

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**A MESSAGE FROM
NJIT PRESIDENT
JOEL S. BLOOM**

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

It has been a long time since American universities could be described as “ivory towers,” institutions where most faculty and students engaged in intellectual pursuits that distanced them from the everyday world beyond the campus. The World War II G.I. Bill was a major factor in bringing the university and the larger world closer together. For hundreds of thousands of veterans, higher education led to fulfilling careers and material prosperity in post-war America.

In the 21st century, economic and social forces are compelling even stronger ties between universities and commerce, industry and government. These forces are also accelerating internal change at many universities, specifically in the way academic departments interact with each other and how students can best be served with programs that integrate academic disciplines.

The quality of NJIT’s commitment to essential innovation and to carrying out other key aspects of the university’s mission was recently affirmed in the very positive reaccreditation report issued by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Covered in greater detail on page 3, the report commends our success in “providing a first-class education and college experience to a diverse student body.”

As a school focused on science and technology, NJIT has always had a connection with the private and public sectors. Newark Technical School was founded to forge this connection in its home city. Significant change now under way at NJIT will add a new dimension to our economic engagement and the manner in which students are prepared for productive careers.

In this edition, the feature “Disciplines and Departments Dovetail” describes the interdisciplinary initiative that is bringing a wide range of knowledge and talents together to promote progress in three vital areas: convergent life science and engineering, sustainable systems, and “digital everywhere” – ubiquitous computing. The article introduces new members of the NJIT community who will help to energize this initiative. In addition to fostering scientific and commercial advances, an environment where collaboration at every level is the norm will mirror the workplaces in which the majority of students will build their careers.

Interdisciplinary cooperation is not wholly new at NJIT, as shown in “Making the World’s Smallest Connections.” Research Professor Reginald Farrow, recipient of the 2012 Overseers Excellence in Research Prize and Medal, assembled a team of experts in fields that included physics, chemistry and biology to create an enzyme-enabled biofuel cell using carbon nanotube technology. Our new program spanning departments and disciplines will support such exciting teaming to a significantly greater degree.

While research is of paramount importance at NJIT, we are equally dedicated to providing talented young women and men with the knowledge and skills needed for personal achievement and for the prosperity of our nation. “Moving On” highlights the employment success that 2012 NJIT graduates have had in a very challenging economy. We are bringing more talented people and greater resources together at NJIT to ensure that this success will continue for the graduating classes to follow.



Join us for the live broadcast of
Joel Stuart Bloom’s inauguration
as the eighth president of NJIT.

September 14, 11:30 a.m. eastern time,
or afterward at www.njit.edu/inauguration.

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