The New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) Board of Trustees has unanimously appointed Joel Bloom, EdD, to serve as interim president of the university, effective immediately. This follows the recent announcement of the resignation of Robert Altenkirch. Altenkirch will serve as a consultant to the interim president until the end of October.

Speaking for the NJIT Board of Trustees, Kathleen Wielkopolski expressed confidence in the selection of Bloom. "Our priority during this period is to assure that all the initiatives currently being undertaken at NJIT, both internal and external, continue to proceed. With Dr. Bloom's extensive experience and involvement in many of these initiatives, and working closely with the Provost, the Board is confident that this can be accomplished," she said.

Bloom, who is NJIT vice president for academic and student services as well as founding dean of the Albert Dorman Honors College, is well-positioned to take on this leadership role. Bloom, with a career spanning 20 years at NJIT, is passionate about the university and its students as their education in the sciences, engineering, technology, design and management transforms their future and that of their families.

Bloom's impact on the university has been significant. Under his watch, student enrollment increased from 7600 to over 9500 students, including increases in female and minority students. The average SAT math score is now in the top quarter nationally; Dorman Honors College enrollment increased 70 percent, totaling 685 with combined average SAT scores over 1335 for fall 2011; articulation agreements are currently signed with the state’s high-tech high schools and 19 county colleges; and accelerated joint admission agreements exist with UMDNJ Medical and Dental Schools, St. George’s Medical School, SUNY College of Optometry and Seton Hall Law School.

Bloom holds baccalaureate and master’s degrees from Hunter College, City University of New York, and master’s and doctoral degrees from Teachers College, Columbia University.


COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Learning Communities were launched at NJIT this fall, enrolling over 300 students in cohorts according to their major. The initiative, launched by the Office of the Provost, is called Community Connections. The program connects students within a network of faculty, advisors, and peer mentors focused on facilitating their transition to college and enhancing their learning experience. Community Connections students will have the opportunity to engage in hands-on learning experiences, working in teams with faculty and peers. Study groups and mentoring after classes, on campus and through online connections, also provide students access to the help they need to be successful in their classes.

Already it is clear from the reaction of the students that they appreciate being invited to join cohorts of like-minded peers. They are working together, and having fun!

To learn more log on to, www.njit.edu/communityconnections
19TH ANNUAL NJIT/RUTGERS-NEWARK CAREER FAIR
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011
12:30 - 5:00 p.m.
NJIT Gym and Naimoli Tennis Center & Rutgers-Newark Golden Dome Athletic Center
Over 100 employers, including PSEG, Johnson & Johnson, and Alcatel-Lucent will be on campus to talk to your student.

Students are encouraged to visit the office of Career Development Services Campbell Hall (Room 412) for help with their resumes and more information on how to impress potential employers.
WHAT IS FERPA?
The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

WHAT CAN'T BE DISCLOSED?
Generally, schools must have written permission from [a] parent or [guardian] in order to release information from a student's record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):

- school officials with legitimate educational interest;
- Other schools to which a student is transferring;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to State law

WHAT MAY BE DISCLOSED WITHOUT MY STUDENT’S PERMISSION?
Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time of request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

Source: http://unitedcivilrights.org/members/FERPA/FERPA-overview.pdf