

MANOLO

**EHS CLASS OF 2010,
THE URBAN ASSEMBLY HARBOR SCHOOL 2014,
SUNY MARITIME 2019**

Manolo was born in Harlem in 1996 to a Dominican family. His early childhood was spent moving back and forth between New York City and the Dominican Republic. Manolo enrolled at The East Harlem School in the 6th grade. Even though the daily commute aggregated an hour, crossing from west to east Harlem, his mother understood East Harlem School at Exodus House was the best option for her son's education. In his three years at EHS, Manolo matured and grew physically and mentally, eventually taking leadership positions. When Manolo moved on and enrolled at The Urban Assembly Harbor School, he was much better prepared for high school than his classmates. Manolo remains grateful for and appreciative of the education provided to him by The East Harlem School.

During his four years at Harbor School, Manolo once again used the leadership skills he developed at EHS to start the Boat Building Club, which repaired and maintained the Harbor School's vessels. He also spearheaded the building of the New York Harbor Sloop,





which was completed after his departure. Through all of these experiences, Manolo realized his love of being on the water and working with his hands. He spent his last high school semester at sea on a schooner traveling the Caribbean and the entire East Coast.

After high school graduation, Manolo enrolled at SUNY Maritime to study Marine Engineering and joined the Coast Guard license program. The four and a half years spent in SUNY Maritime were difficult, physically and mentally, as Manolo not only averaged 21 credits a semester of challenging engineering courses, but also followed the strict military-like rules the license program had in place. This did not stop him from chasing his dreams and using his leadership skills to become a squad leader of one of the companies in the Academy. Manolo was also one of the founders and president of the National Society of Black Engineers Maritime chapter.

Manolo graduated from SUNY Maritime with a Bachelor's of Science Marine Engineering degree as well as a Third Assistant Engineer - Unlimited Horsepower License, which allows him to serve as



Engineer officer on any ship in the world. Manolo has not stopped sailing since. He has traveled to five continents and over twenty countries and territories. He has crossed the Atlantic Ocean countless times, in addition to the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Manolo's goal is to become Chief Engineer of a vessel. Manolo believes his success in both his academic and professional careers is thanks to the foundation that The East Harlem School and Harbor School had set up for him. He believes if it wasn't for Ivan Hageman and Murray Fisher, he would not be in this position in life.

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