



2014 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

The true measure of the Academy's greatness can be found in the achievements and wellbeing of its alumni. A vast number of whom have gained unique distinction through success in their professions, contribution to their communities and service to the Academy.

For this reason, Lacordaire Academy has established the Distinguished Alumna/us of the Year Award in recognition of outstanding graduates to celebrate their achievements and honor their legacy of excellence.

ELISA FUSCO CHARTERS '87, CCIM

Ms. Charters is principal of EAC Business International LLC, a fashion wholesaler/retailer. She was formerly a founder and partner of Toussa International LLC, a wholesale distribution and sourcing company of children's apparel imported from South America. She currently serves New Jersey as Vice Chair of the New Jersey Healthcare Facilities Financing Authority, and as a Steering Committee Member of the Essex County Comprehensive Transportation Plan. She previously served The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ) for 13 years in various capacities leading to executive management.

Her most recent positions at PANYNJ were as Comptroller of the Port Commerce Business, and of World Trade Center Site Acquisitions & Operations for the redevelopment effort post 9/11. Ms. Charters also managed 125 acres of waterfront properties in New York and New Jersey with an estimated public and private investment of \$3.6 billion, a project which included work on the NYC2012 Olympic Bid. In October 2001, she coordinated with founder, Linda Lees, to bring together the first Creative Cities forum in Long Island City, Creative Cities: Renewing NY. Also, as Senior Financial Analyst, she provided the PANYNJ Real Estate Department with lease analysis and valuation services of approx. 23million square ft. of office, retail and industrial space including that of the original WTC complex.

Ms. Charters has volunteered her time to both not-for-profit organizations and public boards over the years. This includes the Junior League of Montclair/Newark, where she received the award for "***JLMN Volunteer of the Year – 2010.***" She was the Treasurer of the Statewide Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey (LLANJ) 2005-2008 and was the Chairperson of the LLANJ Fundraising Committee in 2008. In 2005, Ms. Charters was appointed to the Essex County Planning Board and in 2008, she was appointed to the NJ State Minority and Women Business Development Advisory Council. In 2009, she was selected by ***Latina Style Magazine*** to co-chair its 2009 Business Series event in Newark, NJ.

Ms. Charters is a Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) and is a graduate of New Jersey Institute of Technology, New York University and Columbia University with advanced degrees in Environmental Science, Real Estate Finance and International Finance and Business, respectively. She has been married to Brian Charters for 18 years, and has two children, Remy and Lucian, who have attended Lacordaire Academy.