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DONOR OF THE DAY

Leading a New Generation

Colin L. Powell Gives \$5 Million to the City College of New York

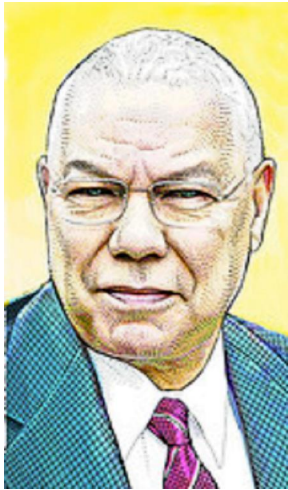
By **MELANIE GRAYCE WEST**

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With a gift of \$5 million to the City College of New York, Colin L. Powell is investing in students pursuing a degree in the social sciences and a future career in public service.

Mr. Powell, 76 years old, the former Secretary of State and the 12th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is a 1958 graduate of the City College of New York. His donation, which will be made public by the college on Tuesday, is in support of the Colin L. Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership. The school was named for Mr. Powell this past May and he serves as chairman of the school's board of visitors.

In a recent interview, Mr. Powell said that during this phase in his life he is dedicating his time to education initiatives. The obligation he feels to City College—and what makes the school his primary charitable focus—is simple: "Without the City College of New York, I wouldn't be in a position to give anything to anybody," he said.



Colin Powell

The Colin L. Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership grew out of a center created in 1997. As that program in leadership and community service grew and attracted other departments, so too did the idea for an interdisciplinary school dedicated to the social sciences and public service. The anthropology, economics, sociology, psychology and political science departments are among those included in the school now named for Mr. Powell.

A capital campaign that began in 2009 has raised \$44 million for the school. Mr. Powell's \$5 million gift is to be made over several years and follows \$2 million in donations he has already made to City College.

Mr. Powell says that he barely got into City College and barely made it out with a grade point average of "slightly over 2.0." He "bounced around" the college but finally found his grounding in the ROTC, he said, and graduated with a degree in geology in 4½ years. By that time, the school was "glad to see me go" to the Army, he joked.

"What I tell students is, 'It isn't where you start, it's what you do with your life,'" said Mr. Powell, who was born not far from City College's campus in Harlem. He was raised in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx and in Queens and he attended city schools. He now resides in McLean, Va.

Mr. Powell's vision for his eponymous school is for it to continue to grow in size and to extend deeper into New York's social, business and non-profit communities. Already the school has a foothold in Washington and Mr. Powell envisions the school reaching further into the country so that students in Harlem can experience "other aspects of American life," he said.

Students at City College, many of them immigrants, minorities and with limited income, represent the full diversity of New York, said Mr. Powell. The students are just like him, he says. "We have no greater obligation to the future of our country than to educate these youngsters to positions of leadership," said Mr. Powell. "That is our goal. That is our real objective—to get these kids ready for the leadership roles that are waiting for them."

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