The Association for Trauma Outreach & Prevention (ATOP)
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CUNY BMCC Career Fair: Business, STEM & Health Professions
Borough of Manhattan Community College, New York
Wednesday, 7 October 2026
Kartikay Aggarwal, Educational Coordinator

Can an organization recruit people without offering a paycheck? That question came alive at the CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) Career Day: Business, STEM, and Health Professions, part of the college's Fall 2026 Job Fair. ATOP MeaningfulWorld, represented by Dr. Ani Kalayjian, trauma expert and President and CEO of MeaningfulWorld, together with Educational Coordinator Kartikay Aggarwal, representing MeaningfulWorld at a job fair for the first time, joined employers inviting students to discover how their talents could serve humanity locally and globally.

The event room was bustling from the moment the doors opened, with students moving from table to table, notebooks and résumés in hand. Alongside employers recruiting for salaried jobs and internships, the MeaningfulWorld table stood out with its interfaith altar: flickering candles, fresh flowers, and United Nations flags, framed by our banner, "When one helps another, both become stronger." Copies of Dr. Kalayjian's books, including *Mass Trauma and Emotional Healing Around the World*, sat beside handouts on understanding our emotions and the 7-Step Integrative Healing Model, inviting students to pause, ask questions, and reflect amid the busy recruitment floor.

Throughout the afternoon, a steady flow of students from business, STEM, and the health professions visited the table. Many noticed and stated, 'we like the vibe of this table." Many wanted to know how a humanitarian organization rooted in psychology could use their skills, and were encouraged to learn that MeaningfulWorld skills, on research, technology and data,

marketing and communications, and health outreach as much as on counseling. Conversations moved naturally from internships to larger questions about trauma, resilience, and the challenges communities face both here in New York and around the world.

What stood out most was the students' motivation. Unlike the other tables, MeaningfulWorld was not offering a salary; we were asking for time, energy, and heart. Yet students lingered, asked how they could get involved, left their contact information, and walked away with flyers in hand, as well as gifts. Their curiosity reflected a generation that is looking for more than a paycheck, one that wants its work to mean something.

Many of BMCC's students balance their studies with jobs and family responsibilities, and they understood that service can also build the very skills employers value most: leadership, empathy, cultural humility, and the ability to work across differences. Several expressed interest in applying what they are learning in their classrooms to community-building and humanitarian projects.

Special recognition and gratitude are extended to BMCC's career development team and the organizers of the Fall 2026 Job Fair for creating space for mission-driven organizations alongside traditional employers. Their work built a valuable bridge between BMCC students and opportunities for service, laying the groundwork for future internships, workshops, and collaboration with the BMCC community.

We extend heartfelt appreciation to the Borough of Manhattan Community College, the dedicated organizers, and all the students who engaged with openness, curiosity, and passion. Their interest reaffirmed the importance of creating professional pathways rooted in empathy, resilience, and global responsibility.

To learn more about ATOP MeaningfulWorld, our educational programs, and internship opportunities, please visit www.meaningfulworld.com. We warmly invite you to join us at our upcoming workshops as we continue fostering personal growth, healing, and meaningful connection. As a gesture of gratitude, we offered all our guests' free admission to our next workshop on 31 Oct. on Disaster Relief, Meaning-Making and sound healing. Kindly email: EdCoordinator@MeaningfulWorld.com.