

# POINT BY POINT

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## NJIT NAMED AN INNOVATIVE & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY UNIVERSITY

NJIT was one of 18 public universities to be named an Innovation & Economic Prosperity University by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). The designation acknowledges NJIT as working with public and private sector partners in New Jersey and its surrounding region to support economic development through a variety of activities, including innovation and entrepreneurship, technology transfer, talent and workforce development, and community development.

"We are delighted to be recognized by the APLU with this designation that accentuates our commitment to be a leader in economic development and job creation through hands-on education, talent development, applied research, innovation, entrepreneurship and business incubation, said NJIT President Joel S. Bloom. "This recognition strengthens the already solid foundation upon which NJIT has a unique capacity to better support New Jersey's high-tech businesses and to improve the quality of life of its citizens."

Representing 238 public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems, and related organizations, the APLU is the nation's oldest higher education association with member institutions in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, four U.S. territories, Canada and Mexico. ■



*The Atlantic Sun Conference Presidents Council held a press conference June 12 to announce NJIT as the eighth member of the Atlantic Sun Conference. From left: New Jersey Senator Richard J. Codey; Men's Basketball Coach Jim Engles; NJIT Athletics Director Lenny Kaplan; Atlantic Sun Conference Commissioner Ted Gumbart; NJIT President Joel S. Bloom; New Jersey Senator Paul A. Sarlo '92, '95; and Newark Mayor Ras Baraka.*

## A PLACE IN THE SUN

Capping off a historic run that witnessed the Highlanders men's basketball team's victory over the #17 ranked Michigan Wolverines in Ann Arbor and the university's first-ever post-season appearance, NJIT became the eighth member of the Atlantic Sun Conference (A-Sun). The announcement was made June 12, 2015 during a news conference that was televised live on ESPN3.

Competition will begin in 13 sports for the 2015-16 academic year, with NJIT joining some of the most prestigious and dynamic private and public institutions in the region: Florida Gulf Coast

University, Jacksonville University, Kennesaw State University, Lipscomb University, University of North Florida, University of South Carolina Upstate and Stetson University.

"We have developed excellent working relationships with the Atlantic Sun Presidents and conference leadership," said NJIT President Joel S. Bloom. "We share a commitment to academic excellence, the best possible quality student-athlete experience and the value of long-standing partnerships. The quality of interaction with our colleagues in the Atlantic Sun has been invigorating, and we look forward to being part of what clearly is a remarkable conference at a very special point in its history."

The Highlanders men's swimming and diving team has been a member of the Coastal Collegiate Swimming Association for two years, which the A-Sun currently operates in partnership with three other Division I conferences. NJIT will be included in regular season schedules and eligible for indi-



vidual awards, regular season and postseason team titles immediately with the exception of men's soccer. Because of existing commitments, men's soccer will play in A-Sun schedules beginning in the 2016-17 academic year. The addition of NJIT and the New York media market will also bring the A-Sun exposure in seven of the top markets in the nation. ■

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PHOTOS: LARRY LEVANTI

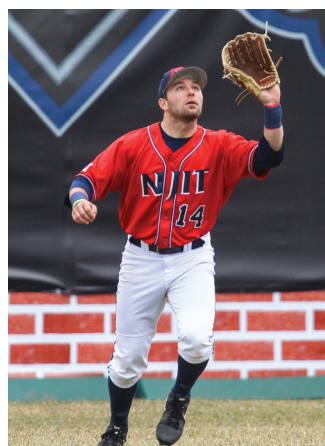


Daquan Holiday '15

## ALUMS JOIN PRO RANKS

**Daquan Holiday '15** has signed a professional contract to play with Dragons Rhoendorf of German Pro A. In signing on with the Rhoendorf club, Holiday becomes the third Highlander in the last four years to continue playing professional basketball after college. The latest Highlander pro, Holiday was a four-year member of the NJIT men's basketball team in a career highlighted by his senior season, when he appeared in all 33 games, starting 32, for a record-setting team that won 21 games and advanced to the semifinal round of the national postseason *CollegeInsider.com* Tournament. He completed his career as the second-leading Division I career shot blocker in program history, with 132 (13 behind **Dan Stonkus '10**). Holiday's 49 blocks as senior tied the school Division I record. **Rayven Johnson '13**, the best all-around women's basketball player in NJIT's Division I years, is also playing professionally in Germany, where she has played two seasons with TK Hannover.

**Ed Charlton '15**, who completed his four-year college playing career at NJIT this spring, was selected by the Cincinnati Reds in the 23rd round of baseball's annual First-Year Player Draft. Charlton, whose primary position is center



Ed Charlton '15

field, is the second NJIT player to be selected in the last three years, following **Mark Leiter, Jr. '13**, who went to the Phillies in the 22nd round of the 2013 draft. Leiter, in his third year as professional pitcher, is having a strong season with Clearwater, the Advanced A affiliate of the Phillies in the Florida State League.

**Isaiah Wilkerson '12**, NJIT's first Associated Press All-America honorable mention honoree, played two seasons in the NBA D-League before moving on in 2014-15 to Titanicos de Leon (Leon Titans) of *Liga Nacional de Baloncesto Profesional* (National Professional Basketball League of Mexico). With the fall-winter season complete, Wilkerson is playing in pro ball in Puerto Rico (Atleticos de San German), where the season runs through the summer. In 55 games for Titanicos de Leon, Wilkerson, who will turn 25 in November this year, averaged 18.8 points, 3.8 rebounds, and 4.9 assists. **Chris Flores '13**, who followed Wilkerson as Great West Conference Player of the Year and AP All-America honorable mention, is NJIT's all-time Division I career scorer, with 1,726 points in four seasons.

**Christian Galindo '13**, who helped NJIT to its most successful Division I soccer season in 2012, recently headed to Spain to continue a professional career that began in August 2013. Following a season with Guatemalan side C.D. Suchitepequez, one of 12 teams in the top tier of Guatemala soccer, Galindo will play for Brenes Balompie in the Spanish third division. ■