

Brewer announces initiative for high school data-science instruction



Gale Brewer. (William Alatrisme for the New York City Council)

By MIRANDA NEUBAUER 12:49 p.m. | Mar. 5, 2016

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer announced an initiative Saturday aimed at bringing data science instruction to city high schools.

Brewer, who has emphasized the importance of technology in schools, made the announcement in keynote remarks at Beta NYC's [School of Data conference](#) at Civic Hall, marking the four-year anniversary of the city's open data law which she spearheaded. In his introduction, Noel Hidalgo, executive director of Beta NYC, called Brewer the "Open Data Fairy Godmother."

Brewer plans to form a Data Science Education Task Force consisting of education experts, civic technology advocates, and technology entrepreneurs as well as the Department of Education to establish an "actionable plan" for her goal. That will include a working curriculum outline, professional development solutions for teachers and pushing for city- and state-level policy changes that would allow for data science's incorporation in city high school curricula.

One model for the program could be an ongoing partnership between Brewer's office, Beta NYC and the CUNY Service Corps program known as the [Civic Innovation Fellows](#), with CUNY students working to provide technology and data skills to Manhattan community boards. Participants in the program planned to give presentations during Saturday's event.

MORE ON POLITICO

- DOE adds detail to capital plan, including new pre-K seats
- City Council to once again take on

She emphasized the broad applicability of data science for government purposes, ranging from influencing police-citizen interaction to community planning, but also for governing

MOST POPULAR

- 1 City Hall pitches East New York rezoning plan to skeptical City Council
- 2 City plans reforms to custodial oversight system
- 3 James and Crown Heights residents rally against alleged tenant harassment
- 4 Labor-tied councilwoman and union foe tangle over wage bill
- 5 City shares heavily redacted document related to \$2M Uber study

pedestrian plazas the algorithms that help influence services such as Netflix, Yelp and Google. She celebrated the prospect of data science in schools as a way for students "to become meaningfully engaged in their neighborhoods and teach them skills that will benefit them across every single field."

Students could have the chance to visualize their own neighborhoods, think through policy discussions that stakeholders are debating and analyze other real-world problems and solutions using open data, she said. The initial vision is for multi-disciplinary teams of fifty teachers in Manhattan, she said.

According to Brewer, the Los Angeles School District, UCLA and the National Science Foundation [partnered to pilot](#) a data science program in ten schools, with students who had failed previous math classes or state assessments passing the data science courses and its backers praising the hands-on, relevant nature of the course work versus the regular math curriculum.

This afternoon between 12:45 and 1:30 p.m., Brewer is scheduled to speak about her passion for technology and data with a BetaNYC organizer. That session, as well as many others on the event's main stage, are being [livestreamed](#).

Other keynote speakers included, Deputy Chief Analytics Officer Lindsay Mollineaux, Chief Technology Officer Minerva Tantoco, who emphasized the potential of technology to promote city equity, as well as City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. In her remarks, Mark-Viverito noted that the Council had passed seven additional pieces of legislation to strengthen the city's open data law and held three oversight hearings, and also highlighted initiatives resulting from the [Council's 2.0 technology plan](#), such as the [Council Labs platform](#) and other civic engagement efforts.

MORE: [EDUCATION](#) [CITY HALL](#) [BETANYC](#) [CITY COUNCIL](#) [CIVIC HALL](#) [CUNY SERVICE CORPS](#) [DATA](#) [DATA SCIENCE](#) [EDUCATION](#) [GALE BREWER](#) [HIGHER EDUCATION](#) [MAYOR'S OFFICE OF DATA AND ANALYTICS](#) [MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO](#) [MINERVA TANTOCO](#) [TECH](#)

Author: [MIRANDA NEUBAUER](#)

[MORE IN CITY HALL](#)

DOE adds detail to capital plan, including new pre-K seats

MORE FROM POLITICO



Two senators weigh in on Christie-Baraka charter school dispute



DOE adds detail to capital plan, including new pre-K seats



Thompson criticizes rollout of new summons plan in Manhattan



Lawmakers finalize education budget

[ABOUT US](#)

[EVENTS](#)

[ADVERTISE](#)

[CONTACT](#)

[PRIVACY POLICY](#)

[TERMS AND CONDITIONS](#)