

**RESOLUTION TO AWARD HONORARY DEGREES TO KIMBERLY BRYANT,
EDWIN LEAHY, AND LAWRENCE RAIA**

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:

Kimberly Bryant, founder and CEO of Black Girls CODE, a non-profit organization founded in 2011 dedicated to “changing the face of technology” by introducing girls of color (ages 7-17) to the field of technology and computer science with a concentration on entrepreneurial concepts.

Ms. Bryant has been nationally recognized as a thought leader for her work to increase opportunities for women and girls in the technology industry and has received numerous awards for her work with Black Girls CODE. Kimberly has been awarded the prestigious Jefferson Award for Community Service for her work to support communities in the Bay Area, named by Business Insider on its list of “The 25 Most Influential African-Americans in Technology”, and named to The Root 100 and the Ebony Power 100 lists in 2013. Kimberly has been named one of FastCompany’s Most Creative People, and was named by the White House as a Champion of Change for her work in tech inclusion and for her focus on bridging the digital divide for girls of color. She has also received an Ingenuity Award in Social Progress from the Smithsonian Institute.

Ms. Bryant earned a degree in Electrical Engineering with a minor in Computer Science from Vanderbilt University. She focused her studies at Vanderbilt on high-voltage electronics, and early in her career, was hired by Westinghouse Electric and DuPont. Later, she transitioned from electrical engineering to biotechnology and worked for pharmaceutical companies, including Pfizer, Merck, and at Genentech and Novartis.

Father Edwin Leahy has served as the 23rd Headmaster of Saint Benedict's Preparatory School since 1972. Having graduated from St. Benedict's Prep in 1960, he earned a B.A. in philosophy from Seton Hall University in 1968 and a Master’s in Divinity with distinction in 1975 from the Woodstock College at Union Theological Seminary, New York. In 1966 he took his first vows as a monk of the Benedictine Abbey of Newark and was ordained to the priesthood in 1972.

Father Leahy began his work at St. Benedict's Prep in 1967, teaching biology and religion and assisting with the wrestling and American football teams. Following the suspension of operations of St. Benedict's in 1972, Father Edwin was named to direct the efforts of monks, interested

parents, alumni and friends to re-open the School as soon as was feasible. Under his direction St. Benedict's re-opened in 1974 with 89 students and 14 faculty members.

St. Benedict's has now grown to 747 young men, most from African American and Hispanic backgrounds, and 51 faculty members. 98% of the school's graduates go on to college, with the most academically talented attending such colleges as Brown, Columbia, Dartmouth, Georgetown, Holy Cross, Harvard, Notre Dame, NYU, Penn and Rutgers. In 1988, the School added a \$9 million academic-athletic center, followed by a \$10 million campaign for a new library and endowment funds for scholarships and teacher support. A Field House and a 60-student residence, named Leahy House, were added in 2000. St. Benedict's has recently completed a \$50 million campaign to renovate its oldest buildings and increase endowments for scholarships and teacher support.

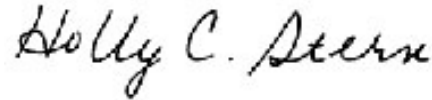
Lawrence Raia '65 has served with great distinction on the NJIT Board of Trustees for nearly a decade. Since his appointment in 2012, Mr. Raia has provided outstanding leadership and prudent counsel to Board of Trustees committees, including Building & Grounds, Campus Life, Investment, and Audit & Finance. In 2016, he became a member of the Executive Committee and recently served as Co-Vice Chair. Mr. Raia has also served as a member of the Board of Visitors for NJIT's Newark College of Engineering since 2000.

In addition to his unwavering support as a volunteer, Mr. Raia has been among the university's most generous benefactors, establishing the Lawrence & Elaine Raia Family Scholarship Endowment to benefit NJIT's talented and hardworking civil engineering students and creating the "Lawrence & Elaine Raia Innovation Lab," housed within Newark College of Engineering. In recognition of his tireless advocacy on behalf of NJIT, Mr. Raia was awarded the NCE Outstanding Alumnus Award in 2000, and received the President's Medal for Lifetime Achievement in 2011.

An accomplished businessman, Mr. Raia spent the early years of his career at Raia Industries, a family business founded by his father in 1930 that ultimately became New Jersey's largest ready-mix concrete producer. At its height, Raia Industries employed more than 500 people and supplied concrete, aggregates, and asphalt throughout northern New Jersey and lower New York State. The company was sold in 1987, and Mr. Raia and his brothers established Raia Properties Corporation, investing in and managing multi-family apartment complexes.

Mr. Raia received his undergraduate degree in civil engineering from NJIT's Newark College of Engineering in 1965, earned an MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and is a licensed professional engineer.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NJIT will confer upon Kimberly Bryant and Lawrence Raia the Honorary Degree of Doctorate of Science, *honoris causa*; and upon Father Edwin Leahy the Honorary Degree of Doctorate of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, at the May 18th, 2021 NJIT Commencement Ceremony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Holly C. Stern". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Holly C. Stern, Esq.
General Counsel and
Secretary to the Board of Trustees
New Jersey Institute of Technology

April 1, 2021
Board Resolution No. 2021-20