BNY Mellon has been a member of PENCIL’s network since 2009. In 2014, BNY Mellon attended a PENCIL Power Breakfast with an eye toward deepening their engagement in New York City public schools, especially those close to their downtown office. Shortly thereafter, they began a School Partnership with the High School for Economics and Finance. BNY Mellon formed a robust relationship with their school during their first year and is now set to impact twice as many students in their second year. In recognition of their work, PENCIL honored BNY Mellon with its 2015 Emerging Partnership Award.

The Business Team: The BNY Mellon team leveraged both their Corporate Social Responsibility office and their Millennial Network to recruit volunteers from their organization. To support their PENCIL School Partnership, the team recruited a pool of ten volunteers. These individuals, who hold largely client-facing roles within the company, were chosen for their professional communication and presentation skills as well as their ability to discuss a diverse set of traditional and nontraditional college and career paths.

The Partnership: In their first year, BNY Mellon worked with 25 high-potential 10th grade students. The team facilitated monthly sessions at both the school and the corporate office. Sessions addressed the school’s priority to provide quality college preparatory activities for students who may be wavering in their commitment to a college education. The BNY Mellon team is comprised of professionally and ethnically diverse members who are able to connect session content to their own college and career experiences. In their second year, the BNY Mellon team is working with last year’s students, now in their junior year, to ensure that they stay on track to successfully apply and enroll in college. Additionally, the team is furthering their engagement with the school by working with a new group of 10th grade students.

The Outcomes: Last year, students achieved a number of key benchmarks to on-time graduation:
- 94% understood what a professional network was and how it could help them in the future.
- 94% were able to explain how their experiences were an asset in a variety of work environments.
- 88% passed at least one math Regents exam.
- 94% took the PSAT.

Leadership: In 2014, Tanya Amaya joined PENCIL’s Executive Leadership Council (ELC). As a member of the ELC, Ms. Amaya is an important supporter of and advocate for PENCIL’s programming and its role in the larger education- and workforce-development landscape.