Bronx and similar communities are trained, educated, and powered to bring their voice to business, organizational, societal, and world challenges.

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The Thinkubator Education provides education, career, and work-based learning opportunities for young adults. We seek to prepare diverse, low-income youth from the Bronx and similar communities to succeed in the workplace and the world.

The Thinkubator Research conducts research, analysis and creates policy solutions to complex challenges. It leverages its data collection and strong analytical skill set to provide strategic consultancy to education, nonprofit, public, and private sectors

The Thinkubator Community concentrates on the intersection of issues that inhibit communal growth, development, and productivity and tackles them head on with the communities we serve.

Collectively, The Thinkubator provides a systematic approach to workforce, economic and community development, educational attainment, and combating poverty. Since July 2021, The Thinkubator has provided more than 150 paid work-based learning opportunities to young adults.

The Thinkubator was founded by Dr. Edward Summers out of the need to bring together experts in the areas of education, workforce development, and youth to conceptualize innovative approaches on how to best connect disjointed sectors of youth development, higher education, and economics. The Thinkubator has developed youth workforce development models, advised colleges and universities on their strategic direction, produced seven policy papers, and directly supported more than 150 youth with programming, health and wellness, and academic and job counseling.

OUR WORK

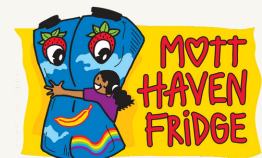


Structure follows strategy, as Peter Drucker once said. We are committed to helping institutions think about their strategic planning process and the development of a plan. We are a group of higher education professionals who have more than 60 years of combined experience in strategic planning and assisting institutions move in a direction that supports the mission of the college or university. We assist from the beginning stages of forming a committee, developing a process that is conscious of the institutional culture to thinking through the strategies that will advance the institution to implementation and monitoring the plans performance. We are committed to helping small and mid-sized colleges and universities and nonprofit organizations succeed in a market that is rapidly constricting.

Our Areas of Focus:

- Admissions and Financial Aid Operational Reviews
- Assessment Support
- Board Governance and Training
- Conference Planning
- Curricula Development
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training
- Enrollment Management Organizational Reviews
- Event Management
- Faculty Recruitment and Retention Services
- Fundraising Services
- Higher Education Governance
- International Recruitment and Retention
- International Campuses
- Overseas study and enrollment
- Policy Development
- Program Evaluation
- Residential Life Consulting and Training
- Staff Training and Development
- Strategic Planning and Evaluation
- Student Recruitment and Retention Services
- Student Recruitment Strategies and Recruitment Plans
- Student Retention Consulting and Analysis
- Study Abroad

Who We Work With:



Speaking

Areas of Focus: Education, management, urban issues, public policy, politics, community and economic development, and leadership

We have a number of talented professionals who can speak about higher education, politics, policy, race, K-12 education, access and affordability, global education, leadership, management, governance, and board relations to name a few. We look forward to attending your senior leadership meetings or retreats, speaking publicly at your institution and board meetings to provide information that will help you advance your institution.



Strategic Planning Consultant

Our team brings together over 60 years of professional service. We have an in-depth understanding and immersive experience of the higher education environment. We work with you and your team in developing a strategy that reflects your values, your mission and your commitment to all stakeholders. We also work with existing strategies and assess its effectiveness in a post-pandemic domestic and global environment. We are committed to helping small and medium sized state and private colleges and universities, urban or rural, succeed in a market that is rapidly changing and constricting.

Workshops

We are a group of skilled and talented professionals who can develop workshops on a variety of topics ranging from leadership development, communications, innovation, entrepreneurship, race relations, planning, to the state of politics and policy, globalism, economics, higher education, and economic development. We tap into the collective wisdom of our team to customize our workshops to support your needs.



RECENT NEWS



EinNews, June 22, 2021

[The Thinkubator Launches Business Council to Build Strong Industry Connection](#)

Bronx Times, June 15, 2021

[Robin Hood awards The Thinkubator a Program Grant to support young adults transition to employment](#)

WBOC, April 8, 2021

[The Higher Education Consultancy at The Thinkubator Release White Paper on Strategic Models for Higher Education](#)

BronxNet, March 31, 2021

[Covid-19 Impact on Higher Education](#)

BronxNet, March 17, 2021

[Covid-19 Vaccine Hesitation](#)

EINPresswire, March 5, 2021

[The Thinkubator launch work-based learning programs with more than 200 applications for 60 spots in four career pathways](#)

TechToday Newspaper, March 2, 2021

[The Think Tank at The Thinkubator Release Policy Brief on Covid-19 Vaccine](#)

TechToday Newspaper, February 26, 2021

[New Survey Reveals 46% of Bronx Residents will Take the Vaccine](#)

BronxNet, February 24, 2021

[Economic Recovery](#)

EINPresswire, February 23, 2021

[The Thinkubator Announces the Addition of Five New Members to the Board of Directors including Youth Board Member who will Represent Youth Voice.](#)

WFMJ, February 11, 2021

[A New School Master's Student Joins The Think Tank](#)

BronxNet, February 10, 2021

[The Thinkubator Team and Partners discuss Spring programs](#)

Facebook, February 4, 2021

[Facebook features The Thinkubator](#)

EINPresswire, January 22, 2021

[Post Covid-19 Workforce Recovery Strategies: Implications for local economic recovery](#)

WFMJ, January 27, 2021

[Helping at-risk institutions reinvent themselves in order to thrive in a changing landscape.](#)

EINPresswire, December 14, 2020

[The Thinkubator's Think Tank Releases Policy Brief on Holiday Food Insecurity in the Bronx](#)

SELECT PUBLICATIONS



- Authors of the “Stepping Away from The Brink” series with Diverse Issues in Higher Education
 - Part 1: Higher Education
 - Part 2: Presidential Leadership
 - Part 3: Board Governance
 - Part 4: Access and Affordability Challenge
 - Part 5: A Call to Action for HBCUs
 - Part 6: Community Colleges
 - Part 7: Faculty and The Academy
 - Part 8: COVID-19 Pushed
 - Part 9: Rethinking Higher Education Models
- “Generation-Z’s emerging economy will be ‘tidal force.’ LIBN. August 2017
- “The Brooklyn Way: Putting Together the Pieces of a 21st Century Downtown.” Brooklyn Historical Society. September 2016
- “Networking: Building and Maintaining Your Network.” Marist College. January 2016.
- “Road to Zion.” SUNY-Cortland’s Black Student Union Annual Conference. SUNY-Cortland. February 2015
- “Importance of Mentors.” Scholars Working Ambitiously to Graduate Conference. Cornell University. October 2014
- “Dear Mr. President, Wake Up!” Huffington Post. July 2014
- “City must use assets to regain vitality, global status” Poughkeepsie Journal, April 2014
- “Cities need relevant, new economic model” Poughkeepsie Journal, March 2014
- “Downtown Poughkeepsie?” Poughkeepsie Journal, March 2014
- “Access to Higher Education” Huffington Post. March 2014
- “Using Institutional Research to Enhance Your Role as a Presidential Assistant.” National Association of Presidential Assistants in Higher Education 27th Annual National Conference at American Council on Education (ACE). March 2014

These photographs are available to download
in full resolution online at
www.thethinkubator.org/pressphotos

