

MAYRA

EHS '09, BEACON '13, NYU '17, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY '21



I was born and raised in New York City, right in the heart of Spanish Harlem. I am the eldest of seven children. Before attending The East Harlem School, I was very shy and would tear up at the thought of speaking in front of my classmates. In my initial interview with Ivan, I even asked if EHS offered tutoring for people who were shy. Though there were no official tutoring classes for shyness, The East Harlem School provided many opportunities for me to speak up and advocate for myself. It also provided the leadership skills and academic skills necessary for me to be successful in my life. I am a proud member of The East Harlem School's graduating Class of 2009.

After graduating EHS, I attended the Mother Cabrini High School for three years, where I was able to participate in various volunteer programs offered in the school. From performing Christmas songs at senior care centers, to engaging in arts and crafts activities with children, my time at Mother Cabrini allowed me to give back to the community that has always supported me. For my senior year of high school, I transferred to the Beacon School and began my search for a college. During senior year, I was overwhelmed with all the preparation it took to find the right college to attend. As the first in my family to go to college, I was unsure where to begin.





My first decision was deciding what to pursue as my major in college. With more than 500+ majors available, deciding on a path to follow was very unnerving. One day, my father brought home a mug that was given to him by his employer. After using it to drink some water, I looked at the logo and saw “NYU: Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development.” Since my family and I were unfamiliar with any colleges in the city, I began researching the school and saw that it offered majors in Early Childhood Education. As someone who grew up around many children and helped them with their assignments, teaching was something I felt I could do.

After graduating the Beacon School, I was accepted to New York University, where I double majored in Early Childhood Education and Psychology. My time at NYU allowed me to grow into an adult who was able to think for herself and make decisions. My time at NYU also allowed me to meet people with entirely different backgrounds and ethnicities. It was also where I met my fiancé. I was able to create friendships that are strong to this day. My time at NYU allowed me to continue volunteering and helping people in my community. I was able to become an America Reads tutor and help improve the literacy skills of students within the public school system. I participated in research studies, both as a participant and as a researcher. I was also able to participate in a program called Comm*Unity, which allowed commuter students to volunteer throughout the city and take a trip to Stone Mountain, Georgia to help refugees settle into their new homes.

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THE TRUSTEES OF
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

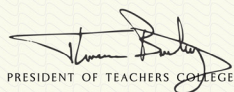
TO ALL PERSONS TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME GREETING
BE IT KNOWN THAT

MAYRA ALEJANDRA CAJAMARCA

HAVING COMPLETED THE STUDIES AND SATISFIED THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF

MASTER OF ARTS

HAS ACCORDINGLY BEEN ADMITTED TO THAT DEGREE WITH ALL THE
RIGHTS PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES THEREUNTO APPERTAINING IN
WITNESS WHEREOF WE HAVE CAUSED OUR CORPORATE SEAL TO BE HERE
AFFIXED IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK ON THE TENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY
IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-ONE


PRESIDENT OF TEACHERS COLLEGE




PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY



I graduated from NYU in 2017 and began working as an Educator in the Bronx. In order to gain the necessary experience and be a successful educator, I taught at schools with different pedagogies. As a teacher, I became aware of how students with disabilities did not receive the assistance they needed to be successful. Many of these students were placed in classrooms that did not accommodate their needs or unable to provide them the attention they needed. In order to better help these students, I began searching for a graduate school that would allow me to learn more about the mind of developing children. I also started working as an Early Interventionist in order to learn more about the services children receive before entering a classroom setting. Along with gaining knowledge on Special Education services, I was accepted to Teachers College Columbia University to pursue my Masters in Developmental Psychology. After three years, I finally received my degree on February 10th, 2021. I am currently working on making a transition from teaching to research. I would like to create my own study that would allow more funding to go to Special Education and families below the poverty line.

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