

# HE'S → MOVING THE EDGE

**NJIT INSTALLS  
JOEL STUART BLOOM  
AS PRESIDENT**

*Joel Stuart Bloom, a proven NJIT leader for more than two decades, was formally installed as the eighth president of the university on September 14. International flags against a blue sky added to the pageantry of the occasion, witnessed in person by thousands of students, faculty, staff, governing-board members, friends, delegates representing over twenty other colleges and universities, a multitude of government officials, and live-stream observers around the world.*

*The installation ceremony was the culmination of campus events that built on the theme "Moving the Edge" over three days, beginning with the annual university convocation on September 12 and continuing on September 13 with a symposium presented by the new faculty members featured in the article on page 16.*



NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

NJIT

NJIT's Air Force ROTC Detachment 490 smartly posted the colors at the start of the ceremony, followed by the Newark Boys Chorus singing the National Anthem. Renee Karp, President Bloom's sister, offered the invocation.

Thomas H. Kean, former governor of New Jersey, led the roster of distinguished speakers. Bloom worked with Kean as an assistant commissioner for education before joining NJIT, with responsibilities encompassing statewide assessment, curriculum standards, math/science/technology education, and improving urban education through the Effective Schools Research and Alternative Education programs.

"This is where it's happening. You and NJIT and Joel Bloom," said Kean. "You are the ones who create this knowledge-based society. You are the ones who have the incubator companies here that are creating the jobs of the future. Because of you, we'll all have a better future."

Rochelle Hendricks, New Jersey's first secretary of higher education, eloquently recalled Bloom's commitment to ensuring the highest quality of education for all students regardless of background while both worked in the Department of Education during the Kean administration.

"The value and importance of NJIT's role in our state's economic future cannot be underestimated or overstated," Hendricks said. "As we move forward in partnership to retool and rebuild New Jersey's economy, I know that I can count on Dr. Bloom and the NJIT family to help us advance the cause."

Newark Mayor Cory A. Booker and Newark Municipal Council President and Essex County Council President Donald M. Payne, Jr. voiced unanimous praise for NJIT's long history of commitment to its home city as well as its growing prominence as a national research university.

"I have to say, as the mayor of this great city, that what this institution does for Newark is not simply astonishing, but truly awesome," Booker said. "It is a partner with us in progress, and transformation and change."

"NJIT has grown into an institution that we can be proud of," said Payne. "And I'm sure



ABOVE: The day of President Bloom's installation began on a warmly personal note as he and his wife, Diane Bloom, greeted guests at a breakfast in Eberhardt Hall. From left: Albert Dorman, President Bloom, Diane Bloom, and Former New Jersey Governor Thomas H. Kean.

LEFT: Philip Rinaldi, chair of the NJIT Board of Overseers, with President Bloom.

Dr. Bloom will move it forward with his vision, his ideas, with the same continuity that he has done in the past."

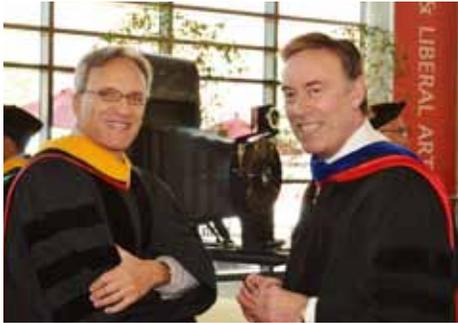
C. Stephen Cordes '72, chair of the Albert Dorman Honors College Board of Visitors and master of ceremonies, described Bloom as an effective advocate for NJIT in challenging economic times. He said that NJIT will be well served in the years ahead by Bloom's qualities as a leader – forward-looking, realistic and responsive.

Also offering remarks congratulating NJIT's new president were Johnathan Weiss, student representative; Joseph Stanley '78, '85,

alumni representative; Marybeth Boger, staff representative; Professor John Schuring, faculty representative; and Dean Urs Gauchat, administration representative.

Bloom focused on three interconnected priorities in his inaugural address: the strategic hiring plan for the growth of NJIT faculty, the quality of life on campus and in the University Heights community, and business and industry partnerships – all vitally important for the future of NJIT, the City of Newark, the State of New Jersey, and our nation as a whole. He said that together we can continue to improve educational success and student

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learning outcomes leading to increased retention and graduation, grow research and apply it with industry partners, and develop a campus and surrounding community that is supportive of these efforts.

“As we look ahead toward moving the edge even further, given emerging opportunities and formidable challenges, we must think and act boldly in order to continue to claim the mantle of New Jersey’s science and technology university,” Bloom said.

In his concluding benediction, Peter Cistaro ’68 asked that President Bloom be granted the wisdom, understanding, judgment, knowledge, courage and faith to be a “humble servant leader to faculty, students, parents, administrators and all constituencies and partners of NJIT.” [continued]

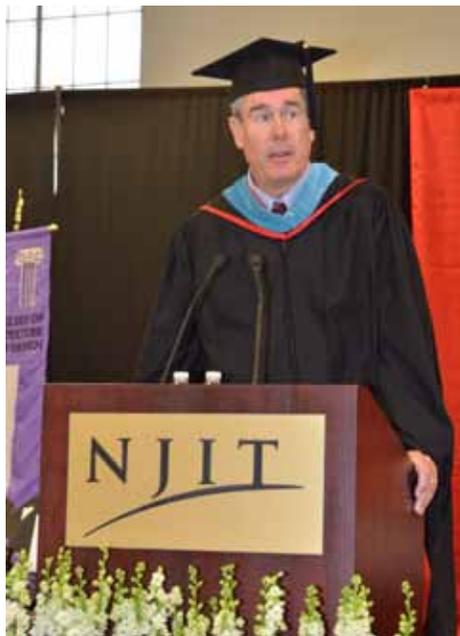
LEFT, TOP TO BOTTOM: Among those who donned academic robes in the Campus Center before the installation ceremony were Fadi Deek (left), dean of the College of Science and Liberal Arts, and Henry Ross, NJIT chief of staff.

Newark Mayor Cory A. Booker joined Former Governor Thomas H. Kean for President Bloom’s installation.

Delegates representing 26 colleges and universities marched in the ceremonial procession.

ABOVE: NJIT students carried flags representing 105 home countries into the Naimoli Family Athletic and Recreational Facility, where the installation ceremony took place.

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TOP LEFT: C. Stephen Cordes '72, chair of the Board of Visitors for Albert Dorman Honors College, served as master of ceremonies.

TOP RIGHT: Donald M. Payne, Jr., Newark Municipal Council president and Essex County Council president, emphasized the importance of NJIT's long-standing presence in Newark and commitment to the city. Payne was subsequently elected to Congress as a representative of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District, succeeding his late father, who was a dedicated friend of NJIT.

ABOVE LEFT: New Jersey's Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks, a former colleague of President Bloom, spoke on behalf of Governor Chris Christie.

ABOVE RIGHT: The symbol of presidential authority, the mace, was presented to President Bloom by Board of Trustees Chair Kathleen Wielkopolski.

Author: Christina Crovetto is assistant editor of NJIT Magazine.

To view the video of President Bloom's installation: [www.njit.edu/inauguration/live.php](http://www.njit.edu/inauguration/live.php)