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THE

NEW ALBANY LECTURE

SERIES

**GENERAL DAVID H. PETRAEUS &
AMBASSADOR MARIE YOVANOVITCH**

Moderated by
BRET STEPHENS

National Security Discussion

September 15, 2026

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NATIONAL SECURITY DISCUSSION

September 15, 2026

7:00 p.m.

WELCOME BY

DEREK HOTCHKISS, COMMANDER, USN (RET.)

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PROGRAM

GENERAL DAVID H. PETRAEUS

General, U.S. Army (Ret.) & Former Director of the CIA

AMBASSADOR MARIE YOVANOVITCH

Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine

Interviewed by

BRET STEPHENS

Pulitzer Prize Winner & Op-Ed Columnist for The New York Times

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A limited number of listening devices for the hearing impaired are available for tonight's New Albany Lecture Series program. Devices can be used with headphones or the option of a neck loop to be used with hearing aids. Devices can be retrieved from the box office in exchange for a driver's license or similar form of ID and must be returned to the box office at the end of the program. Please see an usher or visit the box office if you have any questions.

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Dear Friends, Donors and Sponsors:

Welcome to the opening lecture of our 2026–2027 season! This milestone launches our 14th year of bringing the community together through powerful conversation. To date, The New Albany Lecture Series has brought more than 80 influential thought leaders to the stage at The McCoy. Our distinguished roster spans Pulitzer Prize winners, renowned scholars, policymakers, celebrated authors and athletes, and dedicated mental health advocates. More than 37,000 students from schools across central Ohio have interacted with our speakers.

We remain grateful to the families, businesses and organizations who have supported the Foundation through the years.

The Foundation's mission is to build an extraordinary community that celebrates lifelong learning, health and wellness, arts and culture, and a sustainable environment.

One of the most impactful ways we promote lifelong learning is through the lecture series. It provides a platform for community dialogue, civil discussion and debate, and an open exchange of ideas and perspectives — simply put, a way for people to interact respectfully with one another. We believe this is important, perhaps now more than ever.

Tonight, we welcome back Gen. (Ret.) David Petraeus, who served as the fourth Director of the Central Intelligence Agency after 37 years in the United States Army. During his military career, he commanded the International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces in Afghanistan, and led the Multi-National Force in Iraq as commander of U.S. Central Command.

Appearing with Gen. Petraeus tonight is former Ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch. She is a respected diplomat and retired senior member of the United States Foreign Service. Ambassador Yovanovitch served in multiple State Department posts, including Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, U.S. Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan, U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, in addition to her post as Ambassador to Ukraine. She is currently a diplomat in residence at Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of Diplomacy.

Moderating our discussion this evening is Bret Stephens, an opinion columnist for *The New York Times* and a senior contributor to NBC News since 2017. Since 2021, he has served as the inaugural editor-in-chief of *SAPIR: A Journal of Jewish Conversations*. Stephens previously served as a foreign affairs columnist and deputy editorial page editor at *The Wall Street Journal*, overseeing the editorial pages of its European and Asian editions, and from 2002 to 2004 was editor-in-chief of *The Jerusalem Post*. He won the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary for his work at *The Wall Street Journal*.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Craig".

Craig Mohre, President
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GENERAL DAVID PETRAEUS

U.S. Army (Ret.) & Former Director of the CIA



GENERAL DAVID PETRAEUS, U.S. Army (Ret.) is one of the leading battlefield commanders and strategists of our time. He served over 37 years in the US military culminating his career with six consecutive commands as a general officer, five of which were in combat, including command of the Surge in Iraq, US Central Command, and Coalition Forces in Afghanistan. He subsequently served as Director of the CIA, following confirmation by the Senate by a vote of 94-0, during a period of significant achievements in the global war on terror.

General Petraeus is now a Partner with the global investment firm KKR and Chairman of the KKR Global Institute, which he established in 2013. He also serves on corporate boards, is a strategic advisor to multiple firms, is a member of the Simon and Schuster Advisory Board, and is a personal venture capitalist, invested in over 30 startups. Additionally, he is the Kissinger Fellow at Yale University's Jackson School and is the co-author, with Andrew Roberts, of the award-winning, *New York Times* best-selling book, *Conflict: The Evolution of Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine*.

General Petraeus graduated with distinction from the US Military Academy, earned a Ph.D. from Princeton University in international relations and economics, completed a fellowship at Georgetown, and has held academic appointments at 5 universities (USMA, USC, Harvard, CUNY's Honors College, University of Birmingham (England)) in addition to his current position at Yale. He is the only person in Army history to be the top graduate of both the demanding US Army Ranger School and the year-long Command and General Staff College Course. He is also Co-Chairman of the Woodrow Wilson Center's Global Advisory Council, Senior Vice President of the Royal United Services Institute, and a member of the Trilateral Commission, Council on Foreign Relations, and Aspen Strategy Group.

His awards include four Defense Distinguished Service Medals, the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Award, the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, two NATO Meritorious Service Medals, the Combat Action Badge, the Ranger tab, and Air Assault and Master Parachutist wings. He has also been decorated by 14 foreign countries and is believed to be the only person in uniform to throw out the first pitch of a World Series game and do the coin toss for a Super Bowl. He was runner-up to Vladimir Putin for *Time* Person of the Year in 2007, the 2007 *Daily Telegraph* Man of the Year, twice a *Time* 100 selectee, three times a *Foreign Policy* top public intellectual, *Prospect* magazine's Public Intellectual of the Year, one of *US News and World Report's* Top 25 Leaders, Princeton University's Madison Medalist, and sanctioned by Russia (in 2022). ~

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MARIE YOVANOVITCH

*Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine;
NYT Bestselling Author of Lessons from the Edge*



MARIE YOVANOVITCH The former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine and bestselling author of the memoir *Lessons from the Edge* shares insights on the region and the current crisis as well as experiences from her 33-year career in the U.S. Foreign Service.

Marie Yovanovitch served three times as U.S. Ambassador, most recently in Kyiv as the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine (2016-2019). Previously, she served as U.S. Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic (2005-2008) and the Republic of Armenia (2008-2011). She retired from the Foreign Service in 2020 and is currently a Senior Fellow at the Carnegie

Endowment for International Peace and a non-Resident Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University.

Born into a family that survived both Soviet and Nazi terror before emigrating to the U.S., Yovanovitch rose to the top of her profession in the crucible of the former USSR. Following early assignments in Moscow, London, Ottawa, and Mogadishu, she served as Deputy Director of the Russia Desk and then Deputy Chief in Ukraine. Ambassador Yovanovitch has also worked in the Office of European Security Affairs, the Operations Center, and as chief of staff for the Under Secretary for Political Affairs. A senior member of the Foreign Service, she served as the Dean of the School of Language Studies at the Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Department of State and as the Deputy Commandant and International Advisor at the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, National Defense University.

Ambassador Yovanovitch earned the Senior Foreign Service Performance Award eight times and the State Department's Superior Honor Award on nine occasions. She is the recipient of two Presidential Distinguished Service Awards and the Secretary's Diplomacy in Human Rights Award. Following her retirement, Ambassador Yovanovitch received the Trainor Award for Excellence in the Conduct of Diplomacy from Georgetown University, the inaugural Richard G. Lugar Award from Indiana University, the 2020 PEN/Benenson Courage Award from Pen/America, the Morgenthau Award from the Armenian Assembly of America, the American Spirit Award for Distinguished Public Service from the Common Good, and the Paul H. Douglas Award for Ethics in Government, the Vandenberg Prize from the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan, 2022, the Walter and Leonore Annenberg Award for Excellence in Diplomacy from the American Academy of Diplomacy, 2023, the George F. Kennan Award for Distinguished Public Service from the National Committee on Foreign Policy, and the Director General's Cup for the Foreign Service from the Department of State.

In early 2022, Marie Yovanovitch's memoir, *Lessons From The Edge*, was an instant *New York Times* bestseller. The late Madeleine Albright called the book "A brilliant, engaging, and inspiring memoir from one of America's wisest and most courageous diplomats—essential reading for current policymakers, aspiring public servants, and anyone who cares about America's role in the world." ~



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BRET STEPHENS

Pulitzer Prize Winner & Op-Ed Columnist for The New York Times



BRET STEPHENS is an Op-Ed columnist for *The New York Times*.

Since joining *The New York Times* in 2017, Stephens has written about foreign policy, domestic politics and cultural issues. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 2013 for his commentary at *The Wall Street Journal*, and previously served as editor-in-chief of *The Jerusalem Post*, a position he took at the age of 28. He has reported stories from Gaza to Greenland, and is the author of *America in Retreat: The New Isolationism and the Coming Global Disorder*, published in 2014.

Bret is the author of *America in Retreat: The New Isolationism and the Coming Global Disorder*, released in November 2014, and is currently working on a book about the free world. He is the recipient of numerous awards and distinctions, including three honorary doctorates, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for commentary. In 2022, the government of Russia banned him for life from visiting that country.

In addition to his work at *The New York Times*, in 2021 Bret became editor-in-chief of *Sapir* (sapirjournal.org), a Jewish quarterly published by the Maimonides Fund. The mission of *Sapir* is to offer ideas for a thriving Jewish future. He is also currently at work on a book about the future of the free world.

Bret was raised in Mexico City and holds a B.A. from the University of Chicago, and an MSc from the London School of Economics. He sits on numerous academic advisory boards and was a co-founder, with Garry Kasparov, of the Renew Democracy Initiative, an organization dedicated to advancing democratic principles throughout the world.

He and his wife, Corinna da Fonseca-Wollheim, a music critic and entrepreneur, live near New York City and have three children. ~

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DEREK P. HOTCHKISS

*Commander, USN (Ret.); Group Vice President, Global Supply Chain
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DEREK P. HOTCHKISS is a native of Bath, Ohio. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science, where he also played varsity football. He holds an MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business, completed an Executive Fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and serves as an active mentor and guest speaker at Denison University in Granville, Ohio.

Derek served 20 years as a Navy Supply Corps Officer in the United States Navy. Throughout his career, he served aboard multiple ships

and aircraft carriers, was a member of the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, and worked as the Assistant Aviation Operations Director at NAVICP/WSS in Philadelphia. He was selected for the prestigious Training with Industry (TWI) Program, serving as an Executive Fellow with Starbucks Coffee Company in Seattle, where he collaborated closely with Chairman Howard Schultz on veterans hiring and supply chain initiatives. Derek concluded his military career in 2018 at the Pentagon as Strategic Advisor and Executive Assistant to the Chief Logistics and Supply Chain Officer on the Joint Staff, J4 (General Steve Lyons). His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and numerous additional personal and unit awards.

Following his military service, Derek joined Amazon in 2018 as Director of DC Operations, leading some of the company's largest fulfillment centers in the Midwest. He also led military mentoring and promotion initiatives across Amazon North America Customer Fulfillment. In September 2021, Derek joined Abercrombie & Fitch Co. as Group Vice President of Global Supply Chain Operations. In this role, he leads distribution, transportation, engineering, third-party logistics management, and facilities operations for all Abercrombie brands, including Abercrombie & Fitch Adults, Abercrombie Kids, Hollister, Your Personal Best activewear, and Gilly Hicks.

Derek is a member of the Defense Acquisition Professional Community and remains active in the alumni networks of the U.S. Naval Academy and Duke University. He is engaged with multiple Mid-Ohio chambers of commerce, serves as an adjunct speaker at Denison University and for the Columbus Council on World Affairs' Global Commerce program, and participates in various business and professional boards.

Derek resides in Granville, Ohio, with his wife, Jennifer. They are the parents of three children: Clare, a senior at The Ohio State University and future OSU dental student; Grace, a sophomore at Auburn University; and Will, a middle school student in eighth grade. ~

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– THEODORE ROOSEVELT

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FAST FACTS ABOUT YOUR GENEROSITY

The Foundation and its donors work together to help build this extraordinary community by forging partnerships and investing in transformational projects, such as: the New Albany Branch Library, the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts, the Charleen & Charles Hinson Amphitheater, Safety Town, The New Albany Lecture Series, The Student Lecture Series and the New Albany Scholars Author-in-Residency Program, among others.

THE FOUNDATION IS CELEBRATING 100 FUNDS *and* COUNTING!

Grants to the community recently surpassed \$25 million since the Foundation's inception, thanks to generous donors who give annually or have established 100 funds at the Foundation.

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Contact Gina Stelluti at 614 939-8152 or GinaS@newalbanyfoundation.org to learn more about establishing your own fund.

In addition to advancing larger community projects, through its fund donors, the Foundation has awarded **grants to over 130 different organizations** since 2004 that impact the lives of New Albany residents.

Some of the grant recipients include:

- The Antidote-FIRST Tech Robotics Team
- Ballet Met
- Buddy Up for Life
- City of New Albany
- Columbus Metropolitan Library
- Dreams on Horseback
- EnergizeCare
- Fry Out Cancer
- The Garden For All
- Healthy New Albany Farmers Market/ Food Pantry/Community Garden/CARES Program
- The Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts
- LifeCare Alliance
- LifeTown
- LifeWise Academy
- Mid-Ohio Foodbank
- Nationwide Children's Hospital
- New Albany Bridges
- New Albany Children's Ballet Theater
- New Albany Community Playhouse
- New Albany High School Theater
- New Albany Miracle Field
- New Albany Ohio Model United Nations
- New Albany Robotics Team
- New Albany (Schools) Scholars Author Residency Program
- New Albany Schools Easton E3 Learning Lab
- New Albany-Plain Local Schools Extra Curricular Activities Scholarships
- New Albany-Plain Local Schools Scholarships
- New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society
- New Albany Schools Sources of Strength
- New Albany Symphony Orchestra
- New Albany Wellbeing Connection
- New Albany Winds
- New Albany Youth Theatre
- Plain Township Firefighters
- TEDx New Albany

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A priority for the Foundation moving forward is to endow The New Albany Lecture Series. This will enable the Foundation to continue to present high-quality speakers while keeping lectures accessible to the entire community, including students, senior citizens and veterans. Additionally, endowing The New Albany Lecture Series would allow the Foundation to continue to invest in other transformative projects and initiatives in the community. Already, several families have established endowment funds to support the series.

If you are interested in establishing a fund or simply making a contribution to The New Albany Lecture Series Endowment Fund, please contact Craig Mohre at 614-939-8150 or craigmohre@newalbanyfoundation.org to support The New Albany Community Foundation's programming.



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Please call 614-939-8150 or email Craig Mohre at CraigMohre@newalbanyfoundation.org or Jennifer Lachey at JenniferL@newalbanyfoundation.org to become a member.

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THE STUDENT LECTURE SERIES

In response to its donors' desire to support The Student Lecture Series, The New Albany Community Foundation established The Lifelong Learning Circle. Visit newalbanyfoundation.org to become a member of The Lifelong Learning Circle and help the Foundation underwrite the cost of the series so that central Ohio students can benefit from these programs.

This season the Foundation will host three student lectures at the McCoy Center. Students from area high schools and organizations are invited to participate in these lectures made possible by generous Foundation donors. In January, the lecture will celebrate America at 250 with Presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin and American historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Annette Gordon-Reed. In February the student lecture will focus on civil discourse and debate with former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (2015-2019) Paul Ryan and former member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, bestselling author and political analyst Bakari Sellers. In March, the students will hear from Arthur Brooks, *New York Times* #1 bestselling author, Harvard professor and renowned social scientist, on the topic of health & wellbeing.



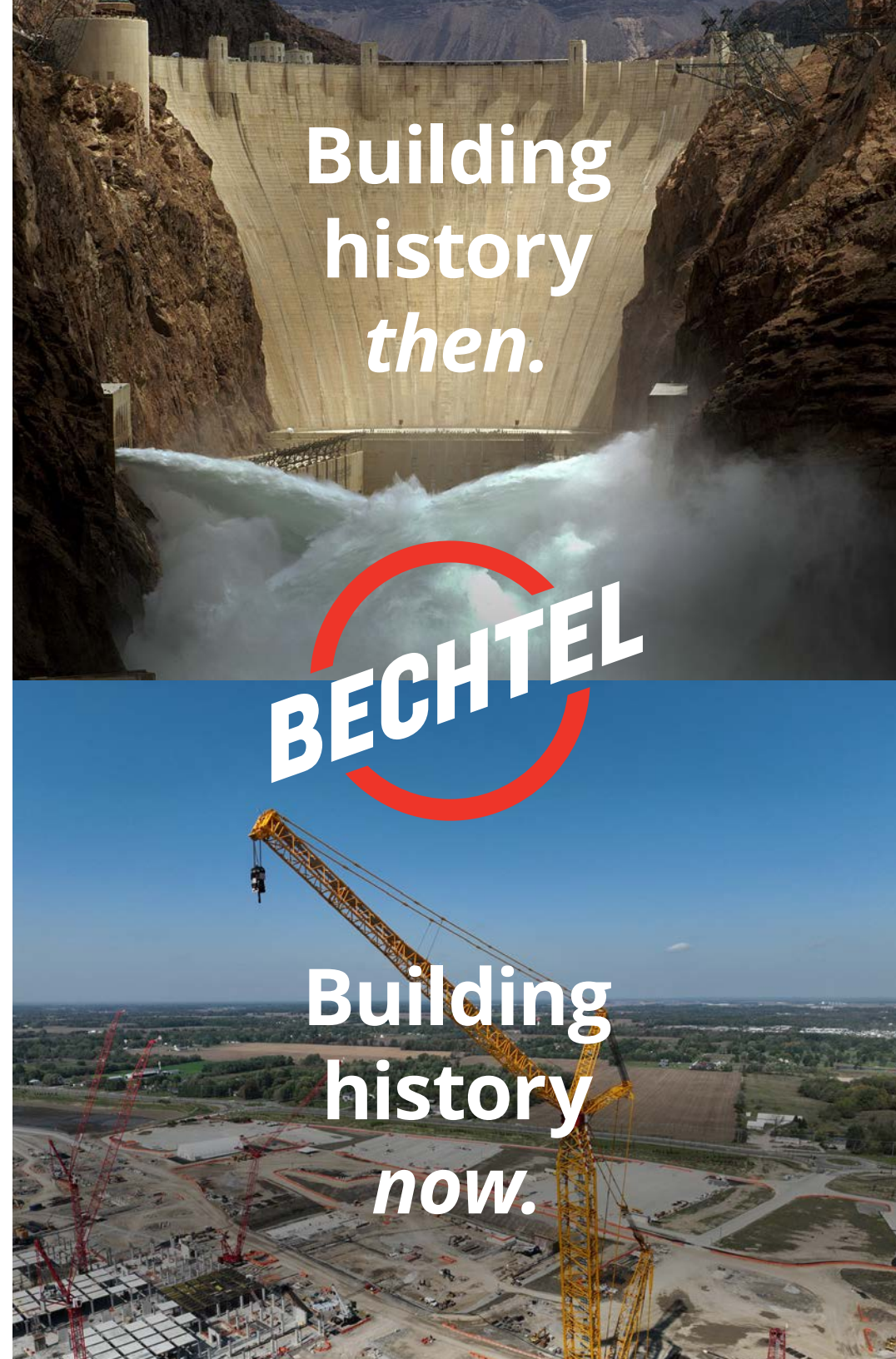


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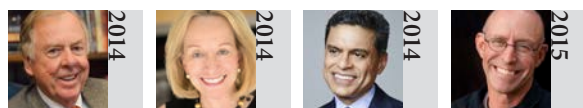


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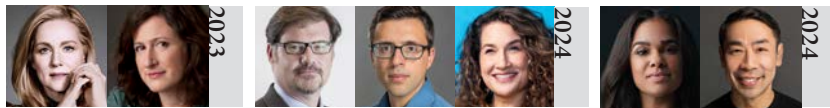
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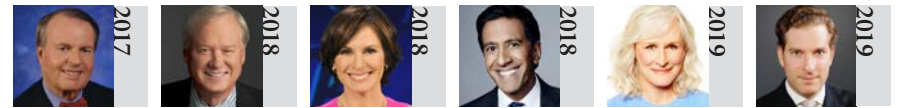
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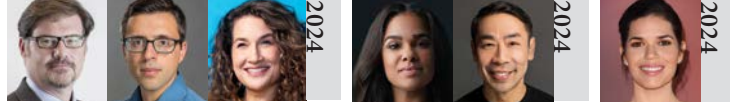
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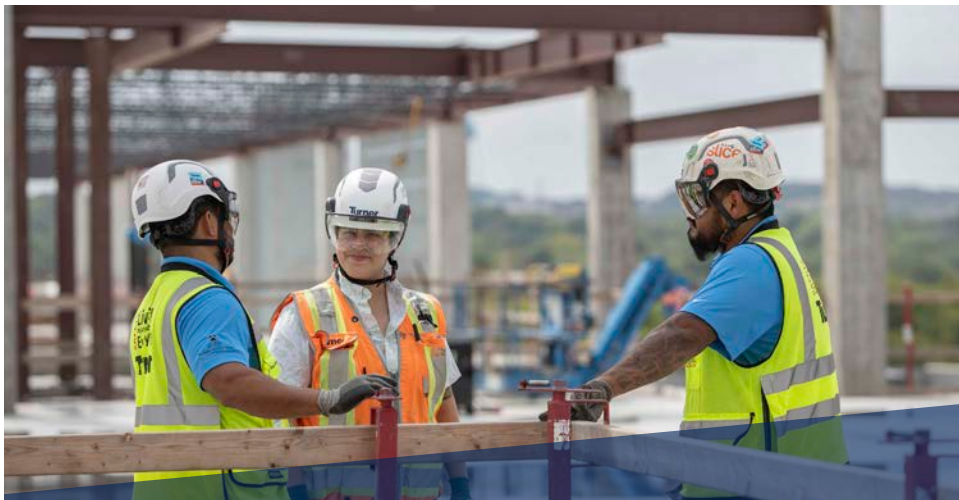
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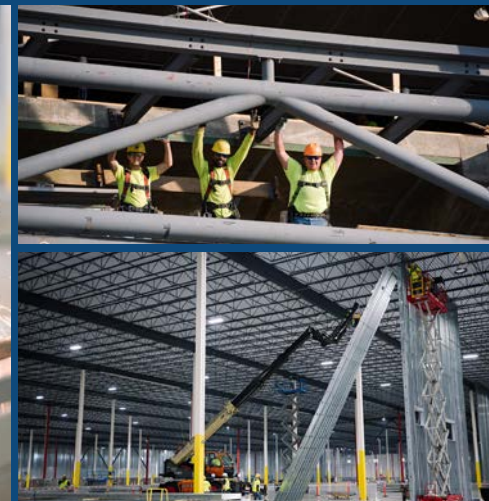
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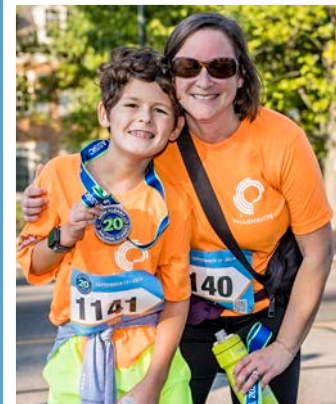
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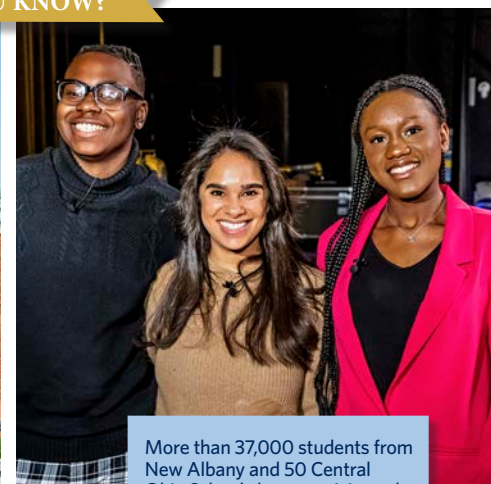
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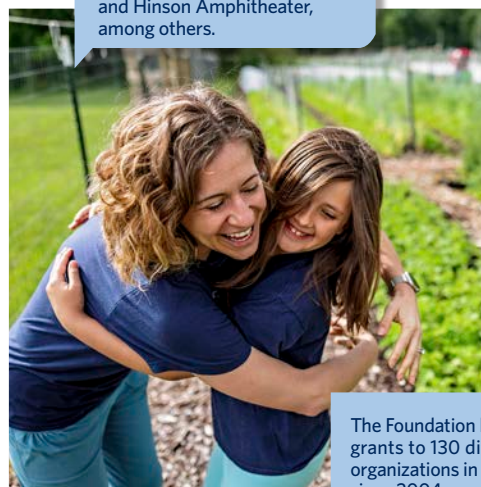
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