Dr. Betty A. Rosa was elected to two five-year terms (April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2013) and reelected (April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2018) as the Regent for the Twelfth Judicial District (Bronx County). In March 2016, she was elected by her Board of Regents colleagues as Chancellor for another term (April 1, 2016 through March 2019).

Dr. Rosa received a B.A. in psychology from the City College of New York and holds two Master of Science in Education degrees, one in administration and supervision from the City College of New York, and the other in bilingual education from Herbert H. Lehman College. She also received an Ed.M. and Ed.D. in administration, planning, and social policy from Harvard University.

Dr. Rosa worked as a bilingual paraprofessional, teacher, and reading coordinator as well as served as an assistant principal and principal of I.S. 218, a full-service community school in partnership with the Children’s Aid Society in District 6. Chancellor Rudy Crew appointed Dr. Rosa to the position of Superintendent of Community School District 8 in the Bronx. District 8 consisted of approximately 25,000 students and 30 schools encompassing neighborhoods of the South Bronx, including Soundview, Hunts Point, and the northeast section of the Bronx known as Throgs Neck. Chancellor Harold Levy later appointed Dr. Rosa to serve as the Senior Superintendent of the Bronx. One of the schools Dr. Rosa founded as superintendent, M.S. 101 (Maritime Academy for Science and Technology) became a top ranked middle school in New York City, based on New York State examination results.

Dr. Rosa is the President of B.D.J. & J. Associates LLC, a company she founded in 2005. The company serves in a consulting capacity to large urban school districts throughout the country and to companies in the educational services field. A new division provides business development assistance in sports, recreation, camps for profit, and not-for-profit enterprises and organizations.
Dr. Jeffrey Gilbert holds the distinction of being a member of the first graduating class of Lehman College (1972). After graduating from Lehman, he attended the Albert Einstein College of Medicine graduating in 1975. Dr. Gilbert is an internist and an international authority on the diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases (STD). Currently, he is the medical director of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) for BioReference Laboratories where he is pioneering new testing methods for STIs. Prior to this, he was the medical director for the STD Center of Excellence at Montefiore Medical Center, which he founded in 1992 at Mount Vernon Hospital and then relocated to Montefiore Hospital in 1996. The STD Center of Excellence was the STD training site for New York State for nearly two decades and was a Center for Disease Control (CDC) training site for five years. Early in his career, Dr. Gilbert was in charge of the New York City Department of Health’s Bronx STD Clinic where he started the first teaching program for Einstein medical students and then for all NYC doctors.

Dr. Gilbert returns to Lehman yearly to participate in the annual Arthur Sweeny, Jr. Lecture, where he honors the contributions of his mentor, former Chemistry Professor Arthur Sweeny, Jr. He credits Professor Sweeny with having a profound influence on him becoming a physician. Dr. Gilbert has helped to arrange internships for Lehman students at prominent hospitals and health facilities throughout the city and brought colleagues to Lehman College for lectures and discussions with students to help them learn about careers in medicine, the MCAT exam, and applying to medical school.

In addition to his successful medical career, Dr. Gilbert is a recognized Hudson River driftwood artist and the author of a children’s book *Milton’s Moment*. Profits from the book have been donated to several scholarships and aid organizations.

Over the years, Dr. Gilbert has taken an active role in mentoring Lehman students who want to follow in his footsteps and become a doctor, particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds. As the alumni he has mentored succeed in achieving their dreams, he has encouraged them to come back to campus to speak to current students.
HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

Eddie Palmieri
Musician, Bandleader, Latin Jazz Pioneer
Doctor of Music, June 1, 2017

Known as one of the finest Latin jazz pianists of the past 50 years, Eddie Palmieri is also a bandleader of both salsa and Latin jazz orchestras. His professional career as a pianist took off in the early 1950s when he played with various bands. In 1961, he formed his own band, La Perfecta, which created an innovative sound that mixed American jazz into Latin performances.

In 1970, Palmieri released several recordings that reflected his unorthodox approach to music, such as the groundbreaking release of *Harlem River Drive*, which merged musical categories into a free-form sound that encompassed elements of salsa, funk, soul, and jazz. In 1975, Palmieri won the first ever Grammy Award for Best Latin Recording for his album *The Sun of Latin Music*. Altogether, he has received ten Grammys, including two for his recordings with Tito Puente, *Obra Maestra/Masterpiece*.

In addition to the Grammy Awards, Palmieri has received numerous other honors including: the Eubie Blake Award (1991); the Award for Most Exciting Latin Performance presented by the BBC in London (2002); Yale University’s Chubb Fellowship for his work building communities through music (2002); the Harlem Renaissance Award (2005); the Jay McShann Lifetime Achievement Award (2008); along with his induction into the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame. In 2009, the Library of Congress added Palmieri’s composition “Azucar Pa’ Ti” to the National Recording Registry. In 2013, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Latin Grammys and honored as a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master. The Jazz Masters Fellowships are the highest honors that the United States bestows upon jazz musicians.
Jeffrey Menkes brings more than 30 years of leadership and healthcare experience to Montefiore Medical Center. Over the course of his career, he has held a number of progressive and high profile positions in New York-based academic medical centers, community hospitals, healthcare consulting, and one of the largest physician-owned medical malpractice insurance carriers in the United States.

Menkes oversaw the merger of New York Downtown Hospital with New York-Presbyterian Hospital. While serving as President and CEO of New York Downtown Hospital, he led the hospital during the rebirth of lower Manhattan following 9/11 and strengthened the level of services provided to the district’s diverse and growing community. In addition to his work in hospital operations and finance, Menkes established community-based physician growth alliances in subspecialty and primary care and expanded innovative community outreach services. He has a Bachelor of Arts from Lehman College and a Masters of Business Administration from Baruch College – Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

Menkes was recently appointed President & CEO of Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in White Plains, New York while still overseeing his role as System Senior Vice President, Network Development. Menkes is responsible for strengthening and building Montefiore’s ongoing and new relationships with hospitals, health systems, and community-based physicians and bringing Burke’s inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services to the next level.