

STORIES OF SUCCESS

On April 22, nearly 100 donors came to NJIT to meet with the students whose scholarships they endow at NJIT's 28th Annual Scholarship Brunch. At the event, President Joel S. Bloom said that donations have helped NJIT make an annual economic impact of \$1.74 billion on the state of New Jersey. In total, donors endow more than \$3 million in scholarships that help more than 1,200 students.

Student speaker Raphael Roman '16, represented the student body and faculty of the Educational Opportunity Program. Roman, who received a B.S. in information technology in May and is working as a technology consultant for a Fortune 500 company in San Francisco, is the recipient of scholarships from the Black Engineering & Technology Alumni Association, Panasonic, and the NJIT Class of 1948. Also speaking was Jaelynn King '16, an Albert Dorman Honors College scholar who received a B.S. in chemical engineering in May.



Angelica Blanco '16 with her donors: Vince and Mary Lou DeCaprio



Student speakers Raphael Roman '16 and Jaelynn King '16, shown here with NJIT President Joel S. Bloom, described how the generosity of donors has impacted their lives at NJIT's 28th Annual Scholarship Brunch.

A LEGACY OF GIVING

Angelica Blanco '16, who like King received her B.S. in chemical engineering in May, sat next to Vince DeCaprio '72, a university trustee and a retired president of Vyteris and his wife, Mary Lou. Together the DeCaprios endow scholarships dedicated to helping women who study engineering at NJIT. Blanco holds one of those scholarships. Mary Lou DeCaprio, a former pharmaceutical chemist who now works as a middle-school science teacher, is on a mission to attract young women to STEM fields.

Blanco, who is now working as an engineer for FM Global, a

consulting engineering firm, comes from an immigrant family. She has two siblings also in college, which she described as a "huge financial burden" on her parents.

"I am grateful for this scholarship because it has allowed me to pursue my studies without constantly worrying about my finances," said Blanco. "It has allowed me to take advantage of all of the resources and opportunities that NJIT has to offer and to develop an understanding and appreciation of engineering and science."

For Vince DeCaprio, NJIT is a legacy school, with three generations of his family attending the university, beginning with his father, Louis ('54 and '58), and himself and now his son Michael, who is a sophomore. So when it came time to pick a cause to support, he said they didn't have to look far, or think twice: "One of the organizations we feel passionate about supporting is NJIT."

When he was a child, he added, his father had returned from the

South Pacific theater of World War II. He worked during the day as a surveyor and draftsman for the city of Paterson. At night, he attended Newark College of Engineering, where he took classes in mechanical engineering. The GI Bill covered his tuition. His mother managed the household, and raised him, his brother and younger sister while all also supporting her husband's education.

"My mother told us that when dad got his degree that NCE had a dinner for the grads and their spouses (all women at the time)," recalled DeCaprio. "And the spouses were awarded a Ph.T. degree, which stood for 'Pushing Hubby Through'. So, it seemed appropriate that we name our scholarships after my mother—the Irene DeCaprio Memorial Scholarship for Women in Engineering. A long title, but it says it all."

Longtime donor Edward Cruz '63 '13 HON, who is recently deceased, was honored during the event with a tribute by his daughter Robin Cruz McClearn. In 2012, with her father, she established The Cruz Family Foundation, which focuses on promoting educational opportunities for young people.

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. ■



Robin Cruz McClearn and Sharon Cruz, daughter and wife of Edward Cruz '63 '13 HON, were presented with a special plaque that honored his memory at the Scholarship Brunch.