



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congresswoman Nita Lowey and Pace University President Marvin Krislov were joined by college and grad school students and administrators. Pictured from left, Pavan Naidu, Krislov, Olivia Wint, Lowey, John-Carlo Bautista and Emerald Rodriguez.

## Lowey discusses college affordability, accessibility

Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-District 17) and Pace University President Marvin Krislov met Aug. 30 with college and graduate school students and administrators at a roundtable discussion on college affordability and accessibility.

“As colleges open for the fall semester, it’s as important as ever that we redouble our efforts to tackle the rising costs of higher education and the crushing burdens of student debt,” Lowey said. “Making college affordable so that every young person can have the training to pursue their dreams used to be a bipartisan belief in Washington, and yet, House Republicans are currently pushing a partisan, mean-spirited bill that would cut \$15 billion from federal student aid while increasing the cost of a college education. This bill is, quite simply, an assault on the financing of higher education as we know it. Rest assured I am fighting to prevent this bill from becoming law and will continue working to protect federal investments in higher education.”

The PROSPER Act — Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Pros-

perity through Education Reform — would increase the cost of a higher education by consolidating many currently available federal student loans into a more expensive loan for students. This Republican legislation to reauthorize the Higher Education Act would particularly hurt students with exceptional financial need. Forty years ago, the maximum Pell Grant covered about three-fourths of the cost of a four-year public university. Today, the maximum award only covers 29 percent of the cost, forcing students to take on additional debt.

Dr. Belinda S. Miles, president of Westchester Community College, said “Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Pell Grants, subsidized undergraduate loans and income-contingent repayment plans make college more affordable and more accessible to millions of community college students nationwide. Current proposals in the Higher Education Reauthorization bill would cut federal student aid, thereby shrinking the talent pipeline into high-demand jobs that stimulate economic growth.”