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SUPPORTING ASPIRATION AND ACHIEVEMENT

"It is with great pride that I put a smile on my face and say 'thank you,' because without donors like you, it would not have been possible for a student like me to perform to the best of my ability and achieve so much at NJIT." Theophilus Blount '13, a business and information systems major, shared these words with those attending the university's 2013 Scholarship Brunch in the spring.

Blount, a McNair scholar who graduated with a BS in May, will be working at Boeing while pursuing a PhD. He was one of two student speakers introduced by NJIT President Joel S. Bloom, who said that the most important aspect of the annual event is for scholarship recipients to get to know their scholarship donors in person.

Joining Blount as a student speaker was biomedical engineering major Elaine Gomez '14, an Albert Dorman honors scholar,

Gates scholar and McNair scholar. She has also interned at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and placed first at an American Institute of Chemical Engineers student poster session. Gomez warmly thanked her Honors College Scholarship donors, Ruth and Peter Metz.

"My passion for research has always motivated me academically, and I knew that NJIT would be the ideal university where I could achieve my dreams with the help of scholarships,"



Theophilus Blount '13



Elaine Gomez '14



Guest speaker Ronni Fleisher Molinari

Gomez went on to say. "I would not be here today and starting the process of applying to graduate schools with a program in alternative energy catalysis if it were not for the support I received."

Scholarship donors and many other students who benefit from their generosity in addition to Blount and Gomez gathered along with university administration and staff in the Campus Center for the 25th annual event. In 2013, private scholarship aid amounted to more than \$2.6 million and helped nearly 930 students.

Guest speaker Ronni Fleisher Molinari shared memories of the legacy of her late grandparents, Seymour "Zoom" Fleisher '51 and Estelle Fleisher. When Zoom Fleisher passed away in 2011 at the age of 88, NJIT and its students, including its student-athletes, lost a great friend and benefactor. For more than 60 years after graduating, he stayed close to his alma mater and its athletics program, lending broad-based support over those six-plus decades. It was a long-time commitment that Estelle shared with equal concern and enthusiasm. ■

For more information about establishing and supporting scholarships at NJIT, contact: Darlene Lamourt, Director of Donor Engagement at 973-596-3403 or darlene.lamourt@njit.edu.

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- Elaine Gomez '14



PHOTOS: DAVID HOLLANDER

NJIT Board of Overseers Chairman Philip L. Rinaldi (seated, second from left) and scholarship recipients