

## A Message from the President

Five years is not a very long time in the history of a university. Some would say it is not nearly enough time to measure any appreciable change or progress. And yet, we've seen some dramatic changes at NJIT in that period.



One need only look around the campus to see the most profound change. Back in 2002, there was extensive construction going on here, and the underlying campus was the typical urban landscape of undistinguished concrete decorated with dumpsters. A concerted effort in campus beautification combined with the launching of our new university branding initiative has made a significant change in the look of the campus.

Other progress has been equally striking. In my first annual report message in the *2002-2003 President's Annual Report*, I noted that we had recently hired the first chair of the newly-established Department of Biomedical Engineering. The department is now one of our most popular, particularly with women students – some 40 percent of the nearly 400 undergraduate and graduate students are women. The department also has annual grant support of \$2.5 million, including a Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, directed by Richard Foulds, and a BioMEMS Bioengineering Summer Institute, a joint initiative of the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. Three young faculty members have received prestigious

NSF CAREER awards, including Treena Livingston Arinzeh, whose cutting edge work with adult stem cells earned her the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest national honor that a young researcher can receive.

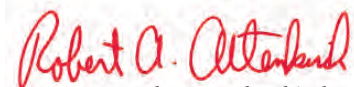
When I first arrived at NJIT, I wrote up a list of six goals for myself and the university, and these are still valid measures of our progress:

- Refine and refocus NJIT's strategic plan, which we did in 2004. In these pages, you will see what's been accomplished toward the goals of that plan.
- Assure that the educational programs are sound, that they continue to serve a diverse population, and that they are coupled with our research program at both the undergraduate and the graduate levels. In this, we have confirmation of our success from our recent Middle States review, as well as in our rankings from *U.S. News and World Report* as a top national university and one of the most diverse campuses in the nation. We've also seen our graduation rate go from 45 percent to 60 percent over the five-year period.
- Grow the research programs. Research funding has expanded from \$69 million in FY2002-2003 to

\$90 million in FY 2007-2008.

- Grow the endowment, which stood at \$43.5 million in FY2002-2003. Its current value is \$76 million.
- Nurture a sense of community among alumni and friends, students, faculty and staff, and we are seeing the beginnings of a renewed NJIT spirit at our Division I sporting events and at new traditions like NJIT Day. We've also seen our alumni giving rate increase from 14 percent in 2002 to 21 percent in 2007.
- Expand intellectual property commercialization. In the past year, the university gained 12 new U.S. patents, bringing the total assigned to NJIT to 95, enabling 123 license agreements.

There is still much to do, and there are always new challenges. But our vision for NJIT has not changed from the early days – to have NJIT counted among the nation's leading public research universities, and, like those great state universities, to play a central role in the region's intellectual and economic development. That vision is well within our reach.



Robert A. Altenkirch  
President of NJIT