RESOLUTION APPROVING AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES TO ROCHELLE HENDRICKS, J. ROBERT HILLIER, AND PHILIP RINALDI

WHEREAS by awarding honorary degrees, New Jersey Institute of Technology recognizes outstanding individuals whose accomplishments are of such excellence that they provide inspiration to our graduates, and

WHEREAS the following individuals have displayed the level of exemplary achievement deemed worthy of the singular recognition conveyed by the conferral of an honorary degree by the university, namely:

Rochelle Hendricks, named the first Secretary of Higher Education for the State of New Jersey in May 2011, is responsible for policy and program development to enhance the capacity and competitiveness of New Jersey’s higher education institutions.

In this role, Secretary Hendricks has focused on advancing the blueprint for higher education reform as recommended by the Governor’s Higher Education Task Force. She has implemented the New Jersey Medical and Health Sciences Education Restructuring Act and the Building Our Future Bond Act, cultivating cross-sector state and national partnerships.

In March 2013, Lt. Governor Guadagno named Secretary Hendricks as the newest member of the New Jersey Partnership for Action. She is also Chair of the Council on Innovation, established to enhance collaboration among academia, business, industry, and the State. In 2014, Secretary Hendricks was appointed to the State Ethics Commission by Governor Christie, and she was elected Vice Chair of the Educational Facilities Authority Board.

Secretary Hendricks is a founding member of the Policy Steering Council for the Center for Higher Education Strategic Information and Governance at Stockton University. She is a member of the Educational Leadership Foundation of New Jersey Board of Trustees and an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees for the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

J. Robert Hillier, FAIA, founded Hillier Architecture in 1966 and led it to become the third largest architectural firm in the United States. In 2007 Hillier merged with RMJM of Scotland and thus was created the third largest strictly-architectural firm in the world, with seventeen offices worldwide. He served as Deputy Chairman of the RMJM holding company. The Hillier firm received over 300 state, national and international design awards, many of them for projects for which Hillier personally was the lead designer. In 1998, Architectural Record identified Hillier Architecture as one of the best managed firms in the United States.

In 1989 Mr. Hillier was named New Jersey’s Entrepreneur of the Year by Inc. Magazine. In 2001, he was the first recipient of the Leonardo da Vinci award from the Professional Services Management Association for lifetime leadership in his profession, and in 2007 Mr. Hillier was the recipient of the AIA’s Michael Graves Lifetime Achievement Medal. In 2013 he received the
75th Anniversary Legacy Award from the Urban Land Institute for his work in land conservation and affordable housing. Mr. Hillier has lectured extensively in the United States at schools of architecture and to AIA chapters.

Mr. Hillier has served on New Jersey Institute of Technology’s Board of Overseers since March 1995, and on the Albert Dorman Honors College Board of Visitors since July 1996. In 2009 NJIT awarded Mr. Hillier with the Presidential Medal for lifetime achievement at their annual Celebration event. He is also currently serving on NJIT’s Board of Trustees’ Building and Grounds Committee.

Philip Rinaldi, a principal partner and Chief Executive Officer of Philadelphia Energy Solutions LLC, is an entrepreneurial industrialist whose career has focused on energy, chemical and natural resource industries. Mr. Rinaldi earned his BS and MS degrees in Chemical Engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology in 1968 and 1976, respectively. As an undergraduate, he was inducted into Omicron Kappa Delta National Leadership Honor Society and Omega Chi Epsilon Chemical Engineering Academic Honor Society.

He has been an investor and/or the principal executive in a wide range of industries, including oil refining, oil exploration, phosphate mining and chemical production, coke gasification, nitrogen chemical production, zinc refining, and production of molybdenum, rhenium and vanadium derivatives. Mr. Rinaldi’s industrial background includes prominent companies such as Exxon, Phibro, Tosco, Coffeyville Resources, Conserve, Seminole, and Mulberry Corporation.

In addition to his business pursuits, Mr. Rinaldi is an active member of New Jersey Institute of Technology, where he serves as Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Overseers, has endowed the Louis and Marie Carmella Rinaldi Memorial Scholarship, and also serves as Director of the Alumni Association. He currently serves on NJIT’s Board of Trustees Joint Advancement Committee and the Joint Committee on Investments, as well as the Overseers Excellence in Research Committee and the Marketing Committee. Mr. Rinaldi is also presently driving the creation of an angel investor network at the university to specialize in providing seed capital to start-up companies that have some affiliation with NJIT.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NJIT will confer upon Rochelle Hendricks and J. Robert Hillier the Honorary Degree of Humane Letters, honoris causa; and upon Philip Rinaldi
the Honorary Degree of Doctorate of Science, *honoris causa*, at the May 16th, 2017, NJIT Commencement Ceremony at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey.

Holly C. Stern, Esq.
General Counsel/Vice President of Legal Affairs and Secretary to the Board of Trustees
New Jersey Institute of Technology

February 9, 2017
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