



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Ways and Means Committee

EDWARD P. RA
Assemblyman 19th District

May 1st, 2025

Hofstra University
101 Hofstra University
Hempstead, NY 11549

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to join you once again in commemorating Hofstra University's annual Gala. This year, we recognize Donald M. Schaeffer, JD, CPA, and Chair of the Hofstra Board of Trustees.

Mr. Schaeffer, JD, CPA, is a Hofstra Alumni and an honorable benefactor at Hofstra University. Currently, he is Owner and President of Schaeffer & Sam, CPA P.C., and utilizes his expertise as both a certified public accountant and attorney at law. Outside of his company, he is an involved member of several large family foundations and trusts, such as GTJ REIT Inc., a public real estate investment trust. Beyond his extensive expertise in accounting, trusts, and tax law, Mr. Schaeffer is a fond devotee of the arts. In his life, he has written children's musicals and published several incredible children's books, of which have received numerous awards. Mr. Schaeffer epitomizes what it means to be truly altruistic and embracing- his wide diversity of skills and enjoyment, both professionally and personally, are truly inspiring.

At Hofstra University, Mr. Schaeffer was named an honorary Alumnus in 2014, and has served as the Chair of the Board of Trustees since 2019. He and his wife, Mrs. Joan Behr Schaeffer, are dedicated contributors to Hofstra's mission and work. Since 2005, they have created three fellowships to support students in pre-med clinical research programs, the arts, and humanities. In addition to this, they have contributed to construction and revitalization projects on the campus, particularly in the development and unveiling of the University's impressive Black Box Theater. They are sincerely devoted to making a difference in the world, and their gracious generosity has uplifted so many.

Hofstra's annual Gala is their largest event of the year, and is instrumental in raising funds for their Endowed Scholarship Program. Everyone's presence here this evening helps the University continue to pursue their mission in providing a high-quality education and benefiting their students.

I am proud to have Hofstra University here on Long Island and I look forward to celebrating all of their successes for years to come. Best wishes to all for a wonderful evening, and a bright future ahead!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward P. Ra".

Edward Ra
Member of Assembly
19th Assembly District