



## **French-American Chamber of Commerce Foundation Creates the Serge Bellanger French-American Business Student Scholarship**

**NEW YORK (January 16, 2013)** – The French-American Chamber of Commerce (FACC) Foundation announced today the creation of the Serge Bellanger French-American Business Student Scholarship.

The FACC Foundation is a non-profit organization that was launched by President Elsa Berry during the FACC Gala in New York on June 13, 2012. The Foundation established the Scholarship Awards to help train and educate the next generation of transatlantic business leaders and will provide scholarships to eligible French students looking to study business in the U.S., and to eligible American students who want to study business in France. All net proceeds of the Gala went to fund the new Foundation.

By establishing the Scholarship Awards, the FACC Foundation aims to provide young people with invaluable French-American learning opportunities that will in turn help expand their career opportunities. The Foundation will also help the FACC's corporate members by contributing to the development of a talented pool of well-trained bi-cultural candidates. This is a cornerstone of the FACC's mission, which is to improve the understanding and business development between France and the U.S. for the benefit of its more than 750 members in the New York area.

This Scholarship is named in honor of Serge Bellanger, the longtime President of the French-American Chamber of Commerce who served the organization for 25 years. A pillar of the French-American community and a leading advocate for international exchange and education, Serge Bellanger spearheaded the FACC's International Career Development Programs, which include today the J-1 Visa Program for young French professionals in the United States and the Training Program for young Americans in France.

In addition to numerous other positions, Serge Bellanger notably served as President of the Grand Marnier Foundation and as Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Maison Française at Columbia University, as well as member of the Advisory Board of the Lycée Français de New York.

“As an American raised in France, I understand the value of a bicultural, bilingual education as a stepping stone to a successful international career,” said Elsa Berry, President of the French-American Chamber of Commerce and of the FACC Foundation. “The FACC Foundation aims to increase these opportunities for many French and American business students, which is key to our mission of improving business relationships and understanding between France and the U.S. We are very ambitious and intend to grow this program in the years to come.”

The Scholarship Advisory Committee has determined that scholarship applications must be received at the FACC – NY offices by April 15, 2013 and decisions on grantees will be made by June 15, 2013. All application materials may be found on the FACC - NY website below. Applicants must be United States citizens applying for an MBA (or equivalent) program in France or French citizens applying for an MBA program in the United States. Grantees may be eligible for a second year of scholarship funding upon reapplication.



The French-American Chamber of Commerce Foundation is a not-for-profit tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. All donations, as well as 2013 Gala table and ticket purchases, are tax-deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. The 2013 FACC Gala will take place on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Contact**

Robert Pine, Director of Special Projects, French-American Chamber of Commerce

(212) 867-1664; [bpine@faccnyc.org](mailto:bpine@faccnyc.org)

[www.faccnyc.org/facc-ny-foundation](http://www.faccnyc.org/facc-ny-foundation)