



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

NJIT Is Engaged



What life have you if you have not life together? There is no life that is not in community.

T. S. Eliot

While universities may have once been “ivory towers” isolated from the daily concerns of most people and their communities, this is certainly not the case today. It’s especially true of universities focused on education and research in science and technology — schools like New Jersey Institute of Technology.

NJIT is fully and actively engaged at all levels in the world beyond our campus. We offer programs that give elementary and secondary school students from Newark and across New Jersey opportunities to be exposed to and experience the excitement of science. Visit the NJIT campus, especially in the summer, and you’ll see boys and girls learning about principles of engineering and science through building miniature roller coasters, flying model rockets and competing to construct robots from LEGO® kits. In this issue, read about the recent New Jersey School of Architecture program for high-school students that included building a “learning center” — from hundreds of UPS boxes.

NJIT is also committed to integrating education and community development, and to partnering with industry so that technological innovations can be applied as quickly as possible to real-world use. This issue’s cover feature describes how a group of NJIT architecture students developed designs for a community center and a new building to house the police and fire departments in River Vale, New Jersey. The students submitted their designs at the invitation of the town’s mayor, himself a graduate of the university. You can also read about work being done by NJIT faculty, students and alumni in cooperation with the telecom and power industries.

In telecommunications, we are advancing the wireless technologies that are rapidly transforming the way people interact and share information. Working with the New Jersey utility PSE&G, we are developing innovative sensors to monitor components in electric-power grids. This technology promises to give early warning of blackouts due to equipment failure and to provide security against deliberate damage.

NJIT’s engagement is truly global as well. The ongoing investigation of solar and atmospheric phenomena featured in this issue has significant implications for our understanding of global warming and how it may affect life worldwide. From inspiring elementary-school students in Newark to become scientists and engineers to gaining new insights into environmental change of vital concern to people everywhere, New Jersey Institute of Technology is engaged. ■

Robert A. Altshuler