

John D. Solomon Fellowship for Public Service



“Emergency preparedness should be viewed as a responsibility of citizenship in the 21st Century. The more prepared and engaged we all are, the stronger our communities will be before, during and after whatever disasters we face in the future.” — John D. Solomon

Now in its milestone 10th year, the John D. Solomon Fellowship for Public Service is the first graduate student fellowship devoted to emergency management. From Hurricane Sandy to the pandemic, the Program has helped New York City respond to numerous emergencies while preparing future civic leaders. John D. Solomon was an accomplished journalist, a passionate advocate of emergency preparedness, and a devoted New Yorker. Established in 2012 by John’s family and friends, the Fellowship is administered by the NYC Emergency Management Department.

10
FELLOWS

AT ONE OF

12
NYC AGENCIES

FOR

9
MONTHS

NYC Emergency Management

NYC Department of Health
and Mental Hygiene

NYC Department of Education

NYC Department of Youth and
Community Development

NYC Police Department

NYC Department of
Environmental Protection

NYC Mayor’s Office

NYC Department of
Homeless Services

NYC Fire Department

American Red Cross
of Greater NY

NYC Department for the Aging

NYC Department of
Social Services

THE FELLOWS HAVE CONTRIBUTED NEARLY

40,000
SERVICE HOURS

TO NEW YORK CITY IN THE FIRST 10 YEARS



ALUMNI CAREER PATHS AFTER THE FELLOWSHIP

42% GOVERNMENT

35% NON-PROFIT

23% PRIVATE SECTOR

John D. Solomon Fellowship for Public Service



Mission

- To support and inspire future leaders in emergency management.
- To bring their talents and experiences into government, particularly within New York City.
- To help further the safety and well-being of all New Yorkers.
- To perpetuate the pioneering work and boundless passion for emergency preparedness of the Program's namesake.

Program

The Fellows are graduate students in the NYC metropolitan area pursuing degrees in public administration, public health, emergency management, public safety, public policy and other related fields.

- The nine-month in-person Fellowship spans a school year.
- Fellows commit roughly 15 to 20 hours per week.
- Currently each Fellow receives a \$5,000 stipend.
- Fellows are placed within the emergency management unit at their agency/organization.
- Senior staff members at each agency serve as Mentors.

Fellows have come from **14** graduate degree programs at **22** universities.

Teamwork

The Fellowship embodies John's sense of "team" as an All-NYC high school basketball player:

- Special programming generates comradery among each year's Fellows.
- An alumni network connects former and current Fellows.
- In the spirit of John's blog, Fellows post about their experience on the Program's LinkedIn.

Significant Projects

Just six weeks into the Fellowship's inaugural year, Super Storm Sandy slammed the region. The Program's first Fellows took on integral roles within the City's emergency response. Throughout its first decade, Fellows have responded to emergencies from Ebola, West Nile, and Hurricane Irene to gas main explosions and Covid-19. Many of the departments where the Fellows are placed have few full-time staff, so a Fellow's contributions are consequential. In recent years, John D. Solomon fellows have:

- Modified biological agent response plans.
- Created NYC government's first Spanish language Twitter.
- Developed operational plans for the volunteer staffing of emergency shelters.
- Helped create the Department of Education's Pathogen Emergency Response Plan.
- Devised the NYPD Auxiliary Police Force's Emergency Management Training Manual.
- Designed tabletop exercises for NYC businesses' emergency plans.
- Prepared senior staff for Borough Cabinet meetings and City Council hearings.

Alumni Impact

NYC **77%** of alumni currently work in government or at a nonprofit, including at **10** different NYC government agencies. Here are some of the Program's alumni:



Pascale Etienne
Fellow '19

**Digital and Media Manager,
NYC Fire Department**

"I had a wonderful professional experience with the Fellowship that led to a career opportunity that cemented and connected what I do with what I care about."



Robert Bristol
Fellow '16

**Director, Health and Medical,
NYC Emergency Management**



Amanda Krawczyk
Fellow '17

**Senior Project Manager,
NYC Police Department**

"This Fellowship allowed me to have that hands-on experience and network with folks that I would not have had access to otherwise,"



Sambavi Jani
Fellow '19

**Emergency Management Specialist,
NJ Dept. of Children and Families**

"It was an honor to be a part of a one-of-a-kind fellowship where students have the opportunity to participate and learn about an aspect of life that all citizens should strive for, which is to contribute to a city that gives them the tools and freedom to be the best they can be."



Michelle Carestia
Fellow '13

**Emergency Management Program
Manager, Harvard University**



Isabelle Lacson
Fellow '15

**Programme Policy Officer,
United Nations World Food Programme**



Patrick Maury
Fellow '20

**Emergency Preparedness Specialist,
DC Homeland Security and Emergency
Management Agency**



Shannon MacColl
Fellow '15

**Director of Public Information,
NYS Division of Veterans Services**

"The Fellowship enabled me to experience public service and the life-changing impact it can have on those we serve. Through the Program's support and mentorship, I learned that I wanted to commit my life to assisting others."



Khalid Islam
Fellow '20

**EMS Training and Safety Manager,
Mount Sinai Health System.**

Funding

MORE THAN 99% OF THE PROGRAM'S FUNDING GOES DIRECTLY TO THE FELLOWS.

There is no paid Fellowship staff. NYCEM charges no fees to administer the Program.

Current Operating Budget: \$60,000 per year

- Stipends (10 Fellows x \$5,000) = \$50,000/yr
- Professional Development and Benefits = \$10,000/yr

Optimal Operating Budget: \$125,000 per year

- Stipends (10 Fellows x \$10,000) = \$100,000/yr
- Professional Development and Benefits = \$25,000/yr

NYCEM is seeking to expand student access to the Fellowship by increasing the annual budget.

- To enhance equity, NYCEM wishes to increase the stipend and other support.
- The current stipend is deemed too low for many student applicants given the Program's required 15 to 20 hours per week, according to feedback from participating graduate schools.

The John D. Solomon Fellowship and the work it funds are of benefit to all New Yorkers in John's memory. We hope to come together to support our City in this meaningful way by expanding access to the Program and ensuring its long-term sustainability.



"If you've never met John, if you've always wondered about his legacy...

...go to In Case of Emergency, Read Blog, and start at the beginning, and understand how he took 9/11, and turned it around, and said, 'We don't have to be afraid. We can get control back by being prepared.'"

—W. Craig Fugate, Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency (2009-2017)

John D. Solomon (1963-2010)

A graduate of Collegiate School in New York City, Harvard College, and Harvard Business School, John was an accomplished journalist on homeland security and public policy and an avid participant in public service.

In March 2008, John launched his seminal blog, *In Case of Emergency, Read Blog: A Citizen's Eye View of Public Preparedness* as research for a book on emergency preparedness.

Six months later, he was diagnosed with leukemia. John's blogging about emergency preparedness continued. He helped organize conferences, devised legislation to incentivize the sale of emergency supplies, analyzed the use of social media tools in the field, celebrated others' initiatives by calling them to the attention of policy makers, conducted contests to foster citizen preparedness, chronicled his experiences actively volunteering for his local NYC Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and more. He videotaped leaders in the preparedness community for their tips on readiness including one with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator W. Craig Fugate, which they filmed just two months before John's untimely death in November 2010, at the age of 47.

At his passing, Administrator Fugate stated that John "set the standard for what it meant to be part of our nation's emergency management team." John's wide-ranging approach to the issues of citizen preparedness and resiliency was non-partisan, rigorously researched, and often infused with his ineffable sense of humor.

In recognition of his many contributions, in 2011, NYCCEM created an annual award, the *John D. Solomon CERT Award for Exemplary Service in Emergency Preparedness Education*. Posthumously, John was its first recipient presented to his family by Mayor Michael Bloomberg. In 2012, FEMA established the national *John D. Solomon Preparedness Award*, given in Washington, D.C..



Dear John D. Solomon Fellowship Community,

Congratulations to all of you on the Fellowship's momentous 10th anniversary.

When John first started his blog, few of us fully understood John's passion for emergency preparedness or even heeded his gentle suggestion to pack a "Go Bag." No doubt, the pandemic has increased our awareness of John's foresight as well as the importance of skillful emergency managers.

We are deeply grateful to the Fellowship's participants for your immense service to John's beloved New York City, for enabling us to glimpse his passion and purpose through yours, and for creating a remarkable program genuinely worthy of its namesake.

With admiration and gratitude,

John's family & friends

For more information
about the Fellowship, visit:

www.JohnDSolomonFellowship.org

If you would like to support
the Fellowship, please email:

JohnDSolomonFellowship@gmail.com



John D. Solomon Fellowship for Public Service



Strategic Partnerships

WHAT IS THE FELLOWSHIP?

Started in 2012, the John D. Solomon Fellowship for Public Service is the first graduate fellowship in New York City devoted specifically to emergency management. The fellowship was established and is funded by the family and friends of the late John D. Solomon and is administered by NYC Emergency Management. The competitive paid program attracts applicants from a wide variety of prestigious graduate programs.

John was an accomplished journalist on homeland security and a devoted public servant. An active member of his local NYC Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), John was a passionate advocate of emergency preparedness and resilience and originated "[In Case of Emergency, Read Blog - A Citizen's Eye View of Preparedness.](#)"

THE PROGRAM

10 FELLOWS placed at **8 ORGANIZATIONS** over **9 MONTHS**



- American Red Cross Greater NY
- NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection
- NYC Emergency Management
- NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene
- NYC Fire Department
- NYC Dept. of Education
- NYC Police Department
- NYC Housing Authority



ALUMNI NETWORK

95 ALUMNI

Alumni stay connected to the program via events, shared experiences, and offering guidance to current fellows.



CAREERS IN:

41% PUBLIC SECTOR

- NYC GOV (23)
- NYS (3)
- NJ (1)
- CA (2)
- DC (1)
- TX (1)
- PORT AUTHORITY NY NJ
- FEDERAL AGENCIES (4)
- UNITED NATIONS



36% NONPROFIT SECTOR

- AMERICAN RED CROSS
- HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY (17)
- BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE
- HIGHER EDUCATION



23% PRIVATE SECTOR

PROJECTS & SKILLS

Outreach to elected officials & community boards

Develop tabletop exercise toolkit

Revise agency continuity of operations plans

Public speaking

Strategic communication

Create and lead auxiliary police orientation trainings

Integrate Disability, Access, and Functional Needs into shelter plans

Facilitate emergency response case management

Program management

Problem solving



Visit us at NYC.gov/johndsolomonfellowship and follow us on LinkedIn at [John D. Solomon Fellowship for Public Service](#).