

OBT Alumni Jocelyn Morales was featured in the *New York Times* Neediest Cases article, "[Outfitting a Young Mother to Proudly Support her Son.](#)" To read Jocelyn's incredible story, click [here](#).

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New York at a Glance

Unemployment Rate In New York City

The unemployment rate is determined by the number of individuals actively seeking work. Here are the seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for 2008-2009:

| Month 2008-2009 | NYC | US |
|------------------|-------|------|
| September | 5.8% | 6.1% |
| October | 5.7% | 6.5% |
| November | 6.3% | 6.8% |
| December | 7.4% | 7.2% |
| January (2009) | 6.9% | 7.6% |
| February (2009) | 8.1% | 8.1% |
| March (2009) | 8.1% | 8.5% |
| April (2009) | 8.0% | 8.9% |
| May (2009) | 8.9% | 9.4% |
| June (2009) | 9.5% | 9.5% |
| July (2009) | 9.6% | 9.4% |
| August (2009) | 10.2% | 9.7% |
| September (2009) | 10.3% | 9.8% |

Provided by the New York State Department of Labor

The unemployment rate jumped ahead of the nationwide unemployment rate, into the double digits. [More.](#)

Legislative Updates

Obama announces Jobs Summit. Under pressure from a double-digit unemployment rate, President Barack Obama announced that he will hold a jobs summit at the White House in December. Obama said a variety of business, labor and non-profit leaders will discuss job creation at the forum. [More.](#)

Paterson Threatens Cuts. New York stands on the "brink of a financial challenge of unprecedented magnitude," Gov. David Paterson told a rare joint session of the state legislature. With the state facing a gap of \$3 billion for the remaining four and a half months of the fiscal year and even larger deficits in 2011 and 2012, Paterson has called for cutting \$480 million in aid to local school districts and \$287 million from Medicaid. [More.](#)

Bloomberg follows suit from Paterson, threatening cuts. Mayor Michael Bloomberg wants to cut \$1.75 billion from the city budget over the next 18 months and he intends to do it by chopping agency spending. The mayor's budget director yesterday called for \$550 million in cuts by July and \$1.2 billion in cuts for the year after. After all is said and done agencies will face cuts of about 12 percent. Deputy Mayor Ed Skyler would not rule out the possibility of layoffs. [More.](#)

In the News

New York's GED Pass Rates are the worst in the Nation. According to a new report, the state pass rate is just 60%. Advocates say that a lack of funding and an uncoordinated system are part of the problem. [More.](#)

CUNY swamped with applicants. For the first time ever, CUNY schools turned away students due to a 19% increase in applications. [More.](#)

High School Math: FAIL. Graduates of the city's high school system are entering CUNY unprepared for simple algebra. [More.](#)

Job Spike in Bronx, Brooklyn fairs OK. The county's reliance on the health and human service sector has caused the Bronx to boom, with job growth at 1.1% in the first quarter of the year. Only three counties did better nationwide. Brooklyn, who is also heavily reliant on health and human services, had employment drop only 0.7% during this time period. [More.](#)

A New Kind of Policy Institute. McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy, Practice and Research at NYU's Silver School of Social Work is aimed at collecting, developing and spreading best practices among those who serve the estimated 3 million of New York City's 8.3 million residents who live on incomes under 200 percent of the federal poverty level, which comes to \$36,620 for a family of three. The institute promises to be more "action-oriented than other policy institutes." [More.](#)

Newly Released Studies and Reports

Public Housing in New York City: Building Communities of Opportunity. The Pratt Center and Brooklyn Community Foundation, October 2009. The report reveals just 33% of public housing residents are employed; lagging education and inaccessible transit thwart job-seekers. Read the report [here.](#)

The Unheard Third: Job Loss, Economic Insecurity, and a Decline in Job Quality: A Profile of Low-Income Latino New Yorkers. Community Service Society, October 2009. The report shows twenty-six percent of low-income Latinos reported losing their jobs in the past year, and another thirty-one percent had their wages reduced. The study also found that low-income Latinos were far less likely than other low-income New Yorkers to have savings to cushion them from financial emergencies: seventy percent of low-income Latinos had less than \$500 in the bank and nearly half (46%) had no savings whatsoever. Read the report [here.](#)

The Youth Workforce Toolkit: A Standard Employer Guide to Support Youth and Young Adults in the Workplace. Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, August 2009. The report is designed to help employers recruit and train youth for employment. Read the report, [here.](#)

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