

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The history of NJIT is a chronicle of continual progress and transformation. The university enjoys a long-established tradition juxtaposed with a young attitude marked by its flexibility and energy. We are an agile university – innovative, entrepreneurial and engaged – so we are constantly reinventing NJIT to respond quickly and efficiently to opportunities, changing marketplace trends and emerging societal needs.

Since I came to NJIT in 2002, I have had the challenge and the pleasure to oversee the university's most recent evolutionary steps – its transformation from a solid, well-regarded local institution to a top-ranked public university distinguished for excellence in education and research and recognized in New Jersey as a leader in the region's intellectual and economic development. Although evolving is, by nature, a slow process, I believe we have made some notable progress. In fact, if you have not looked closely at the university in a decade or more, you may be surprised by what you find at NJIT today.

The most visible change is, of course, the campus itself. We've worked hard to create an appealing and welcoming environment for our students on campus, and we are looking forward over the next few years to seeing the whole University Heights neighborhood developed and enhanced into an attractive destination for students with living options and retail and entertainment amenities.

We've expanded our degree offerings to allow students a broader range of educational choices and new areas in which to apply the "technology edge." The new **School of Art + Design** is a case in point, offering degrees in creative areas such as industrial design, interior design, digital design and fine art, but with a 21st century twist – students create their designs with the latest technological tools and software applications. We've also added technology-rich degree programs in such disciplines as communications and media, pre-law, business and computing specialties, and teacher certification.

A decade ago, educational and research programs in biomedical engineering and life sciences were almost nonexistent at NJIT. Today, biomedicine is the most pervasive focal area in the university. Founded in 2002, the **Department of Biomedical Engineering** has grown and developed rapidly, with more than 400 students and \$2.5 million annually in grant support. Related degree programs and research projects can be found throughout the university in such specialties as bioinformatics,

bioelectronics, biology, healthcare systems management, and pharmaceutical engineering, management and chemistry.

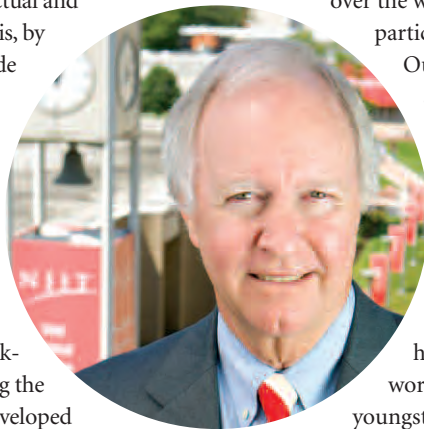
The environment is not a new subject for NJIT. In fact, when the **York Center for Environmental Engineering and Science** was opened in the early '90s, it was the biggest and best equipped facility of its kind. But our focus has shifted from hazardous waste management and remediation. Today, we have architects designing sustainable housing and schools, civil engineers concerned with water quality, and biologists monitoring fish communities and other ecosystems.

The extent of NJIT's international involvement may be somewhat surprising. Our faculty have research partnerships all over the world. Our solar physics group, for example, participates in projects from Antarctica to Hawaii.

Our students in **Engineers Without Borders** are helping a town in Haiti purify its water supply. Our biomedical engineers are collaborating with researchers at British universities through the White Rose Health Innovation Partnership. At the same time, we are ever committed to Newark and New Jersey's cities, as researchers look at transportation and housing issues, while our graduate students work with high school teachers to bring more youngsters into science and engineering.

Finally, NJIT is now a full member of the **NCAA Division I**, with all of our athletics teams competing at the top level. We are already seeing the benefits of this in increased visibility both among our peer institutions across the country and among the student athletes we recruit. We've also begun to build more interest among the NJIT family for our athletics teams. Our baseball team plays at Bears and Eagles Riverfront Stadium, and some of our basketball games are played at Prudential Center. Using these state-of-the-art facilities has helped us draw alumni back to NJIT and also to Newark, which is equally important to us.

We are currently in the process of developing a new strategic plan, one that will take us to the middle of the coming decade and to a new level of accomplishment and recognition. NJIT is poised to take the next step in its journey.



Robert A. Altenkirch
President of NJIT