

ROAD WARRIORS

A publication of the Long Island Contractors' Association

Danielle Fortune: GOOD FORTUNE

Despite humble beginnings and an uncertain career path, Danielle eventually found her passion and professional success at The Energeia Partnership.

Inside:



Helping People When They Need It Most
Page 15

Danielle Fortune
Director of Operations
The Energeia Partnership
at Molloy University

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Long Island ROAD WARRIORS is the official magazine of the Long Island Contractors' Association, Inc. (LICA). LICA represents the interests of the region's premier heavy construction general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and industry supporters. Focused primarily in the transportation infrastructure construction industry such as highways, bridges, rail, sewers and other public works, LICA's member companies play a significant role within Long Island's Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The economic impact of the industry contributes \$4 billion to the area's local gross regional product.

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CONTENTS

BETWEEN THE LINES: Marc Herbst illustrates the strong need for 'constructive reasoning' and notes how The Energeia Partnership is already leading the way. **4**

COVER STORY: Danielle Fortune's road to personal & professional fulfillment as Energeia's Director of Operations has proven to be a 'Good Fortune' for all. **16**

Q&A: Check out this issue's Q&A feature: "Dishin' with Danielle" for some valuable advice & memorable moments from cover subject Danielle Fortune. **23**

FEATURES

LABOR RELATIONS: Commissioner Gemma Deleon Lopresti looks at the root cause of conflict and how the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service can help. **7**

INSURANCE/SURETY: Construction Risk Partners uses their feature article to address a critically important industry issue: mental health & suicide prevention. **8**

NEWS & VIEWS: Government Relations Consultant Des Ryan looks at how this November's elections will—literally—change the face of New York politics. **11**

NOT-FOR-PROFIT: Did you know...the EAC Network empowers and cares for people in need? Learn about all the important services & support they provide. **15**

POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES: Read how Leg. Kevin McCaffrey & the Suffolk County Legislature are working hard to keep Suffolk 'Ahead of the Curve.' **25**

ADVERTISERS (alphabetical)

Bove Industries, Inc.	Page 24
Construction Risk Partners	Page 10
H.O. Penn	Page 14
Haugland Group	Page 22
JESCO	Page 32
Kaufman Dolowich Voluck LLP (KDV)	Page 20
Komatsu	Page 12
Laborers Local 1298	Page 30
Marcum	Page 2
Metallic Lathers & Reinforcing Iron Workers Local 46	Page 27
National Credit Card Processing (NCCP)	Page 13
New York Paving Inc.	Page 26
Operating Engineers Local 15, A, B, C, D, G & H	Page 31
Operating Engineers Local 138	Page 28
PKF O'Connor Davies	Page 5
Safety Marking Inc. (SMC)	Page 26
Teamsters Local 282	Page 29
Tilcon New York	Page 6
TLC Hauling	Page 21

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CONSTRUCTIVE REASONING

The construction industry is familiar with designs, blueprints, CAD drawings, site plans, permits, and other planning documents. These instruments are the tools necessary to build our region's structures and foundations. However, while we generally appreciate the connectivity of planning instruments required for intricate architecture, we often overlook the complex social patchwork necessary to build our communities.

Long Island has a longstanding reputation for saying "no." NIMBYism (Not In My Backyard) is prevalent when contractors present applications for building permits and zoning changes before local governing bodies. As a result, new building developments and road reconstruction projects are unceremoniously killed. The approval process, sadly, is often impossible. Progress is regularly rejected, not due to merit but, due to underlying anxieties and fear. Often, the culprit is a lack of understanding and trust between the project's advocates and the affected community members. This wary relationship can stifle progress and thwart the region's economic future, usually resulting in wasted dollars spent on hearings, permits, and shelved plans—and breeding fresh distrust among the principals involved.

The solution to the oppressive process is education, open dialogue, and respect among all participants. We need a system that offers a network of ideas, understanding, and a shared mission for the betterment of the community. These challenges that constrain progress are not limited to the construction industry; the same disputes bleed into our region's other sectors.

Long Island's various industries need to work collaboratively in both caring and preparing for our future. Therefore, we need a collective regional stewardship approach. But, surprisingly to most, it already exists. And, many LICA members and colleagues are active supporters of this program. For those not yet aware of this initiative, this edition of Long Island Road Warriors introduces you to the Academy for Regional Stewardship at Molloy College (now Molloy University) commonly known as The Enegeia Partnership. This program effectively brings together influential leaders from across the spectrum of our region's disciplines to focus on and learn about Long Island's concerns and needs.

Enegeia is fortunate to have a young, dynamic operations director handling the day-to-day initiatives that bring our leaders together to face our region's needs. Danielle Fortune is admired and respected by all destined to be part of the regional stewardship program. The wealth of talent and skills she brings to inspire all is impressive. You will undoubtedly treasure reading about her journey as Long Island's chief steward.

Sincerely,



Marc Herbst, Executive Director
Long Island Contractors' Association



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"Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of creative alternatives for responding to conflict."

– Dorothy Thompson

Conflict is natural, particularly in the work setting. Work is where we go to collaborate, plan, generate ideas and solve problems. It is where we interact with people who have different experiences, beliefs or culture, who hold different positions from different parts of the organization. It is where we share limited resources. What could go wrong?

As a mediator, I often witness a familiar pattern: The parties take positions, trade proposals, withhold their interests, fail to understand the needs of the other side, tensions become heightened, and positions harden. Often, each side negatively characterizes the other and assume the worst intentions.

Often the conflict may be rooted in relationship issues, such as lack of trust or respect, or a negative history with one another. Sometimes the disagreement is due to poor communication, or lack of clarity about roles, policies or procedures. Perhaps the most difficult to resolve are conflicts based on differing values. The parties may have cultural differences, or ingrained personal beliefs.

There are many ways to deal with conflict and each of us has our own style. Some use power to force the other side into submission. Some may try to compromise or collaborate. Others may tend to give in or avoid conflict altogether.

The quote above is by Dorothy Thomson, one of the only female American journalists during the 1930's, famously expelled from Nazi Germany. The way in which we deal with conflict is what matters most. If we deal in a destructive manner, it is painful, and we suffer. If we choose to be constructive, empathetic and future-oriented, the process can be invigorating and transformative and will ultimately lead to peace. Conflict, when managed well, can lead to intellectual, emotional and even moral growth among the parties, to the benefit of the entire organization.

In today's rapidly changing workplace, unresolved conflict can have a negative impact and pose substantial barriers in the workplace. Whether you are near the expiration of your collective bargaining agreement or somewhere in the middle of a contract, FMCS can offer cutting edge dispute resolution techniques, customized training and valuable instructional programming to meet your needs.

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Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in Construction

by Curtis Kappauf, Director of Business Development, Construction Risk Partners

Although May is designated as ‘Mental Health Awareness Month,’ the topic of mental health and suicide prevention is a year-round concern, particularly for our clients and colleagues who work in the construction industry. Therefore, Construction Risk Partners would like to dedicate this month’s feature article to this incredibly important topic, by passing along some useful—and perhaps lifesaving—information.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the construction industry ranks as one of the occupations with the highest rate of suicide out of any other industry in the United States (52 out of every 100,000 workers). On an annual basis, that rate is typically 4 to 5 times the national average when compared to other occupations/industries.

A few of the primary reasons that contribute to these alarming rates include:

- **Construction is typically a male-dominated industry** and historically, males have a higher rate of suicide compared to women.
- **The construction industry employs a significant percentage of military veterans.** Veterans who may have experienced significant trauma during their time of service are another demographic that also experiences a high rate for suicide when compared to other members of society.
- **A regular pattern of layoffs** due to the economy, an employers’ workload or seasonal changes can impact a construction workers financial situation and their medical/health benefits coverage, adding financial and emotional stress.
- **Lack of long term relationship-building.** Regular movement from jobsite to jobsite and lack of a regular workplace environment where we spend many hours each day, can affect the ability to create long-term relationships with co-workers.
- **Long hard hours and irregular shifts/times of day/night** can affect a worker’s sleep patterns resulting in consistent physical exhaustion.

The fact that many construction workers choose to stay in the physically-demanding field of construction for their entire career, often for 20, 30 or even 40 years, can lead to regular aches, pains, and physical stress from the demands of the job. As a result, some workers may rely on, or build a habit of, regular medication, alcohol, or drug use, to counteract some of that pain or depression they feel. Opioid use among construction workers can be prevalent and regular use of opioids contributes to an increase in mental health and suicide issues as well.



Raising Awareness and Knowing the Signs

As supervisors, co-workers, peers, friends, and family members, we need to raise awareness of this issue and ensure that we do our part to help save someone in our industry who may be struggling with a mental health issue.

Many of those who consider suicide or self-harm typically hide their feelings and do not open-up about issues that they may be suffering from. So, be observant of the people you regularly interact with and check-in with those employees regularly to see how they are feeling. This will help you keep an eye out for key signals that are crucial in suicide prevention.

Some of the common signs to look for, if you sense that there may be a genuine concern with a friend or co-worker, can include:

- Frequent absences
- A declining work performance
- A decreased interest in their job or things that once seemed important to them
- Distinct changes in their personality, communication style or demeanor
- Noticeable changes with being aggressive, impulsive, or having an increase in risky behavior/choices
- A recent loss of a significant other or family member or a change in a personal relationship has occurred
- Have shown a pattern of regular use or an increased use in drugs and alcohol
- Have shown signs of isolation or withdrawing themselves from outside interests
- Or if they may have spoken about feelings of hopelessness, being a burden to others, wanting to die or possibly kill themselves

Taking Action and Resources to Help

If you know the signs and take the time to build connections with those who you work closely with, then speak up if you feel concerned about that person's well-being. If someone you know is exhibiting warning signs for suicide, do not be afraid to ask if he or she is depressed or thinking about suicide. Listen, without judging. In some cases, your friend or family member just needs to know that you care and you are willing to hear them talk about how they feel.

Encourage anyone in crisis to seek professional help. If you can, remove any objects that can be used in a suicide attempt. Encourage them to call – or call together – support services such as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-(TALK) (1-800-273-8255). Conversations are with a skilled, trained counselor and are free, confidential, and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If the friend or loved one appears to be extremely distressed, do not leave the person alone. Try to keep the person as calm as possible and get immediate help.

Below is a handy reference guide as well as a few additional resources where you, or someone you know, can find help:

1) National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – Call: 1-800-273-8255 or visit www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

2) The Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention – www.preventconstruction suicide.com

3) Preventing Suicides in Construction OSHA – www.osha.gov/preventingsuicides/

4) CPWR - The Center for Worker Protection and Training – <https://www.cpwr.com/research/research-to-practice-r2p/r2p-library/other-resources-for-stakeholders/mental-health-addiction/suicide-prevention-resources/>

Strategies to Prevent Suicide

- Strengthen economic supports**
 - Strengthen household financial security
 - Housing stabilization policies
- Strengthen access to and delivery of suicide care**
 - Coverage of mental health conditions in health insurance policies
 - Reduce provider shortages in underserved areas
 - Safer suicide care through system change
- Create protective environments**
 - Reduce access to lethal means among persons at risk for suicide
 - Organizational policies and culture
 - Community-based policies to reduce excessive alcohol use
- Promote connectedness**
 - Peer norm programs
 - Community engagement activities
- Teach coping and problem-solving skills**
 - Social-emotional learning programs
 - Parenting skill and family relationship programs
- Identify and support people at risk**
 - Gatekeeper training
 - Crisis intervention
 - Treatment for people at risk of suicide
 - Treatment to prevent re-attempts
- Lessen harms and prevent future risk**
 - Postvention
 - Safe reporting and messaging about suicide

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THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'

by Desmond M. Ryan, Government Relations Consultant

This year, 2022, New York finds itself in a very unique situation. For the first time in 10 years, a November election will revolve around a series of changes that will affect all of the citizens across the Empire State. We have a vast number of statewide and local races that will move New York down an electoral path for the next decade, if not longer.

Between candidates for the U.S. Senate, the House of Representatives, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, NYS Attorney General, State Comptroller, NYS Senate and the Assembly, there will be over 480 individuals seeking to be elected or re-elected to public office. Will we continue to see a one party rule dominate the legislative process? Or, will we see a shift in the balance of power with the return of a two-party system within the state capitol?

Hard to say.

This year, on the state level, the issues before us are many: property and personal income tax, infrastructure, aid to education, gun control, Roe v. Wade (again?), bail reform, change in the criminal justice system, the environmental bond act, electoral reform, and money for the Buffalo Bills' stadium.

In addition, New York has seen its residents move from urban to suburban localities, as well as a continued exodus out of state. Data from the U.S. census bureau also shows how New York lost one congressional district. This change in demographics and population had a direct impact on how "gerrymandered" districts for electoral maps were irregularly drawn. In a lawsuit that challenged these congressional maps, the courts ruled that state lawmakers, in essence, had violated the state constitution, specifically the "anti-gerrymandering" provision. With new maps drawn by a court-ordered special master, changes in New York's congressional delegation, and who represents us in Washington D.C., is now inevitable.

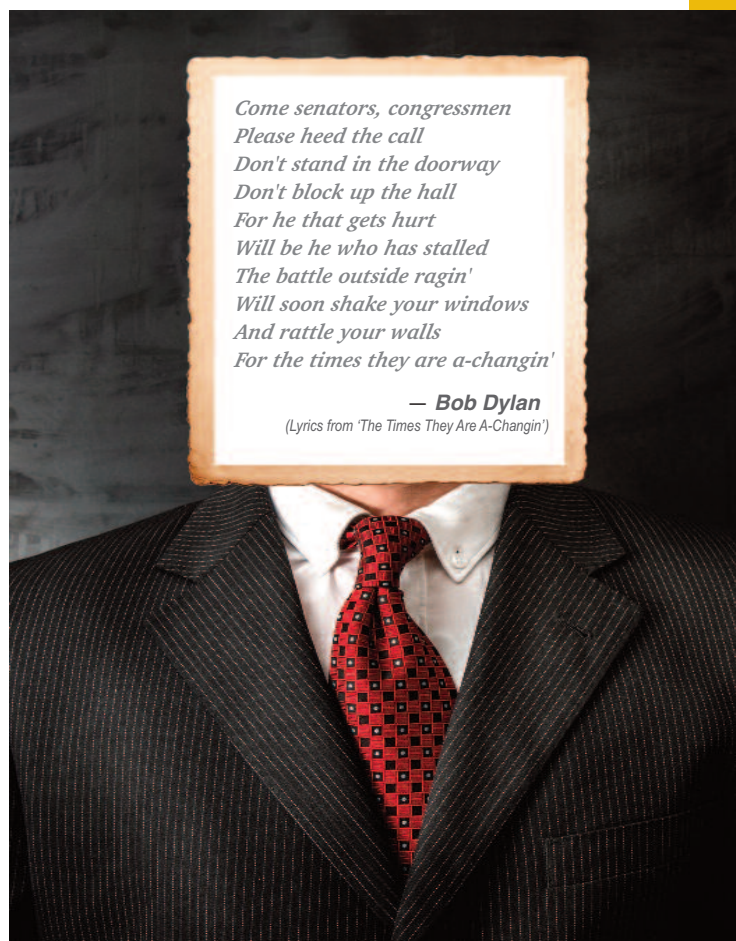
On Long Island, change is also coming to the political and electoral landscape. Three of our four congressional representatives have decided not to seek re-election. Representatives Tom Suozzi and Lee Zeldin have chosen to seek their party's nomination for governor, while Representative Kathleen Rice is calling it a day. That would leave Representative Andrew Garbarino seeking his second term as "Dean" of the Long Island delegation.

Our state Senate will also see some new faces as Senators Todd Kaminsky, Jim Gaughran and Phil Boyle

have decided not to seek re-election. In Nassau County, former state Senator Jack Martins will attempt to return to the state capital, and in Suffolk there will be a rematch between former state Senator Monica Martinez and former Assemblyman Dean Murray.

But make no mistake about it, this fall, all eyes will be on the Governor's race. With the resignation of former Governor Andrew Cuomo, Governor Kathy Hochul has been working tirelessly to shore up support within her party as she seeks to be New York's first elected female governor. Across the aisle former state Senator and Congressman Lee Zeldin is his party's choice to be the first Republican to enter the Governor's mansion in almost 20 years. Let us hope that a series of lively debates sponsored by civic associations, business organizations and media outlets, will allow the voters of this state the opportunity to evaluate each candidate as they decide who to support at the ballot box this November.

Regardless of this year's election results, come January in both Albany and Washington D.C., you're going to see a lot of new faces.



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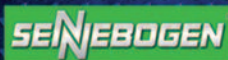


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The EAC Network: Helping People When They Need It Most.

by Neela Mukherjee Lockel, President and Chief Executive Officer, EAC Network

EAC Network is a not-for-profit social service agency that empowers, assists, and cares for people in need. Our mission is to respond to human needs with programs and services that protect children, promote healthy families and communities, help seniors, and empower individuals to take control of their lives. We help people within five service areas: Children & Youth, Family & Community, Senior & Nutrition Services, Vocational Services and Behavioral Health & Criminal Justice Services.

Did You Know?

EAC Network has 103 programs and serves over 54,000 people a year with offices and services in all five boroughs, Suffolk, Nassau, and Rockland Counties? With so many programs across our wide geography, our work is complex, but our mission is clear: the EAC Network helps individuals, families, and communities in the face of turmoil and challenges to living safer, happier, and healthier lives.

I am happy to announce that the EAC Network is growing and expanding. We have expanded services, received new funding, and brought on new leaders to transform EAC Network as the premier Social Service network in New York.

Did You Know?

The EAC Network protects Suffolk's children against physical and sexual abuse? EAC runs two Child Advocacy Centers (CAC's) in Suffolk: Central Islip and Riverhead. Our trained professionals work with the Suffolk County Police Department's Special Victims Unit, the NY State Police, Suffolk Sheriff, and the District Attorney to protect children against physical/sexual abuse, care for parents and families and to prosecute the offenders.

Did You Know?

We see 20,000 seniors a year between our 4 Nassau Senior Centers and our Meals on Wheels Program? In 2021, EAC was the largest provider of daily meals in our Meals on Wheels Programs in Nassau County, we served over 175,000 meals last year.

Did You Know?

We have recently moved two of our Senior Centers (Hempstead and Long Beach/Point Lookout) into new and refreshed locations to better and more comfortably serve the needs of our seniors. The new facilities allow us to provide our services in safer more senior friendly spaces. The centers have already seen an uptick in attendance!

Did You Know?

EAC Network is the official Federal provider of Safe Harbour Anti-Trafficking programs for youth in Suffolk County? Our Safe Harbour program recently received a \$900k grant from the Department of Justice to expand our scope of services to better address the needs of young people we see every day. Safe Harbour collaborates with the Justice Department, FBI, SCPD and Suffolk County Sheriff to protect and care for young people who have been, or are at risk of being, sexually exploited in Suffolk

County. Our goal is to provide the education, skills, and support needed for these children to lead safe and meaningful lives.

Did You Know?

EAC Network is a significant provider of criminal justice and behavioral health programs in New York City? In 2021, despite the pandemic and the related court closures, our programs saw over 10,000 individuals across the five boroughs, to assist with Alternatives to Incarceration, Offender re-entry initiatives, Health Home and mental health, substance abuse and employment related services.

Did You Know?

We have added new Board and Senior Team members? I am proud to announce Risa Aggrey, NY State Supreme Court; Dr. Donna Bacon, Nassau Community College; Kim M. Ciesinski, Esq., PLLC; Dr. Tochi Iroku-Malize, Northwell Health; Dianna Jacob, Coney Island Hospital of NYC Health and Hospitals; James LaCarrubba, VP of Suffolk OTB and Jake's 58; and Lisa Mirabile, Owner of Vertigo Media, have all joined the Board of Directors. Additionally, we have brought in Robert Stricoff as our new Chief Development Officer and Seth Azizollohoff as our new Chief Human Resources Officer.

These new talented individuals join an equally talented and resolute team to feed more seniors, protect more children and help more New Yorkers. To see our mission, programs and impact, go to our social media platforms to view, like and share. Join us at our golf outing, to help support the 54,000 people we serve annually across the region. Did you know we have a Facebook page? Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/eacnetwork2022> and get to know the EAC Network!

We invite you to follow us on Facebook and support our 2022 campaign. We will be sharing info on the fabulous work we are doing in the community and the progress we are making with our campaign. We know, with your help, we can do more.



Neela Mukherjee Lockel MSW, MPA
President and Chief Executive Officer
<https://eac-network.org/>



Director of Operations, The Energeia Partnership

Danielle Fortune



Energeia—according to the Partnership's website—is a Greek word used by Aristotle to describe the demonstration of inner character in deeds. It is goodness plus efficiency; it is focused, purposeful, meaningful, effective, energetic action.

It is also an accurate description of Danielle Fortune, Director of Operations for The Energeia Partnership. This petite yet dynamic woman perfectly embodies every principle of Energeia's philosophy as she enthusiastically manages the leadership program for which she is responsible.

"A CATALYST FOR ACTION"

The Energeia Partnership, also known as the Academy for Regional Stewardship at Molloy University, is a leadership academy dedicated to identifying and addressing complex issues facing the Long Island region, such as poverty and the working poor, institutional racism, government, education, transportation, and more.

Energeia's mission is to identify the most serious issues. Still, the program's primary goal is to educate and inspire its graduates (aka Partners) to serve as "change agents" for Long Island, committing to "act on behalf of justice, the dignity of the human person, and the protection of those natural resources entrusted to us."

However, as Danielle explains, the Partnership itself does not seek to BE the center for change. Instead, Energeia serves as "a catalyst for action," as once described by Carrie Meek Gallagher, who, at the time, worked for the Rauch Foundation/LI Index, providing Molloy with much of the research and data about these critical issues.

THE ENERGY BEHIND ENERGEIA

To grow a successful program with such lofty, 'new age' forward-thinking goals requires a lot of old-fashioned hard work by dedicated individuals. As you would expect, the Energeia Advisory Board and Executive Director Paul Tonna demand that all staff be as equally ethical, committed, and qualified as the leaders they recruit for their program. They found all that, and more, in the force that is Danielle Fortune.

Danielle's cheerful demeanor perfectly complements her commitment to the program, where she incorporates the Partnership's philosophy ("focused, effective, and energetic") in her daily work ethic. That kind of energy is critical when you're managing multiple speakers, a mountain of content, and a variety of workshops for high-level executives.

Ed Thompson says, "Those who have experienced Danielle's passion and dedication know that she personifies the Energeia ideal of selfless commitment to the betterment of our shared home—Long Island. As founder of Energeia, it is gratifying to know that we are in such good hands. We are lucky to have Danielle Fortune on the team."



SMOOTH OPERATOR

Each year, the Partnership and the Recruitment Committee review applications (last year, receiving more than 150) and accept approx. 40 "students" to participate in the Partnership's 2-year long program. The aim is to convene a class representing a diverse cross-section of proven leaders from across the business, community, government, education, non-profit, and other sectors.

Once a class is formed, Danielle works closely with over 200 Energeia Partners—each an expert in their respective field—who serve on various curriculum committees. Together, they prepare content while Danielle ensures smooth operations and effective delivery of the Partnership's ever-evolving curriculum, which is presented in eleven full-day workshops (one every other month), following a mandatory weekend retreat.

Over two years, through a series of workshops, lectures, field trips, and panel discussions, the student leaders gain a greater understanding of broader issues that affect all aspects of Long Island's societal and economic well-being: Poverty, Healthcare, Institutional and Structural Racism, Transportation, Energy, Governance & Taxation, Land Use, Criminal Justice, Education, Media, and Resiliency.

Despite running two leadership classes concurrently, Danielle manages to make time to support the program in other ways. For example, she has improved the Partnership's fundraising model and serves as an essential member of the Curriculum Committee. In addition, she collaborates with regional leaders on opt-in initiatives, such as the wildly successful 'Right Track for Long Island' campaign, which helped gain support for the advancement of the LIRR Third Track project. This Partner-led initiative is a perfect example of the type of 'action and advocacy' Energeia hopes to inspire in all its graduates.

Keeping Partners engaged is another key to success. Danielle estimates that more than 50 percent of the 650+ Energeia alum are now actively involved—a credit to her efforts to revamp the Partnership's communications via their newsletter, website and social media platforms.

However, the largest contributing factor to the uptick in involvement is likely the number of electives offered. The thought-provoking and timely topics they explore here help keep graduates interested and engaged after they finish their 2-year program.

As with the main curriculum, Energeia Partners also help shape the electives. These serve as an addendum to the core curriculum and complement the primary program workshops. Some of the most recent electives offered include the following, to name just a few:

- Criminal Justice: A Discussion with Sheriff Errol Toulon and a Tour of the Yaphank Correctional Facility
- Long Island's Water Quality
- A Private East Side Access Tour
- Human Trafficking and the Dark Web
- Mass Shootings and Gun Violence in America
- Heroin and Opioid
- F6 Labs - Homeland Security and Fire Arms Training



FOLLOW THE LEADER

While Danielle spends her days helping educate proven leaders, she is quickly becoming one in her own right. Before the pandemic, Danielle was honored with a "Premier Business Women" award from the Long Island Herald, which celebrates high-level female business leaders who impact our region, and few could be more deserving.

Energeia is where Danielle says she's finally found her purpose. She calls the journey that led her here—and the opportunity to work at Energeia—"serendipitous," but quickly admits her path to finding fulfillment and professional success was neither choreographed nor conventional.

Continued on next page

Photos: (Above, left) Danielle chats with Energeia advisors and colleagues at the Energeia graduation ceremony for the Class of 2019 and Class of 2020. (Above, right) Danielle joins Energeia students and Partners for a tour of the East Side Access project, one of the many new elective options that the Energeia program offers.

AN EARLY EDUCATION

A single mother raised Danielle in an ethnically and economically diverse Brentwood school district for most of her childhood. While her mom worked 70-hour weeks, Danielle's grandparents often served as primary caretakers until Danielle's mother remarried years later, relocated to Huntington, and had another child 17 years younger (Danielle's half-brother, Matthew).

6
Danielle made a pact with herself to embrace every opportunity until "something clicked."

Danielle was definitely not a leader as a senior transfer student at Huntington High School. She simply followed the rules, didn't make any waves, and blended into the background. But even from that vantage point, the lack of diversity in her new hometown was apparent. This unexpected yet important observation stuck with Danielle, and it's one of the many reasons she feels so strongly about Energeia's commitment to raising the level of consciousness among Long Island leaders, particularly regarding diversity, poverty and people who are working poor, and institutional and structural racism.



Despite what most expect, Danielle was (in her own words) just an "okay" student with average grades. During her senior year, she watched her economically and educationally-advantaged classmates prepare for college with their lives and livelihoods seemingly laid out. With dreams predetermined, scholarships set, and majors declared, they seemed ready to pursue their passion. But at age 17, Danielle had yet to decide upon a career, much less discover her true calling.

When the last of her friends left for college, Danielle opted to start her search for something meaningful at a local community college, moving quickly from Nassau County Community College to Farmingdale State College, where she felt more academically challenged. Here, she began to unearth her potential, making the Dean's List on the way to earning her Associate's Degree, yet her internal search for 'something more' remained elusive.

Nearly two years into college, Danielle felt a tiny spark of enthusiasm while observing a secondary education class and took it as a sign. She decided at that moment she would become a high school English teacher. So, she headed to St. Joseph's and earned a Bachelor's Degree in English with a minor in Secondary Education. However, shortly after completing her first stint as a student teacher, Danielle discovered one essential thing: teaching was NOT for her.

23 AND ME (AND MY MENTORS)

After spending mountains of time and money to earn a degree in education, only to find that it *wasn't* her passion, Danielle found herself at 23 asking, "Now what?" But this time, as she searched for a true calling (her 'professional DNA,' you might say), Danielle made a pact with herself to embrace every opportunity until "something clicked."

That first opportunity came in the form of an administrative position at New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), where she worked under Dean Judith DiMaio in the School of Architecture & Design. Danielle welcomed the new opportunity but had no idea of this moment, or this mentor's, impact on her future.

Danielle walked into NYIT as a timid, lost, and impressionable young woman. Twelve years later, Danielle walked out as a more approachable, confident, worldly, and resourceful professional, thanks to Dean DiMaio's mentorship, friendship, and encouragement.

Despite the Dean's diminutive size, Danielle watched in awe as this 4'11" woman commanded a room each time she entered. She gained valuable knowledge by observing how DiMaio worked and accepted the Dean's challenge to push herself to learn more continually, work smarter, and aspire to want—and expect—something more for herself.

PURSUIING YOUR PASSION

DiMaio always encouraged Danielle to find and do something that truly mattered to her, then to become a mentor and help others flourish in the same way the Dean had helped her.

Photos: (Above, left) Danielle strikes a pose as Energeia Executive Director Paul Tonna addresses the gathering at the Energeia graduation ceremony for the Class of 2019 and Class of 2020.



Soon after the Dean announced her retirement, Danielle had the opportunity to fulfill the first part of her promise to DiMaio when she accepted the position for the Energeia program at Molloy University and found something with real meaning.

Danielle brought an expanded skillset and new self-confidence to her job at Energeia, but there is always room to grow. In true fashion of a guiding principle of Energeia "to help raise people up," Executive Director Paul Tonna and other advisors at the Partnership have helped Danielle as well, serving as supporters and mentors for the next stage of her career. Danielle possesses the same sentiments toward her Energeia colleagues as she felt for the Dean.

In the work she does for Molloy, Danielle found both passion and professional fulfillment. Everyone she encounters through Energeia acknowledges her competence and admires her ability to run such a comprehensive program with apparent ease. When her sharp wit and quirky sense of humor are on display, Danielle has drawn comparisons to one of her favorite characters, 'The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel.' Perhaps Energeia should launch its own hit show titled 'The Fabulous Mrs. Fortune'?!

GIVING BACK & COMING BACK

A key component of the program's success is to identify each students' core strengths, which enables the Partnership to create well-rounded groups that will likely lead to productive relationships "beyond the classroom." During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Danielle used her unique strengths to help coordinate a vaccination POD between Energeia Partners, Molloy College, and Suffolk County, which resulted in the vaccination of 500 first responders. Danielle is also a member of the Medical Reserve Corps and lends both her empathy and energy to many other non-profits, including ERASE Racism and the LGBT Network, which support some of the Island's most vulnerable populations.

The Long Island Contractors' Association proudly notes that several LICA members are also graduates of the Academy, in addition to LICA Executive Director Marc Herbst (Class of 2008) and LICA board members Joseph K. Posillico (2009), Jason Golden (2017), Billy Haugland, Jr. (2021), and Samantha Ruttura (2021).

Herbst, like many Energeia graduates, returns regularly to Molloy as a speaker for future Energeia workshops. As a transportation expert, Herbst provides both historical information about Long Island's infrastructure as well as updates on current transportation challenges and projects of regional significance that play a critical role in improving the lives and opportunities of the underserved.

6
In the work she does for Molloy, Danielle found both passion and professional fulfillment.

Giving back to the community, and coming back to Molloy to share your experience and expertise with the next generation of students, is perfectly reflective of the Energeia spirit.

Continued on next page



Photos: (Above, left) Danielle shares her personality, energy and excitement with Energeia students, showing off her skills as the "head chick in charge"! (Above, right) Stewardship begins 'at home.' Danielle joins Energeia colleagues in giving back to the community, helping build a home with Habitat for Humanity (2019).

GOOD COMPANY

As Danielle continues to fulfill her own potential, she has already earned her rightful place as a Long Island Road Warrior, joining these esteemed Energeia Partners who have previously graced our magazine cover:

- Patrick Beckley (Class of 2018, RW Vol 4, Fall 2018)
- Robert DeMarinis (Class of 2008, RW Vol 8, Fall 2019)
- John R. Durso (Class of 2007, RW Vol 11, Summer 2020)
- Tracey Edwards (Class of 2016, RW Vol 15, Fall 2021)
- Carrie Meek Gallagher (Class of 2006, RW Vol 10, Spring 2020)
- George (Chip) Gorman, Jr. (Class of 2008, RW Vol 6, Spring 2019)
- Dennis Kelleher (Class of 2014, RW Vol 10, Spring 2020)
- Timothy E. Mooney (Class of 2015, RW Vol 7, Summer 2019)
- Elisa Picca (Class of 2010, RW Vol 2, Spring 2018)
- Paul Pontieri (Class of 2019, RW Vol 3, Summer 2018)



GOOD FORTUNE

Molloy was blessed with the "good fortune" of finding Danielle more than six years ago. And now, it is my good fortune to shine a light on such a deserving and dedicated professional. Before long, however, I suspect that the 'Fabulous Mrs. Fortune' will be found on the opposite side of the Energeia podium as one of the Partnership's finest leadership recruits and future "agent of change."

###

Be sure to read more in our Q&A "Dishin' with Danielle" on page 23



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Dishin' with Danielle

featuring Danielle Fortune

Q&A



Q. What's your favorite motto or mantra?

A. Kindness is the most powerful, least costly, and most underrated agent of "human change" - Bob Kerrey

Q. What's the best piece of advice you give to young professionals?

A. Take advantage of every single opportunity that presents itself. Failure isn't failure - it always leads to something bigger and better. And when you find what you're passionate about... run with it!

Q. What's the best lesson you've learned from Energeia?

A. How important it is to form and nurture relationships — not just professionally, but personally, as well. These deep connections are vital when hoping to effect real change in our region.

Q. Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?

A. If I haven't been tapped to play "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" for the next season of the show (LOL!), then I still hope to be at Energeia working with over 1,000 partners! Seriously, I LOVE my job.

Q. What is your proudest professional achievement?

A. Being honored as one of LIBN's "Top 50 Women" with my husband, mom, mother-in-law, and the Molloy leadership in attendance. Then the next morning my daughter said, "When I grow up I want to be a mommy AND win an award!"

Q. What is your proudest personal moment?

A. There are so many, but the two biggest ones for me are: Giving birth to my children and being the first one in my family to graduate from college. And they sort of go hand-in-hand as I am so proud to set an example for them on how important hard work and education is.

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Suffolk County Legislature: Keeping Our County "Ahead of the Curve"

By Kevin J. McCaffrey, Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature



In January of 2014, I was sworn in to Office as a County Legislator for the first time. I was elected by the residents of the 14th Legislative District, which consists of the Villages of Lindenhurst and Babylon, the hamlets of West Babylon and North Lindenhurst, portions of Copiague, North Babylon, and Babylon's barrier beach communities. Less than two years prior, Superstorm Sandy hit our south shore communities hard.

On the night Sandy struck, I was serving as Deputy Mayor of the Village of Lindenhurst. Mayor Thomas Brennan took to the streets early that evening to observe the effects of the storm and the response. Nothing could have prepared us for the chaos that would ensue, or the night of riding payloaders with fire fighters from across the town of Babylon making daring treks through rising flood waters in attempts to save burning homes. I will never forget the sights and sounds from that night and will remain with me as I continue to represent these communities.

The focus in the Legislature, after witnessing the vulnerability of Suffolk County's coastal communities, was to continue to implement the Suffolk County Coastal Resiliency Initiative. The initiative would help restore natural barriers and coastal wetlands to help control flooding. It also will expand the sewer infrastructure through the Southwest Sewer District #3 in Babylon, as well as Carlls River, Connetquot River, Forge River, and the Patchogue River watersheds, to help mitigate the impacts to surface waters and coastal wetlands associated with on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system failures.

The Suffolk County Legislature is no stranger to innovative actions to further protect and develop a sustainable Suffolk for our residents. It was our municipality, one of the first, some 40 years ago, to pass the requirement of a 5-cent deposit on beer and soft drink containers. In my time in the Legislature, we pioneered the plastic straw ban. Admittedly, I opposed the measure when it was first discussed, because I was concerned about

how it might affect small business owners. However, after my discussions with businesses in my district I learned they were not opposed to using eco-friendly and sustainable products like cardboard to-go boxes and paper straws, even at a greater cost. When I asked why they would do so, many replied, "it's the right thing to do." The response hit home for me, and I happily supported the bill.

The Legislature is also working on other "green" initiatives that will keep our County ahead of the curve in providing clean energy to our residents. We are dedicating funds to improve our electric charging capabilities by expanding the infrastructure to more and more convenient locations throughout the County. Improvements in solar technology and offshore wind projects currently underway will help us reach the 9,000 megawatts of electricity goal set for 2035 by New York State. It is on matters such as these, I often remind myself and others that this land is merely borrowed from our grandchildren. It is not for us to destroy, but to protect and improve upon.

After Superstorm Sandy and the COVID-19 pandemic, it is very important that the Legislature continue to support small businesses that are the very pulse of our main streets and downtowns. To date, the Legislature has approved over 300 projects supporting revitalization efforts across Suffolk County valued at over \$12M. This year the Legislature will approve more than \$500,000 across four categories: Decorative Street Lighting, Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility, Community Facility and Feature Improvements, and Streetscaping Improvements. By keeping local economies growing, we plan to continue to find ways to help our young people stay in Suffolk County. It is my goal to improve the quality of life for our working-class families who deserve a clean, safe and affordable place to live, work, and play.



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Sept. 23: LICA Legislative Breakfast
Dec. 7: LICA Holiday Party



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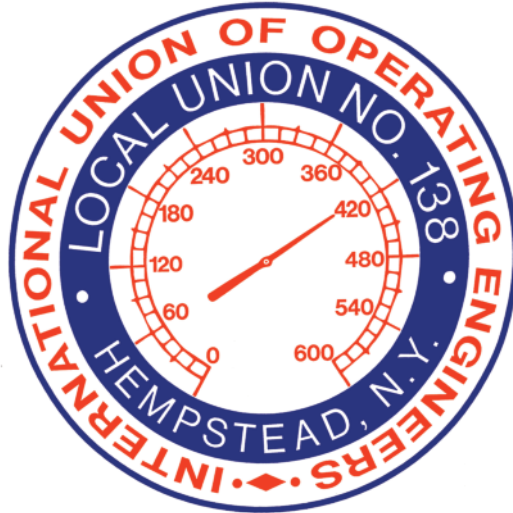
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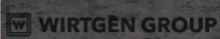
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