



NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

**CITY TECH**

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### **Former City Tech Valedictorian Jean-Michel Voltaire '00 Named Alum of the Year**

**Brooklyn, NY—April 20, 2016—**Jean-Michel Voltaire, City Tech's 2000 valedictorian, who went on to become a U.S. Department of Justice trial attorney and the recipient of the Attorney General's 2013 Community Service Award for his humanitarian work in Haiti, was named "Alumni of the Year" at the City Tech Alumni Association annual meeting on March 22. Professor Marissa Moran, Department of Law & Legal Studies and Voltaire's former professor, presented the award.

"In a history class at City Tech, I learned about America's struggle for liberty and for a free system of government. The American ideal is more than the Declaration of Independence," said Voltaire, "it is a way of life built upon the spirit of freedom, which enables social mobility. Only here in America is my story possible."

Originally from Port-Salut in southern Haiti, Voltaire is the founder of Réunion Sportive d'Haiti (RSH), a non-profit organization providing relief to youths affected by the 2010 earthquake. RSH's mission is "building skills, character and community through sports and education." In addition to his philanthropic projects, Voltaire also worked with State Department task forces, providing political analysis, working with Haiti's justice system and security sector, and helping the U.S. government formulate its strategy.

Voltaire has a personal understanding of challenges young Haitians face. A political refugee, he came alone to the U.S. at 22, eventually settling in New York City, where some family members lived. While he couldn't speak English, he still found a way to support himself by working in a factory, in a store and as a security guard. Inspired by his mother, a minimally educated, self-made businesswoman who was his biggest role model, Voltaire knew the value of a good education and on the recommendation of friends decided to go to City Tech. He continued to work all through college.

Voltaire will be honored at City Tech's Best of New York gala on May 19 at the New York Hilton Midtown. For more information or to buy tickets, call 718-260-5025.

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#### **About City Tech (New York City College of Technology)**

City Tech, of The City University of New York, is the largest four-year public college of technology in the Northeast and a national model for technological education. City Tech has an enrollment of more than 17,000 students in 25 baccalaureate and 27 associate degree programs and was recently ranked number one in the nation in producing the highest paid associate degree-earning graduates (<http://www.payscale.com/college-salary-report/2-year-colleges#fullText>). For more information, visit [www.citytech.cuny.edu](http://www.citytech.cuny.edu).

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