

## NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS

In recent months, the NJIT community celebrated the official opening of new buildings and initiatives that are part of a campus transformation designed to enhance the student experience and solidify NJIT's position as one of the nation's leading public polytechnic universities. A ribbon-cutting was held in November for the new Wellness and Events Center, an iconic, state-of-the-art and multipurpose building that provides large-scale space for professional conferencing, training and career fairs, as well as social settings for NJIT students, faculty and staff. The three-story, 220,000-square-foot facility is the latest and largest component of a dramatic campus transformation that has been taking place in recent years and has included the renovation of the Central King Building, construction of the new Life Sciences and Engineering Center, renovation of 40 research and teaching laboratories, and many other facilities projects.

NJIT opened its Makerspace in December with the support of \$10 million in funding from the State of New Jersey, launching a facility that will dramatically enhance the learning and creativity of our students; will foster collaborations among students, faculty and businesses; and will be an engine for economic growth. Through hands-on, project-based learning complemented by training on industrial equipment, development of prototyping skills and experience with modern manufacturing technology, Makerspace at NJIT will prepare students for leadership and success in the STEM-dependent economy of the 21st century.

The City of Newark continues its positive trajectory of urban revitalization aided by many NJIT alumni. Since graduating from NJIT, a featured alumnus, Samer Hanini '99, '03, has helped reinvigorate the city's Central Business District. He also recently established the Hanini Endowed Scholarship, which will support incoming first-year architecture students from Newark.

I hope you enjoy reading these articles, and I welcome your feedback. ■

