

TOWARD A BRIGHTER FUTURE

It is my privilege to introduce the annual Honor Roll of Donors as part of this special edition of *NJIT Magazine*, which recognizes our supporters' continued commitment to shaping the future of NJIT.

As the far-reaching effects of COVID-19 continue to change the world in which we live, this issue's cover story focuses on the concerted efforts of the NJIT community — alumni, faculty, staff, students and researchers — to mitigate the impact of this unprecedented global crisis. These initiatives range from designing and fabricating thousands of pieces of personal protective equipment to developing a novel test swab that can be 3D-printed using inexpensive, widely available materials and speedily assembled in a range of fabrication settings. During the COVID-19 pandemic, NJIT's New Jersey Innovation Institute (NJII) has played a key role in ensuring that all 71 hospitals in the state report COVID-related data as completely and accurately as possible to track and validate the spread of the disease and assess its impact on the population. NJII is advising hospitals and practitioners on how to apply for funding in order to keep their facilities open and understand changes in the regulatory environment as well as the shift to telemedicine. Going forward, NJIT researchers are developing new testing approaches as demonstrated by Senior Vice Provost for Research Atam Dhawan's work on the National Institutes of Health committee that relies on inexpensive, data-linked point-of-care devices for this and future pandemics.

This issue's second feature spotlights NJIT undergraduates who continue to earn the nation's top academic honors, the latest being a new university record of four students named Goldwater Scholars this year by the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. The scholarship is recognized among the country's most prestigious for STEM undergraduates pursuing research careers. In "Fab Four," you will read about this year's NJIT Goldwater Scholar class, doubling last year's total, which is the largest from any academic institution in New Jersey and equals second-most across the nation. NJIT exceeded universities such as Columbia University (3), Harvard University (3), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2) and Princeton University (2).

As you read this issue of *NJIT Magazine*, we remain in the midst of an uncertain time. NJIT has felt the tragic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Individual members of our university community have contracted the virus and/or seen their relatives and loved ones battle COVID-19. Members of their families have lost employment and are facing financial hardship. Some have lost loved ones to this pandemic. We all have seen our lives profoundly disrupted — emotionally, socially and financially.

Higher education will play an indispensable role in our recovery from this pandemic as well as the prevention of another in the future. So, on behalf of all at NJIT, I thank every Honor Roll donor for your support of our university. Through your generosity, we can continue our mission to prepare the next generation of scientists, technologists, engineers and leaders to make a global impact.

As always, I hope you enjoy this issue of *NJIT Magazine*, and I welcome your feedback. ■

