

GIVING

A STAR-SPANGLED CELEBRATION

Four distinguished individuals were recognized for achievements beneficial to the state and our nation, as well as an organization exceptional for its commitment to NJIT's mission, at Celebration, NJIT's annual fundraiser for campuswide scholarship endowment funds, held Nov. 11 at The Pleasantdale Chateau in West Orange. This year's event, "A Star-Spangled Celebration," acknowledged the extraordinary contributions and sacrifices of those who have served in our armed forces. Vanessa Williams provided the evening's entertainment.

Since its inception in 1995, Celebration has raised nearly \$5 million in endowed scholarship funds, ensuring that top-quality higher education is accessible to talented, motivated students.

"I am proud to say that NJIT students, on average, graduate with nearly three job offers in hand and starting salaries nearly 20 percent higher than the national average," said NJIT President Joel S. Bloom. "That success continues throughout their lives, as has been documented by numerous external validations. It's clear that an NJIT education can be transformational. That is why tonight is so important and why I am so appreciative of all of you, whose donations, ticket purchases, sponsorships and gifts in kind contribute to this important cause."



From left: Raymond J. McGowan '64, retired executive vice president at ExxonMobil Chemical; Michael Gadalla '18; Marjorie A. Perry '05, president and CEO of MZM Construction Co., Inc.; Theodore D. Cassera '72, executive vice president at Bowman Consulting Group; Kevin Morrison, investment team lead at J.P. Morgan Private Bank; and Joel S. Bloom, president of NJIT.

John McCann, operations executive with Con Edison Competitive Energy Solutions and a member of NJIT's Board of Overseers, and Judy Valyo, dean emerita at NJIT and a member of the Board of Visitors for NJIT's College of Science and Liberal Arts, served as co-chairs of this year's event.

Raymond J. McGowan '64, retired executive vice president at ExxonMobil Chemical, was awarded the President's Medal for Lifetime Achievement for his leadership at the university and for his support, including two endowed scholarships. A member of the NJIT Board of Overseers and a former member of the NJIT NEXT Leadership Council, McGowan has previously received the Alumni Achievement Award, the Edward F. Weston Medal for Professional Achievement and the Outstanding Alumni Award.

Known as one of the top engineers in New Jersey, Theodore D. Cassera '72, executive vice president

at Bowman Consulting Group, received the Edward F. Weston Medal for Professional Achievement, given to an alumnus in recognition of outstanding professional and civic accomplishments, as well as support of the university. Cassera established a family scholarship in 2006.

With a career that led her from teaching in the Newark public schools to receiving an MBA from NJIT's Martin Tuchman School of Management in 2005 to becoming president and CEO of MZM Construction Co., Inc., Marjorie A. Perry '05 received the University Award for Entrepreneurial Leadership. Currently co-executive vice chair of the Board of Overseers of NJIT, she also has served on the Martin Tuchman School of Management's Board of Visitors.

Joseph M. Taylor '11 HON, chairman and CEO of Panasonic Corporation of North America, was presented with the Special Friend of the University Award. A member

of the NJIT Board of Trustees and an honorary degree recipient, he has had a 20-year association with NJIT through programs he helped develop, ranging from academic competitions to scholarships. Panasonic has provided NJIT with more than \$2.3 million in philanthropic support to date.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. received the Outstanding Corporate Partner Award for its partnership in working with NJIT to pilot and fund the health IT Entrepreneurial Connection Program, which targets growth-stage health care IT entrepreneurs to accelerate the development of innovative products and services. Kevin Morrison, investment team lead at J.P. Morgan Private Bank in New Jersey, accepted the award on behalf of JPMorgan Chase & Co.

At the event, Michael Gadalla '18, a junior majoring in mechanical engineering technology who also is a cadet in NJIT's Air Force ROTC program, underscored how scholarship support is enabling him to achieve his dream of becoming a pilot or combat systems officer in the Air Force.

"As the second child in my family to go through college, tuition has not been an easy subject for my family," Gadalla said. "To all of those who contribute and invest in the students of the future, on behalf of all students that receive contributions, thank you." ■



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Make a decision today that will create a better tomorrow.



R. Cynthia Pruett '55 had originally planned to go to MIT, but it wasn't admitting women in the 1950s. However, an excellent institute of technology closer to home was — and in gratitude, the retired engineer has established a scholarship, created a charitable gift annuity,

and included New Jersey Institute of Technology in her will.

“My estate will mostly go to charity — and my education piece will go to NJIT,” Cynthia said.

Become a lifelong 1881 Society member by including NJIT in your will.



“I feel I need to give back something because I got such a great education.”



To learn more, visit njit.edu/giving or contact Monique Moore Pryor, Esq., assistant vice president of planned giving, at 973-596-8548 or mpryor@njit.edu.

