

NYU SPS x Ascend Foundation
Skill-Build Session: Critical Skills for Workplace Leaders

TL;DR

This Call for Applications (CFA) invites NYU SPS Management & Technology students to apply for an interactive professional development workshop led by Steven Pae, Executive Director, [Ascend Foundation](#), and Executive in Residence for the Management and Technology programs. Through hands-on exercises and industry-informed discussion, participants will develop practical strategies for leading change, influencing outcomes, and navigating complexity in today's evolving organizations. Students will leave with tools and approaches they can apply immediately across industries, organizational settings, and stages of their careers.

About Ascend

The Ascend Foundation is powered by a network of accomplished professionals and executives from Fortune 1000 companies who generously volunteer their time in order to drive positive and productive change in the workplace and the world. Ascend's mission is to support and empower top talent at every stage in the career lifecycle with an inclusive network that enables our members to serve our vibrant communities to the best of their abilities. We enable this through research and advocacy, mentoring and career development, and community building for the full career lifecycle.

I'm Interested! What Do I Need To Know?

Skill-Build participants will engage with professionals and executives from Ascend's global network focused on advancing Pan-Asian talent and cultivating the next generation of leaders, gaining insights into leadership and navigating today's evolving workplace. Participants in this exclusive workshop will learn critical skills for workplace leaders, including Influence & Alignment, Conflict Resolution, and Taking Risks, through knowledge-sharing activities, interactive discussions, industry panels, and networking opportunities designed to build meaningful professional connections and support long-term career growth.

This session is ideal for students interested in expanding their professional network, learning from experienced leaders across Fortune 1000 organizations, and gaining practical guidance to support their career development. Participants will leave with valuable insights to support their professional growth and help them prepare for future career opportunities within leading global organizations.

Event Details

Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Location: NYU SPS | 7 East 12th Street | Room 321

Skill Build Structure & Experience

This is a selective opportunity, with only 40 students selected to participate. This session will feature structured activities focused on professional development, industry engagement, and networking with experienced professionals. Participants will learn how the skills they are developing in the program can be applied in real-world organizations and complex business environments, and leave with valuable industry connections, practical insights, and actionable skills to support their continued professional growth and pursuit of successful careers with leading global organizations.

- **SkillsBuild Announced & Application Opens:** Monday, September 4

- **Application Closes:** Sunday, September 23, at 11:59 PM EST
- **Participants Announced:** Monday, September 26
- **SkillsBuild Event:** Wednesday, October 7 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM
 - 6:00 - 6:15 Getting Situated
 - 6:15 - 6:45 Professional Presentation
 - 6:45 - 8:00 Round Table Role Plays
 - 8:00 - 8:30 Student Q&A with Industry Panel
 - 8:30 - 9:00 Concluding & Networking

Great! So, How Do I Apply?

To apply for the NYU SPS X Ascend Skill-Build, please submit your application to the Google Form linked below. Participation in this Skill-Build session is limited, and participants will be selected at random from those who apply. To be considered, complete the registration form as soon as possible. Because seating is limited, registered students are expected to commit to attending the full session. Please register only if you can participate in the entire event.

This is a unique opportunity to engage directly with an accomplished industry leader, expand your professional network, and gain insight into Ascend, one of the nation's leading professional organizations dedicated to leadership development, mentorship, and career advancement.

Applications will be accepted until all available spots are filled. We encourage you to register early to secure your place in this valuable professional development experience. Complete the official [Google Form](#) by 11:59 PM EST on Wednesday, September 23, 2026. Late submissions will not be considered.

Questions? Watch the Information Session Recording

Dr. Steven Goss led an information session to provide prospective applicants with an overview of the program, application process, and event expectations, and to answer questions before applying. If you missed the live session, you can watch the recording below to learn more before submitting your application.

- [Zoom Recording](#)

For questions, please contact Dr. Steven Goss at swg3@nyu.edu.