

SIMONE®

DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES

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Simone Development Companies, Montefiore Einstein Hospital, and Yondr Honored by the Center for Educational Innovation

Executives Recognized for Work Advancing the Student Experience

NEW YORK, NY (September 18, 2025) – [Simone Development Companies](#), a full-service real estate investment company specializing in the acquisition and development of healthcare, mixed-use, office, industrial, retail and residential properties, was recently honored by the [Center for Educational Innovation](#) (CEI) at their annual gala at the Plaza Hotel in Manhattan.



Pictured left to right: Allan McLennan, Board Member, CEI; Dr. Michael Kohlhausen, President/CEO, CEI; Joe Simone, president of Simone Development Companies; Judy Roth Berkowitz, Chair Emerita, CEI; Patrick Duff, Chairman, Board of Directors, CEI; Gail Badillo, Board Member, CEI; and Dr. Meisha Porter, Visiting Senior Fellow, CEI. Photo by Don Pollard

Joe Simone, president of Simone Development Companies, accepted the award on behalf of the organization for the company's ongoing efforts to expand access to education and create opportunities for students in the Bronx.

"I'm deeply honored to accept this recognition from CEI on behalf of Simone Development Companies. We are proud to continue our support of initiatives that strengthen STEAM education and healthcare-focused programs in the Bronx and beyond, preparing the next generation for future success," said Mr. Simone. "Thank you to CEI for this meaningful recognition and for your continued commitment to ensuring every child has access to a quality education."

In addition to Simone Development, Montefiore Einstein Hospital was also recognized with awards presented to former Assemblyman Marcos A. Crespo, now continuing his advocacy for public health and quality of life as Senior Vice President of Community Affairs at Montefiore Einstein, and former Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., now Senior Vice President of Strategic Initiatives for the hospital.

Rounding out the honorees was Graham Dugoni, founder and CEO of Yondr, a pioneer in creating phone-free spaces. Yondr has partnered with thousands of schools across New York State to transform the school day experience and with venues worldwide to create phone-free concerts and events.

CEI is a nonprofit education organization located in New York City and a recognized leader in advancing meaningful reforms in public education. CEI's mission is to make the school the center and driving force of public education reform and innovation, working directly with teachers, school leaders, and the community to create the schools their children need to succeed. CEI's vision is to help build a public education system where every child has access to an excellent school.

[About Simone Development Companies](#)

Simone Development Companies is a full-service real estate investment company specializing in the acquisition and development of healthcare, mixed-use, office, industrial, retail and residential properties. Headquartered at the Hutchinson Metro Center, it boasts a portfolio of over 7 million square feet throughout the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens, Long Island, Westchester County, Orange and Fairfield Counties and New Jersey. With expertise spanning acquisition, development, construction, finance, asset management, accounting, leasing and property management, Simone Development Companies is set apart by its vertically integrated management team, long-term asset ownership and its pursuit of visionary development.