

To: NJIT Faculty, Staff, and Students
From: Joel Bloom, President
Date: February 21, 2012
Subject: Release of NJIT Self Study—*A Science and Technology Research University for the 21st Century*

I am writing to report an important milestone event in our re-accreditation process: the release of the self-study report. In both traditional and hyperlinked format, *A Science and Technology Research University for the 21st Century* can be found at <http://www.njit.edu/middlestates/>. There you will find an overview of the self-study process, an archive of the work of the seven committees, a draft agenda for the team visit, a series of podcasts complementing the report, and links to key supporting documents. You will also find a description of our program review framework, the centerpiece of the university's student learning assessment initiative.

This is an exciting time for NJIT. The *State Strategic Plan: New Jersey's State Development & Redevelopment Plan* has rendered NJIT especially well positioned to assist in a proactive, strategic approach for the State's future. The strength of our own *Strategic Plan, 2010-2015*, that reflects the input from across our campus community, has recently enabled the Board of Trustees to add value of our four-fold mission of teaching, research, service, and economic development by devoting approximately \$30M to our three year faculty and instructional staff recruitment effort. We believe that these hires will allow us to strengthen the NJIT mission and address key areas central to the common good of the university and all of its shareholders.

NJIT's educational offerings continue to be well-received. From the Center for Pre-College Programs, through our 124 degree programs, to our Continuing Professional Education programs, NJIT offers a continuum of education for all those who wish to participate in the research-based learning environment of NJIT.

As you browse through the self-study site, you will find evidence of our institutional appetite for continuous improvement. Undertaken over three years by the NJIT community, extensive effort has validated our claim for re-accreditation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education: Assessment of institutional context and educational effectiveness demonstrates that NJIT has in place the systems necessary to ensure mission articulation.

During the coming months, we will continue to prepare for the April 1-4 visit of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education visiting team chair Robert Palazzo, Provost and Professor of Biology, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and his team members: Ellen T. Baird, Professor, Department of Art History, University of Illinois at Chicago; Dennis R. Black, Vice President for University Life and Science, SUNY at Buffalo; Graham Glynn, Vice Provost and Professor, School of Health & Natural Sciences, Mercy College; Robert M. Karp, Director of Institutional Research, SUNY College at Plattsburgh; Robert C. Kerber, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus, Department of Chemistry, SUNY at Stony Brook; Greig W. Mitchell, Former Vice President, Finance and Administration (Ret.), Salisbury University; and Glenn Lang, Acting Executive Director, New Jersey Commission on Higher Education. We will seek the

participation of the NJIT community during this period of review and attestation in which we will validate our gains and articulate our vision for the future.

Accreditation is a vehicle by which the NJIT community reflects on the worth of its achievements. I thank all of you who have worked hard to during this self-study and look forward to working with you as we prepare for our guests.