

## Dimitri Siavelis - Mapping a Path to Success

❖ INTERVIEW & SUBMISSION BY  
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I began my collegiate career at LaGuardia as a Liberal Arts and Sciences major with the intention of pursuing a degree and subsequent profession in Mathematics. My Co-op faculty advisor, Deborah Robinson told me about an internship at Community Board 3 working on a project involving the creation of interactive maps to help a broader audience understand the importance of commercial strips in relationship to their surrounding areas. Not for one moment had the thought ever entered my mind that I could be an urban planner, but this experience triggered my curiosity.

I joined the project and veered towards an application of mathematics I had never considered before - studying patterns and events in the development of cities to improve the relationship between humans and their habitats. Participating in this unique

research project also gave me an opportunity to develop my interpersonal and communication skills, allowing me to present myself in a professional and cohesive manner in the meetings. Getting involved with a project that puts so much effort in analyzing the economic development, social justice, immigration, and ability to better understand the functions of a community has been a true intellectual leap for me.

One of the most important things I gained was a firm sense of what I want to do with my life. I discovered interests in urban planning, shaping public policy and bringing communities together, as well as in low to moderate-income family urban growth. I want to resolve issues such as inadequate representation of lower income population in the development of public policy, and address the affordable housing issue.

This fall I will continue my education at the country's top school in my field, Cornell University where I will study Urban and Regional Planning. My ultimate goal is to finish my Bachelor's degree at Cornell and enroll in a graduate program in Planning or Mapping or Architecture.

DIMITRI SIAVELIS WITH CO-OP  
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