



Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE MARIAN B. AND JACOB K. JAVITS FOUNDATION AND THE JAVITS CENTER  
ANNOUNCE CREATION OF JAVITS JUNIORS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

*Program to Provide Two \$5,000 College Scholarships to High School Students at  
Urban Assembly School of Design and Construction in Manhattan*

*Scholarships Serve as Expansion of Javits Juniors Program that Provides Convention  
Center Tours to Local Students and Community Groups*

NEW YORK (November 22, 2017) – The Marian B. and Jacob K. Javits Foundation and the New York Convention Center Operating Corporation (NYCCOC), which operates the Javits Center, today announced the creation of the Javits Juniors Scholarship Program, a new effort designed to support the higher education of local high school students and encourage them to seek ways to improve their community through public service and innovative thinking. With the support of the Marian B. and Jacob K. Javits Foundation, the Javits Juniors Scholarship Program will award two \$5,000 college scholarships to two students in their senior year at the Urban Assembly School of Design and Construction following an essay writing contest. The new scholarship program serves as an expansion of the Javits Juniors program at the Javits Center, where educational tours are provided regularly to local students and community groups. On these tours, students are taught about the career of Sen. Jacob K. Javits, the mission and operations of the convention center, the importance of public service and the impact of the events industry.

The scholarship program is being coordinated through the Fund for Public Schools, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the New York City's public schools and facilitating partnerships between the philanthropic community and the New York City Department of Education.

“Senator Javits proudly served his home state and his country for so many years, and we are honored to continue his legacy by supporting New Yorkers of all ages,” said Alan Steel, President and CEO of NYCCOC. “Our Javits Juniors program has introduced the convention center to a new generation of New Yorkers, and we are grateful to be working with the Foundation to provide scholarships to the young members of our West Side community. We hope our work and the legacy of Senator Javits will inspire these students to enter public service and strive to improve the lives of their fellow New Yorkers.”

“Throughout his distinguished career, Senator Javits sought to better the lives of New Yorkers through public and private partnerships, and this scholarship program will carry on his legacy of public service,” said Joshua Javits, the son of Senator Javits and founding member of the Marian B. and Jacob K. Javits Foundation. “As the son of immigrants who was born and raised on the Lower East Side, my father believed passionately in an individual’s obligation to help the society that protects and nurtures us as children. This scholarship program emulates that philosophy, and we are proud to work with the Javits Center and the Urban Assembly School of Design and Construction in order to support New York’s next generation of leaders.”

“The Javits Center and its namesake, Senator Jacob K. Javits, have served as positive forces in the lives of millions of New Yorkers, and we are very thankful for the support of our students as they enter the next chapter of their lives,” said Matthew Willoughby, Principal of the Urban Assembly School of Design and Construction. “I would like to thank Alan Steel and his team, as well as the Marian B. and Jacob K. Javits Foundation, for their generosity in creating this scholarship program for our students. We believe this program will encourage them to support their neighbors as they have been supported.”

“We share a commitment with the NYC Department of Education to graduate more students on time and to pave a path for college success. Scholarships provide a tremendous opportunity for our students to achieve that dream,” said Sarah Geisenheimer, executive director of the Fund for Public Schools. “We are thankful for the generosity of the Javits Center and the Marian B. and Jacob K. Javits Foundation and their support of the Javits Juniors Scholarship Program and commend them for their commitment to the achievements of future generations.”

To be considered for a scholarship, students must participate in an essay contest entitled “Serving New York” and outline public policy ideas that would better serve the general public and improve the quality of life for New Yorkers, as well as the reasons behind their goals and the steps necessary to achieve them. Essays will be reviewed by a selection committee comprised of members from the Javits Center, the Marian B. and Jacob K. Javits Foundation and the Urban Assembly School of Design and Construction, which is located on West 50<sup>th</sup> Street. The committee will choose two winners, who will be awarded a \$5,000 scholarship to the college or university of their choosing. Winning essays will be judged on logic and feasibility, originality and creativity, clarity of ideas and structure.

The Javits Center opened its doors in 1986, the same year that Senator Javits passed away at the age of 81 in Palm Beach, Fla., following a storied career as New York State Attorney General, U.S. Congressman and U.S. Senator. At the time of his death, according to the *New York Times*, “he was widely regarded, by admirers and detractors alike, as one of the most intelligent, industrious and effective members of the Senate during his years there, from 1957 through 1980.” Since it opened, the Javits Center has become known as the busiest convention center in the United

States, generating up to \$2 billion in economic activity and supporting more than 17,000 jobs a year. Located on Manhattan's West Side, the facility underwent a major renovation from 2009 to 2014 that included several sustainable upgrades and LEED Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Led by the New York Convention Center Development Corporation and Empire State Development, the \$463 million renovation included the installation of more than 6,000 bird-friendly, translucent glass panels, more than 100 energy-efficient HVAC units and a 6.75-acre green roof, which serves as a home to 26 bird species and five bat species.

In the coming years, the green roof will increase in size as a major expansion of the Javits Center moves forward. Announced by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in 2016, this expansion project will create 500,000 square feet of contiguous exhibit space and five times more meeting room space, including a state-of-the-art ballroom and a rooftop terrace overlooking the Hudson River. An on-site truck garage will be constructed in order to house all event-related trucks, increase operational efficiency and improve area traffic flow and pedestrian safety.

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