

Wellness and Events Center Press Kit



ESTELLE AND ZOOM FLEISHER ATHLETIC CENTER

About the WEC

The 220,000-square-foot NJIT Wellness and Events Center provides flexible program spaces that will promote the health and well-being of our students, as well as support their academic pursuits, connect the campus to the professional community, and deliver training facilities that will enhance the development of our Division I student-athletes. Designed and engineered by AECOM and built by Torcon, the exterior design reinforces the University's position as a leader in engineering and technology education, and features a 52-foot-high glass wall on the north facade that offers an excellent view of the adjacent athletic field as well as NJIT's academic campus.

Not only can the WEC be quickly configured to support the numerous and varied missions of the University community, it also serves as a gateway point to the University campus through its strategic location in the University Heights section of Newark. Students, faculty and staff — along with visitors from the worlds of academia, business and industry — can easily access the WEC via a variety of transportation systems.

With the opening of the WEC, NJIT has added an imposing, state-of-the-art multipurpose facility to a campus that continues to grow and transform, and a neighborhood that is realizing a welcome revitalization.

52-foot-high glass wall

on the north facade provides an excellent view of the adjacent athletic field and NJIT's academic campus.



3,500-seat arena

has retractable grandstands to allow it to be easily transformed into a convocation hall or open convention space.



851-seat grandstand

doubles as an informal outdoor gathering space for students on non-game days.



5,710-square-foot fitness center

will offer students, faculty and staff access to state-of-the-art cardio and strength training equipment.



11,580-square-foot turf room

is complemented by two racquetball courts and a hospitality suite.



25-yard, 8-lane pool

will serve as a recreation facility and as a competition swimming and diving venue.



A Versatile Venue

- **A Place for Campus and Community Engagement**

The 220,000-square-foot space not only offers various places for students to congregate, socialize and study, but also functions as a site for community events to be held right in the community.

- **A Location for Learning**

Students and faculty benefit from a host of academic amenities, from a 90-seat tiered lecture room to high-tech meeting rooms to open floor space for science fairs and competitions.

- **A Home to NJIT Athletics and Fitness**

An exceptional Division I venue, the WEC also features areas for recreation and intramural sports along with fully equipped gym facilities for student and staff fitness.

- **A Center for Entertainment**

Retractable grandstands enable the 3,500-seat arena to easily convert to a hall for concerts, conventions, convocations and more.

- **A Hub Offering Easy Accessibility**

Located at the corner of Lock and Warren Streets, the WEC is strategically positioned at the gateway point to the NJIT campus and welcomes visitors via a range of transportation systems, including light rail, train, bus and plane.



“The WEC is an iconic, state-of-the-art and multipurpose building that provides large-scale space for professional conferencing, training and career fairs, as well as social settings for NJIT students, faculty and staff. It will be home to our Division I scholar-athletes, replacing a gymnasium that was built more than 50 years ago, and will serve as a fitness and recreational center for our campus community, NJIT alumni and friends. The WEC will be a learning, recreation and athletic destination facility in the City of Newark and for the region.”

Joel S. Bloom
President
NJIT

“The administration and Board of Trustees, with the ongoing input of NJIT students, faculty and staff, are leading a \$400 million facilities construction and renovation plan designed to maintain the academic excellence of NJIT, enabled in part by the voters’ approval of the Building Our Future Bond Act. The Wellness and Events Center, funded by NJIT bonds, alumni, University friends and students, is a major component of that plan and rounds out the campus of this nationally ranked public research University.”

- Steve DePalma
Chair, NJIT Board of Trustees

“Because the new NJIT Wellness and Events Center is located directly between a transit stop on the light rail system and the academic campus, the building will become a portal to the University for scores of students on a daily basis. One of the design goals for the building was to continually expose these students to the numerous recreation facilities, in the hope that they would encourage them toward a healthier lifestyle.”

- Steve Terrill
Americas Sports Sector Principal, AECOM

Key to Advancing Campus Transformation

- **Building the Future**

Central to NJIT's \$400 million campuswide capital building program, the WEC is also integral to the University's *2020 Vision* strategic plan.

- **Recruiting and Retaining Students**

The striking design, which includes a 52-foot-high glass wall on the north facade, reinforces NJIT's leadership in engineering and technology and, in turn, draws students to the University.

- **Investing in Education**

Open floors space for science fairs and competitions, complemented by a student academic support suite, serve to enhance NJIT's reputation as a nationally recognized STEM University.

- **Promoting a Collaborative Climate**

Casual and formal meeting spaces throughout the WEC encourage all members of the NJIT community to share ideas and experiences.

- **Capturing the Highlander Spirit**

The WEC engages the entire NJIT community inside, as well as outside with an 851-seat grandstand that doubles as an informal gathering space on non-game days.



“We view the Wellness and Events Center as an inviting, well-equipped complex that will support not only athletics and fitness, but a great variety of education and research activities for NJIT students, faculty, staff, alumni and visitors as well — ranging from academic convocation and commencement to professional meetings and scholarly conferences. The WEC’s sophisticated design, advanced technology and expansive facilities are truly fitting of the University NJIT has become.”

Fadi P. Deek

*Provost and Senior Executive Vice President
NJIT*

“The WEC will have a huge impact on the quality of student life at NJIT. It’s much more than a great place to watch or participate in your favorite sport. The WEC is a meeting space for clubs and events, a place to hang out with friends, an event space for conferences, concerts and convocations. Whether you are an international student or New Jersey native, architect or engineer, faculty or student, the WEC will bring us all together.”

- Mike Siegel

Professor and Director of Computational and Applied Mathematics, Faculty Athletic Representative, NJIT

“I look forward to stepping into the WEC with a group of prospective students and their families. My partner ambassador and I both agree that whenever we do the tours, the WEC is the most interesting part of campus to them. They are always eager to learn more about the building. And as an NJIT student, I am extremely excited for the WEC! We’ll wonder how we lived without it!”

- Ester Calderon '18

B.S. Applied Mathematics, Dorman Scholar, Student Ambassador, NJIT

An Ace Athletics Facility

- **No. 1 Space for Division I Teams**

The state-of-the-art complex supports NJIT athletes in baseball, basketball, fencing, lacrosse, soccer, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, and volleyball, with dedicated locker rooms and athletic staff offices, a full-length practice court, a main-concourse running track, a 11,580-square-foot turf room and a 25-yard/8-lane swimming and diving pool.

- **The Art of the Arena**

Crafted to draw a capacity crowd of 3,500, the WEC arena is transformable to meet the programmatic needs of different sports events, and features a press box for the soccer stadium and an ESPN production room.

- **Training Gains and Preventing Pains**

A training room with three hydrotherapy pools as well as a strength and conditioning room enrich the development of student athletes.

- **Score Report**

Furnished by Panasonic, the WEC's digitally advanced scoreboard measures 15.75 feet by 56.7 feet and boasts a 10mm LED screen.

- **Fitness Facts**

The 5,710-square-foot fitness center offers access to fitness and strength training equipment, weight stations, racquetball courts and group exercise space for activities such as yoga, aerobics and Pilates.



“I am very excited for the opening of our new Wellness and Events Center. The arena, surrounded by first-class amenities for all our student-athletes, including spacious locker rooms and strength, rehabilitation and hydrotherapy areas, as well as plenty of meeting and gathering space, will make this one of the best mid-major facilities in the region.”

Lenny Kaplan

*Assistant Vice President/Director of Athletics
NJIT*

“The WEC represents a transcendent time for all NJIT students and ties in so much with the new Life Sciences and Engineering Building, the beautiful reconstruction of the historic Central King Building, Albert Dorman Honors College and the Greek Village complex. NJIT students and student-athletes will experience a state-of-the-art athletics and recreation facility that will only enhance the overall experience of attending such a great academic institution for years to come.”

- Brian Kennedy
Head Coach, NJIT Men’s Basketball

“The WEC is a better suited gym for the entire campus population. The larger gym space allows for less conflict between schedules, as well as more opportunities for all of the student body and staff to exercise. There is undoubtedly an increased level of excitement on-campus as everyone is eagerly awaiting the new gym.”

- Cameron Tait '18
B.S. Marketing, President, Student Athletic Advisory Committee, NJIT Men’s Volleyball

Community Host With the Most

- **Great Minds Under One Roof**

Partners from industry, academia and government can convene for lectures, symposiums and workshops, and take advantage of high-tech meeting rooms and gathering spaces.

- **Catalyst for the STEM Workforce**

By attracting more students to NJIT, the WEC boosts the pipeline for future STEM talent.

- **Class Act**

The full-height glass wall along the north facade provides a great view of the campus and fronts one of the largest campus facilities in the northeast, setting NJIT apart as a premier University.

- **Economic Impact**

In hosting professional conferences and public events, the WEC is destined to have a positive impact on Newark's hospitality and transportation industries.

- **WEC and the City**

As the second largest event center in Newark, and with all seats retractable to reveal large open floors, the WEC can be used for trade shows, concerts, conferences and more.



“This new building was built on perseverance. And success only truly reveals its rewards when one refuses to quit. That’s what NJIT is...that’s what NJIT stands for....perseverance and refusing to quit.”

Ahmad Rasool, '04

B.S. Business

Assistant Prosecutor, Essex County

“NJIT is in the midst of an unprecedented period of growth and renewal. The WEC is, in many respects, the physical representation of the tremendous progress that the University has made during the last few years. The facility puts an exclamation point on NJIT’s strong commitment to serving its students, student-athletes, faculty, staff and alumni, as well as its friends and neighbors in the greater Newark community.”

- Robert Dow '68

B.S., M.S., Civil and Environment Engineering, NJIT Fencer, Senior Partner, Lord Abbett

“For a long time, NJIT has been a ‘hidden gem’ in the world of higher education. In recent years, however, we have become a lot less ‘hidden’ and more of just a ‘gem.’ Whether on account of the caliber of students we are enrolling, the cutting-edge research our faculty are doing, or the vital contributions we are making to economic development in the state, it is now exceedingly difficult for anyone to overlook NJIT. The Wellness and Events Center – a signature addition to the NJIT campus and to the city of Newark – will make that next to impossible.”

- Steve Kalafer

NJIT Board of Overseers, Chairman, Flemington Car and Truck Country

Owner, Somerset Patriots Baseball Team



One of the nation's leading public polytechnic universities, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) is a top-tier research University that prepares students to become leaders in the technology-dependent economy of the 21st century. NJIT's multidisciplinary curriculum and computing-intensive approach to education provide technological proficiency, business acumen and leadership skills. With an enrollment of 11,400 graduate and undergraduate students, NJIT offers small-campus intimacy with the resources of a major public research University. NJIT is a global leader in such fields as solar research, nanotechnology, resilient design, tissue engineering and cybersecurity, in addition to others. NJIT is among the top U.S. polytechnic public Universities in research expenditures, topping \$140 million, and is among the top 1 percent of public colleges and universities in return on educational investment, according to PayScale.com. NJIT has a \$1.74 billion annual economic impact on the State of New Jersey.

RESOURCES & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Website**

njit.edu/thewec

- **Additional Information**

220,000 square feet

3,500 arena seats

Construction Cost: \$110 million

Design Period: 10 months

Construction Period: 24 months

Ribbon-Cutting: November 10, 2017

First Sporting Event: Men's Basketball

Wagner vs. NJIT
November 11, 2017

Women's Basketball

Fairleigh Dickinson vs. NJIT
November 16, 2017



