

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A MESSAGE FROM NJIT PRESIDENT ROBERT A. ALTENKIRCH

"In the usual progress of things, the necessities of a nation in every stage of its existence will be found at least equal to its resources."

Alexander Hamilton

National challenges have been a constant in the history of the United States. It is the specific nature of these challenges that has varied, at times greatly, from decade to decade. Features in this issue touch on two sets of challenges facing our country in the first decade of the 21st century – marshalling the resources needed to implement a sustainable, energy-efficient future and for revitalizing our nation's urban centers.



"Is It Time for a Green New Deal?" by Associate Professor of History Neil Maher suggests that an updated version of the Depression Era Civilian Conservation Corps could have a broad and beneficial impact on our environment and energy infrastructure. During the 1930s, the "CCC," as the Corps was known, restored vast tracks of land with trees and soil-conserving crops, and helped to create many of the parks we currently enjoy.

Today, a new national initiative along these lines could include the "planting" of wind turbines and solar panels on a fiscally sound, revenue-producing basis. The successful deployment of these and other "green" technologies will be possible only with knowledge and skills acquired at schools such as NJIT.

"NJIT and the Urban Vision" offers an overview of wide-ranging engagement in efforts to improve the quality of urban life in New Jersey, including our home city of Newark. It is a story of commitment and innovative involvement by NJIT faculty, students and alumni. Their work spans helping to redevelop a historic area of Paterson, improving public transportation in Newark, assessing the social impact of new housing in Camden, and designing a Jersey City home that's at the forefront of sustainable technology. While the projects described focus on New Jersey, they have implications for positive change that are national in scope.

As Alexander Hamilton, our nation's first treasury secretary, noted, all countries must rise to the challenges that each era presents. In energy technology, the regeneration of our cities and many other fields, NJIT is contributing to the resources essential for doing so in the 21st century.

Robert A. Altenkirch

NJIT MAGAZINE

Fall 2009

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NJIT Magazine is published by New Jersey Institute of Technology, University Communications. Its mission is to foster ties with alumni, university friends and corporate partners and to report on relevant issues, particularly those in education, science, research and technology.

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