

**A MESSAGE FROM
NJIT PRESIDENT JOEL S. BLOOM**

LOUDER THAN WORDS

The generosity demonstrated by the many friends of NJIT listed in *Honor Roll*, again part of a special issue of *NJIT Magazine*, makes a clear statement about the exceptional concern that numerous individuals and organizations have for the highly talented, high-achieving young men and women who choose to pursue their educational aspirations at NJIT. This generosity helps to foster NJIT's longstanding tradition of providing students with a path to success in life that they might not have been able to follow due to their personal financial circumstances.

This past year has been one of continuing exceptional accomplishments by our students. First-year student Ashley Pettesch was a finalist in the undergraduate section of the 2016 Johnson & Johnson Engineering Showcase. The subject of her presentation was laparoscopic surgical devices, a project completed with another first-year student, Eshita Shah. Junior Sahitya Allam joined past NJIT recipients of the Goldwater Scholarship, one of the nation's most prestigious academic awards. A biomedical engineering major enrolled in Albert Dorman Honors College, Sahitya is also participating in the college's accelerated medical education program with the goal of becoming a researcher and physician.

Also this year, senior David Anderson was awarded a Fulbright grant that will enable him to travel to Germany for graduate study. A mathematical sciences major, David is the first NJIT student to receive this prestigious award. And, for the fifth year in a row, NJIT was named to the Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll issued by the Office of the President of the United States. This recognition is for service activities that include assisting some 260 nonprofit groups in our region, and tutoring and mentoring hundreds of children in area public schools. By the end of 2015, NJIT students had dedicated more than 45,000 hours to community engagement.

The contributions of our alumni are continual. At a ceremony last June at the Women in Military Service Memorial, Ellen M. Pawlikowski '78 was promoted to the rank of four-star general in the U.S. Air Force. Just the third woman in the branch's history to receive a fourth star, General Pawlikowski directs the 80,000-person Air Force Materiel Command, whose stated mission is to "equip the Air Force for world-dominant airpower." In "Four-Star Power," she delineates her unusual path to the Air Force, the highlights of a fast-moving career that led to work on nuclear-weapon monitors, airborne lasers and chemical and biological weapons defense, and the experiences of women in the military.

NJIT has also proven to be an economic engine of the State of New Jersey. The wage premium earned by NJIT alumni, many of whom are employed in relatively high-paying STEM-related professions, contributes more than \$105 million of annual economic output at the statewide level, as revealed earlier this year. The results of NJIT's economic impact analysis report found that the university creates at least \$1.74 billion of economic value for the State of New Jersey each year and that the largest component of NJIT's impact—stimulating new economic activity of about \$724 million every year in the State and approximately \$350 million within the City of Newark—is a result of the university's ongoing operations. You can read more about "Powering New Jersey's Economy" on page 3.

Finally, astronomers at NJIT's Big Bear Solar Observatory (BBSO) are continuing to make exciting inroads in the area of space research. "In Conclusion" explains how on May 9 the BBSO's New Solar Telescope—currently the highest-resolution solar telescope in the world—captured the highest-ever spatial resolution images of a rare planetary event known as the transit of Mercury.

On behalf of the university, I thank every *Honor Roll* donor for supporting these and the other achievements described in this issue. The continuing commitment you have made to the future of our students speaks louder than words and helps to ensure a positive future for our nation.



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Denise Anderson
*Acting Associate Vice President
Communications, Marketing and
Branding*

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NJIT Magazine
Office of Strategic Communications
University Heights
Newark, NJ 07102-1982
crovetto@njit.edu

Joel S. Bloom
President

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University Advancement*

Michael K. Smullen
Director of Alumni Relations

On the web:
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