

# NJIT CUTS RIBBON AT 220,000-SQUARE-FOOT WELLNESS AND EVENTS CENTER

**More than 600 students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of NJIT gathered on campus on Nov. 10, 2017 to celebrate the official ribbon-cutting of the new Wellness and Events Center (WEC), an iconic, state-of-the-art and multipurpose building that provides large-scale space for professional conferencing, training and career fairs, as well as social settings for NJIT students, faculty and staff.**



“This building is the latest and largest component of a \$400 million campus transformation that has been taking place in recent years and has included the renovation of the Central King Building, the new Life Sciences and Engineering Center, and several other facilities projects,” said NJIT President Joel S. Bloom. “This transformation would not have been possible without the leadership of our trustees, the generosity of our donors, the support of state and local government, the work of Vice President Andrew Christ and his team, and the input of the campus community.”

The ceremony featured a roster of speakers that included several political dignitaries and student-athletes, both past and present.

*NJIT President Joel S. Bloom cut the ribbon on the new Wellness and Events Center on Nov. 10, 2017.*

“When you build it, they will come,” said New Jersey State Senator Richard J. Codey. “What you’ve done here is phenomenal. You will continue to grow. NJIT is a fabulous institution.”

“This is a great day for the City of Newark, just as it’s a great day for NJIT,” said Senator Paul A. Sarlo ’92, ’95, a former student-athlete who now serves as chairman of the New Jersey Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and is a member of the Judiciary Committee, the Higher Education Committee, the Joint Budget Oversight Committee and the Senate Legislative Oversight Committee. “What is exciting is that our engineering students are much more well-rounded and want to be engaged. That’s why NJIT will continue to attract well-rounded students from across the country.”

The three-story, 220,000-square-foot building features a number of flexible spaces that can be configured quickly to support the numerous and varied missions of the university community. Designed and engineered by AECOM and built by Torcon, the exterior design reinforces the university’s position as a leader in engineering and technology education, featuring a 52-foot-high glass wall on the north facade that offers an excellent view of the adjacent athletic field as well as NJIT’s academic campus.

“It is often said that success has many parents, and there are many parents here today,” said Stephen P. DePalma ’72, chairman of the NJIT Board of Trustees.

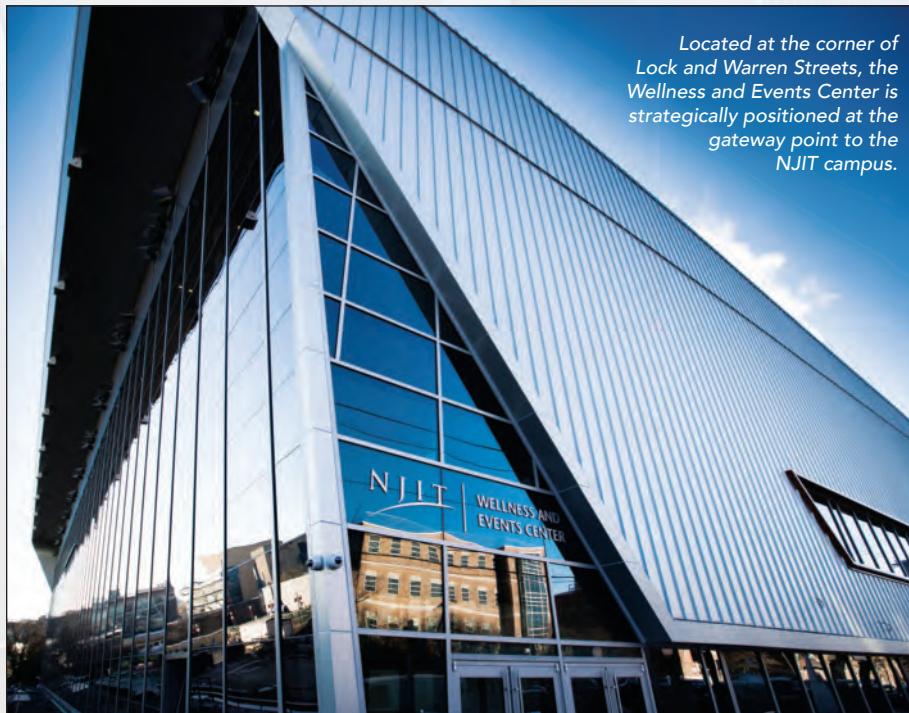
### A DREAM THAT GREW INTO A CLEAR VISION

Lucie Thibeaud Tchouassi ’94, a former member of the women’s basketball team who currently serves as a coordinator and adviser of undergraduate programs in NJIT’s Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, explained, “This is a dream that grew into a clear vision. Many generations for years to come will appreciate this center.” “Nobody is more excited than me to see it come to fruition,” said NJIT Athletics Director Lenny Kaplan. “Make no

mistake: This building represents one of the most exciting times in NJIT history.”

### TRANSFORMABLE VENUES

The 3,500-seat arena exemplifies the creation of transformable venues to meet the varied programmatic needs of each event. With all of the lower bowl seats in place, it is a dynamic Division I basketball and volleyball venue. Retracting half of those seats and adding a portable stage converts it to a convocation hall. With all of the seats retracted, the large, open floor



*Located at the corner of Lock and Warren Streets, the Wellness and Events Center is strategically positioned at the gateway point to the NJIT campus.*

PHOTO: DERIC RAYMOND



PHOTO: AECOM

The state-of-the-art complex supports NJIT athletes in baseball, basketball, fencing, lacrosse, soccer, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, and volleyball, with dedicated locker rooms and full-length practice courts.

can be used for recreation/ intramural sports, large student gatherings, job fairs, alumni functions and trade shows. The main concourse also functions as a practice running track.

Perhaps the most unique design feature of the NJIT Wellness and Events Center is the full-height glass wall along the north façade, which provides great views of the campus and the adjacent athletic field that will be constructed in the upcoming months. The main circulation corridor in the building runs along that glass wall as it connects the central campus quadrangle to a transit station for the local light rail system. Several casual seating areas have been located along this corridor so this light-filled atrium space can serve as an interactive social hub for students, faculty and staff. The grandstand that runs along the base of the north facade is connected to the main corridor and doubles as a casual outdoor seating area that can be utilized for study on fair weather days.

### A PORTAL TO THE UNIVERSITY

The Wellness and Events Center is located at the corner of Lock and Warren Streets, which is a gateway point to the university campus.

“Because the new NJIT Wellness and Events Center is located directly between a transit stop on the light rail system and the

academic campus, the building will become a portal to the university for scores of students on a daily basis,” said Steve Terrill, principal, AECOM’s Americas Sports Sector. “One of the design goals for the building was to expose these students on a daily basis to the numerous recreation facilities in the hope that it would encourage them to a healthier lifestyle.”

Another flexible program space on the first floor is the large multipurpose room. With the dividing curtain open, it can host fencing meets or other large events. With the curtain closed, it can be set up for practice on one side while the other side becomes a group exercise classroom for activities such as yoga, aerobics or Pilates. Other program elements on the first floor include an eight-lane, 25-yard pool with spectator seating, general student locker rooms, a training room with three hydrotherapy pools, a strength and conditioning room and fan support spaces for the grandstand.

There are two full-length practice courts on the second floor. These two rooms also have a central dividing curtain that, when open, creates another floor space that can be utilized for science fairs or other student

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**- Stephen P. DePalma '72, Chairman of the NJIT Board of Trustees**



PHOTO: OSCAR MASCIANDARO

Senator Paul A. Sarlo '92,'95



PHOTO: OSCAR MASCIANDARO

Lucie Thibeaud Tchouassi '94, a former member of the NJIT women's basketball team, gave remarks at the WEC Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony.



PHOTO: OSCAR MASCIANDARO

Marjorie A. Perry '05, president and CEO of MZM Construction and Management and co-executive vice chair of the NJIT Board of Overseers, served as mistress of ceremonies at the WEC Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony.

PHOTO: AECOM



The 11,580-square-foot turf room looks out onto the NJIT campus.

functions. Adjacent to the main concourse is a team store that can be open to sell Highlanders gear throughout the school year. The other major space on the second level is the recreation center, featuring cardio fitness equipment, weight stations and an incredible view across campus.

A grand staircase connects the second and third floors. At the top of the staircase is the reception desk for the administrative suite, with offices and workstations for coaches and athletics administrative staff. Adjacent to these offices are several multipurpose conference rooms, a student academic support suite, a press box for the athletic field and an ESPN production room. Additionally, there is an 11,580-square-foot turf room, two racquetball courts and a hospitality suite. ■

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