Although postponed by Hurricane Sandy, NJIT’s annual black-tie benefit dinner, Celebration, emerged in January as a festive evening of dinner and entertainment, and recognition for some of the university’s most generous supporters.

With the legendary pop singer Neil Sedaka (right) providing the entertainment, the university recognized the achievements of Dennis Bone, retired president of Verizon New Jersey; Steven B. Saperstein, chief operating officer of Prudential Fixed Income; and Renard Communications, Inc.

The evening featured the kick-off of the public phase of NJIT NEXT, the university’s comprehensive fundraising campaign. The university announced that the campaign has already more than $100 million towards its $150 million goal. The national campaign co-chairs were announced: Chief Operating Officer of Clarion Partners C. Stephen Cordes; Hatch Mott MacDonald President and CEO Nicholas M. DeNichilo; and Chairman/CEO Anchor Industries International and Chairman Emeritus/Founder Tampa Bay Rays Vincent Naimoli.

Specific campaign goals include $50 million for endowed student scholarships and fellowships; $25 million for endowed chairs and professorships to retain and recruit outstanding faculty; and $75 million toward the development of NJIT’s Next-Generation Campus.
A lumni Luis García ’74 (left in photo at right) and Trustee Liz García ’73 (right, second from left), relax with First Lady Dr. Diane Bloom and President Bloom, and NJIT NEXT National Campaign Co-Chair Nicholas DeNicholo ’73.

Stephen Saperstein ’84 (above), chief operating officer of Prudential Fixed Income, received the Weston Medal, presented to alumni in recognition of outstanding personal, professional, and civic achievement; and commitment to the development of the university.

President Joel Bloom and Vice President Charles R. Dees Jr. (second from right, and far right, in photo at left) hosted honorees (from left): Steven Saperstein ’84 (Weston Medal), Dennis Bone (President’s Medal), Kathleen Uske (Student Speaker), Roberta Renard (Outstanding Corporate Partner).

Alumni Luis García ’74 (left in photo at right) and Trustee Liz García ’73 (right, second from left), relax with First Lady Dr. Diane Bloom and President Bloom, and NJIT NEXT National Campaign Co-Chair Nicholas DeNicholo ’73.

Smiles and fireworks greeted the announcement (above right) that the NJIT NEXT campaign has raised $103 million toward its $150 million goal.

Board of Overseers Chair Emeritus Emil Herkert (above, left) and his wife Anne enjoy a moment with May and Al Mellini, both members of the class of 1973.

Daljit S. Ahluwalia (below left), chair emeritus of mathematics, and his daughter Muninder.