WE have momentum; we need to continue to ‘move the edge,’ applying our considerable knowledge and expertise to the challenges of our society. . . .
2012 has been an exhilarating and challenging year, both for the university and for me personally. I am thrilled to be taking on the leadership of NJIT at this point in our history. It’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and a tremendous rush for me to be able to play a central role in shaping the university’s future.

The Inaugural celebration allowed us to develop the theme “Moving the Edge,” and it was gratifying to see how well this idea resonated with the NJIT family, and how soon our students, faculty, alumni and friends were energized by the concept. I was able to share my ideas for moving the university to the next level with our benefactors and partners from business and industry. The Inaugural events also offered unique opportunities to hear how people outside the institution – Governor Tom Kean, Mayor Cory Booker, and Secretary Rochelle Hendricks, among others – perceive the university and its developing role in the city and the state.

Among the university’s accomplishments in 2012:

- NJIT received full accreditation and an excellent report from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education which said, “The students are excellent, well trained, and graduates are highly successful after leaving the university.”
- The Report of the Governor’s Task Force on Higher Education cited NJIT’s unique and vital role in the state’s economic future and charged us with a leadership role in building a 21st-century economy based on technology and science.
- NJIT is 4th in the U.S. for inventions per federal research dollars and 12th in industry support per federal dollars. At press time, NJIT had 154 unexpired U.S. patents, of which 101 are either licensed, optioned, or jointly owned with third parties. We also have 139 pending patent applications, of which 56 are funded by third parties.
- The university began AY 2012-13 with a record enrollment of nearly 10,000 students, including the largest ever freshman class of 1049. The entering class is also the best qualified ever, with combined average SAT scores for math and reading of 1161, 140 points above the New Jersey and national average. Albert Dorman Honors College enrolled nearly 700 students who are in the top 10 percent of students nationally, with combined average SAT scores for math and reading above 1350.
- Our graduating class of 2012 was recruited into the best-paying jobs and most promising careers at twice the national average rate. In addition, NJIT is eighth among public universities in the U.S. for alumni earning potential.
- With the support of our Board of Trustees, NJIT was able to hire 24 new professors with exceptional, multidisciplinary expertise in such areas as sustainable design, biomaterials and mechatronics. At the same time, our faculty has been garnering professional recognition and grant support at an unprecedented pace, as well as turning their ideas into practical applications.
- We broke ground for the Warren Street Village, a complex that will add 600 beds to NJIT’s residential housing, including 360 beds for the Residential Honors College. The Village will open next fall. It will feature a new restaurant, convenience store, fitness center, and five duplex houses for 10 NJIT Greek organizations.

We have momentum; we need to continue to “move the edge,” applying our considerable knowledge and expertise to the challenges of our society. While we must continue to provide a quality education and perform excellent research, NJIT must now look at the bigger picture of national and global impact. We need to think about how our faculty and students fuel new industries, jobs and economic growth at home and around the world. Our goals for the immediate future are:

- To improve the quality of life for students, faculty and the surrounding community;
- To sustain and support our excellent researchers and educators, and expand the faculty with emphasis on exceptional multidisciplinary expertise;
- To build synergistic partnerships with business and industry as a key component of our academic and research excellence; and
- To play a critical role in the economic recovery of our state and region through workforce development, business incubation and neighborhood redevelopment.

Joel Bloom
President of NJIT