

From left: University Professor of Physiology and Cell Biophysics, Psychiatry, Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics Eric Kandel, President Bollinger and Mayor Bloomberg

“America is struggling to maintain its global leadership in the fields of science and technology, and it is vital that our youth and society, and universities rise to the challenge and work together to strengthen education in these critical areas,” Bollinger said. “The school will address this need by increasing the opportunities for science, math and engineering education available to public school students in the City and our local neighborhoods.

The school will be operated by the Department of Education in close collaboration with Columbia University, drawing on the University’s faculty and academic resources for the design of its curricula and instruction. Columbia University will also help develop joint curricular and extracurricular programs that provide opportunities for the school’s students to engage in real-life learning experiences while actively contributing to the University’s campus life. Faculty and graduate students throughout the University are expected to participate in the development of the school, especially Arts and Sciences, the Fu Foundation of Engineering and Applied Science, and the basic sciences at the campus of the Columbia University Medical Center in Washington Heights.

The school is a natural outgrowth of the University’s extensive and longstanding involvement in local education programs and partnerships. Each year, Columbia faculty and graduate students from across the university participate in a variety of programs to improve educational opportunities for the city’s children.

For over four decades, Columbia’s Double Discovery Center, for example, has helped students in surrounding neighborhoods and throughout the City graduate from high school and college at a rate significantly above the national average. Since 1958, Columbia’s science and engineering departments have run the Science Honors Program, a highly selective, tuition-free program for high school students who have exceptional talent in mathematics and the sciences (see article below). As plans for the school move forward, both Columbia and the City will enlist the support and input of leaders from across the City and from within the University. To ensure that the school’s curriculum and instruction reflect the most recent research and academic advances, the University has convened a diverse and distinguished advisory board that includes arts and sciences professors, researchers and students who have participated in the initiatives described above.

ON THE WEB | www.columbia.edu/cu/news/05/10/cu_public_school_partnership.html

Information on CU’s current public school partnerships in science, math and engineering.