

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A MESSAGE FROM NJIT PRESIDENT ROBERT A. ALTENKIRCH

*"Society is a partnership in all science,
a partnership in all art."*

Edmund Burke

Sustaining positive social change and contending with challenges that threaten to impede progress require both a growing array of resources and new strategies for making the best use of those resources. In the words of the great British statesman Edmund Burke, the well-being of society is determined by how skillfully we apply all of the sciences and arts available to us.

The past century has seen steady expansion in the range of scientific and technological

knowledge that can energize progress, with new interdisciplinary partnerships emerging in fields such as medicine. "For Your Health" in this issue gives an overview of how NJIT is promoting synergy among health care, information technology and engineering – a partnership that promises better ways to alleviate illness and injury.

NJIT alumni, faculty and students are also partnering in efforts that bring the potential of science and technology to bear on threats to our society. "Detecting Danger"

describes a unique, compact system for warning of chemical and biological warfare agents, environmental contaminants and pathogens that include the Ebola and H1N1 viruses. Developed by AC Birox, a company based at the NJIT Enterprise Development Center, the capabilities of their detector system are being enhanced with the help of university resources that span chemistry, biomedical engineering, mathematics and market research.

Our mission as New Jersey's science and technology university also recognizes the importance of complementing scientific and technological innovation with humanistic insight and artistic interpretation. Focused on the College of Science and Liberal Arts, "Bridging the Gulf" explores this convergence at NJIT. Encouraging the thoughtful, sometimes critical, evaluation of how new scientific knowledge could impact society is as important as the effort to discover that knowledge. Adding the interpretive dimension of art to science fosters deeper comprehension of the excitement of scientific inquiry, and what it means for the quality of daily life.

Science and technology are certain to move society in new directions over the decades ahead, at times in ways that will startle us. It is equally certain that NJIT will make continuing contributions to scientific and technological progress, and to encouraging examination of our social partnership from the perspective of the arts and humanities.



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