



New Jersey Institute of Technology
Senior Vice Provost for Research
Newark, New Jersey

THE SEARCH

New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), the premier, public, polytechnic university of the state of New Jersey and an R1 institution, seeks a capable and committed leader as its next Senior Vice Provost for Research (SVPR). NJIT has climbed an astonishing research trajectory over the last 15 years, buoyed by powerful connectivity across the nation's most dynamic metropolitan region, longstanding relationships with New Jersey's tier-one public and private universities, and its deeply felt commitment to supporting and educating the research leaders of the future. The SVPR will join NJIT at a pivotal moment as it seeks to transform its research posture to meet its highest ambitions.

Enrolling more than 12,000 students across six schools and colleges, NJIT has enjoyed a meteoric rise in many key performance indicators in recent years. New, innovative programs, an enduring commitment to undergraduate research, and major developments in NJIT's physical infrastructure and research productivity have driven an ascension in the rankings and enabled the university to attract a student body of high caliber and a faculty of scholar-leaders at the top of their fields. NJIT has accomplished this while staying true to its roots as an institution that changes the lives of its diverse students and serves as a vital economic and innovation engine for the state and the nation, graduating well-prepared students in industry-relevant areas. NJIT educates more engineers and computer scientists than any institution of higher education in the tri-state area and was ranked the top university in the nation by *Forbes* for enabling its lowest-income students to achieve upward economic mobility. Exceeding \$170 million in FY2025, research resides at the center of university life. It is integrated into everything that the university does, from the recruitment of new faculty to the proliferation of research opportunities for its talented students.

The SVPR will play the key role in modernizing the systems and posture of a fast-moving, public research university with grand ambitions. Reporting to the Provost, the SVPR will work closely and collaboratively with key university leaders to articulate and advance NJIT's research aims while formulating a new vision for excellence and reach for the research office. The SVPR will empower NJIT's talented faculty who are on the forefront of innovative research and whose relationships with funding agencies and other external

partners can be cohesively engaged to great effect. The SVPR will be a robust and affirmative voice for NJIT's broad scholarly community, advocating for resources to effectively and efficiently advance the core functionality of the office. The SVPR will develop new opportunities for support across the university and with the external community, leveraging the Chief Innovation Officer, the New Jersey Innovation Institute (NJII), and other external partners. The SVPR also oversees a significant administrative staff footprint, including two Associate Vice Provosts for Research, in subordinate and coordinating offices. NJIT seeks a deft leader with the administrative acumen to resolve challenges and advance the research mission, paired with the vision to leverage the university's considerable strengths toward future innovation and impact.

The university has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in this search. All inquiries, applications, and nominations should be directed in confidence as noted at the end of this document.

ABOUT NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

History and Mission

From its first iteration, NJIT has existed to connect individuals with cutting-edge industry through education. The Newark Technical School, the institution that would become NJIT, opened in 1885. Newark was, like many port cities of the time, a bustling industrial center, and already a hub for science and technology. The state of New Jersey, responding to the need for a technical school to provide a labor force for a rapidly changing technical industry, provided a financial stake in establishing the school. With the value of attendance clear, the student body grew quickly, and in just over 10 years, the school began building the present-day NJIT campus. It was renamed the Newark College of Engineering in 1930.

The G.I. Bill led to exponential post-war growth, with about 75 percent of the freshman class of 1946 consisting of military veterans. The first PhD programs were offered to students in 1966, and the New Jersey School of Architecture was added in 1973, continuing the school's evolution into a technological university offering a broad range of graduate and undergraduate degrees and a dedication to significant research and public service. In 1975, a new university name—New Jersey Institute of Technology—signified the institution's expanded mission.

The establishment of a residential campus and the opening of NJIT's first dormitory in 1979 marked the beginning of a period of steady growth that continues today. Two new schools were established at the university during the 1980s – the Jordan Hu College of Science and Liberal Arts in 1982 and the Martin Tuchman School of Management in 1988. The Albert Dorman Honors College was established in 1994, and the newest school, the Ying Wu College of Computing, was created in 2001. In 2008, the School of Art + Design was added to the New Jersey School of Architecture, forming what is now the J. Robert and Barbara A. Hillier College of Architecture and Design. The College adds a design focus to the academic offerings at the university.

On July 1, 2015, the NJIT community embarked on 2020 Vision, a strategic plan that would guide the university's development over the next five years. In this timeframe, NJIT achieved R1 status and a place in the U.S. News and World Report's top 100 universities. The student body grew by more than 3000 students in five years, and both incoming test scores and retention rate averages increased. There was significant investment of more than \$500 million in campus facilities, totaling more than 1 million square feet of new space. Research expenditures increased significantly, the number of doctoral students grew by 37 percent, and NJIT now has a \$2.8 billion annual economic impact on New Jersey's economy. This astonishing success has led to the creation and articulation of NJIT's latest strategic plan: [NJIT Makes an Innovation Nexus](#), which will make NJIT a physical and intellectual focal point for ideas, actions, and people focused on innovation, and where NJIT will lead the region's technological innovation and economic advancement.

Today, NJIT stands as a preeminent public polytechnic research university with local and global impact. Designated both an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institution (AANAPISI) and Hispanic-serving institution (HSI), the New York Times college ranking tool rates NJIT number one nationally among all public universities when considering alumni earnings, economic mobility, and academic profile, and the Wall Street Journal rates NJIT number 19 overall and second among public universities in the United States. Additionally, NJIT stands among the top 100 universities in the country for alumni mid-career earnings, according to PayScale.com; it is ranked number 35 nationally by The Princeton Review as a Best Value College and is rated among the top 50 public national universities and top 100 overall by U.S. News & World Report. It has embarked on an ambitious new strategic plan to position the institution as an innovation nexus with national and international prominence through new discoveries in areas ranging from medical sensors and devices to robotics, nanotechnology, cybersecurity, and next-generation materials, among other topics of vital importance in basic, applied, and translational research.

Leadership

President Teik C. Lim

Dr. Teik C. Lim is the 9th President of New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) and holds the title of Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering. He joined NJIT on July 1, 2022, after serving as Interim President and Provost at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). Dr. Lim's career spans over 30 years, transitioning from the private sector to university administration. Before UTA, he worked as an engineer at Structural Dynamics Research Corporation and as a research scientist at The Ohio State University Center for Automotive Research. He later taught at the University of Alabama and the University of Cincinnati, where he advanced from associate professor to professor, department head, associate dean for graduate studies and research, and ultimately Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science.

Dr. Lim is internationally recognized as a leading scholar in structural vibrations, acoustics, and modeling and simulation technology. He has received numerous accolades, including being named a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors in 2018, as well as a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical

Engineers and the Society of Automotive Engineers. His awards include the Arch T. Colwell Merit Award (2003), the Ralph R. Teetor Educational Award (2002), the Thomas French Alumni Achievement Award (2010), the GearLab Distinguished Alumnus Award (2017), and the Distinguished Alumni Award for Academic Excellence (2019) from The Ohio State University. Dr. Lim earned his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan Technological University, his M.S. from the University of Missouri-Rolla, and his PhD from The Ohio State University.

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs John A. Pelesko

Dr. John A. Pelesko, an alumnus of NJIT with a PhD in Mathematical Sciences, joined the institution as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs on August 1, 2023. Before joining NJIT, Dr. Pelesko had a distinguished career at the University of Delaware, where he served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (2018-2023), Associate Dean for the Natural Sciences (2015-2018), and Chair of the Department of Mathematical Sciences (2011-2015). He has also served on the faculty at Georgia Institute of Technology and was a postdoctoral scholar at California Institute of Technology.

At NJIT, Dr. Pelesko oversees all academic colleges, schools, and departments, as well as the Office of Research, Enrollment Management, Global Initiatives, Graduate and Undergraduate Studies, University Libraries, and Institutional Effectiveness. He collaborates with President Lim to set university priorities and allocate resources.

Dr. Pelesko is a recognized scholar in mathematical modeling, particularly of micro and nanoscale engineered systems, and has authored several books, including *Unlocking the Mystery: Mathematical Modeling in Secondary Classrooms* (2022), *Self Assembly: The Science of Things That Put Themselves Together* (2007), and *Modeling MEMS and NEMS* (2002). He is also committed to enhancing student success through the integration of mathematical modeling, numerical simulation, and experimental techniques in both undergraduate and graduate courses.

Campus and Surroundings

NJIT is in the University Heights section of Newark, in the city's Central Ward, about five blocks from downtown. The physical campus has doubled in size over the past decade, including the Joel and Diane Bloom Wellness and Events Center (BWEC). The 3,500-seat state-of-the-art center was completed in 2017 and serves as home to the Highlanders' men's and women's basketball teams and hosts major conferences and events, including the Amazon Alexa-sponsored VOICE Technology Summit. The 2017 renovation of the Central King Building, a former public high school built in 1912 and purchased by NJIT in 2008, anchors the campus quad with an iconic and historic structure that serves as a center for STEM education and research, providing collaborative space, state-of-the-art classrooms, and labs.

Venture Studio, the largest startup business incubator in the state, provides 110,000 square feet of private office, co-working, and lab space for New Jersey entrepreneurs. The university's 21,000-square-foot Makerspace, built in 2017 and recently expanded, is the largest of its kind in the state. It offers students,

faculty, and staff access to industrial-grade machines and tools, as well as state-of-the-art technologies, including 3-D printers.

Newark is New Jersey's largest city, with a population of over 300,000, and is undergoing revitalization through significant corporate investment in its downtown Central Ward and residential neighborhoods. The city is home to cultural landmarks such as the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) and the Prudential Center, which hosts the NHL's New Jersey Devils. Newark is also a hub to major corporations, including Prudential Financial, Panasonic, Audible.com, and PSEG.

The city, a center of intellectual discourse, hosts numerous lectures, panels, and forums. Newark is also home to several higher education institutions, including NJIT, Rutgers University-Newark, Seton Hall University School of Law, the New Jersey Medical School, and others. In this competitive environment, NJIT distinguishes itself as a leader in collaborative research and combined educational programs.

Newark boasts several parks of historical significance, such as Branch Brook Park, home to the country's largest collection of cherry blossoms, and Weequahic Park, featuring a natural lake and a golf course. Both parks were designed by the Olmsted Brothers. Weequahic Park was once a venue for horse and car racing and even hosted President Ulysses S. Grant.

Newark continues to experience a cultural renaissance, with attractions such as NJPAC, Newark Symphony Hall, and the Newark Museum of Art, as well as a growing restaurant scene, especially in the Ironbound District. The district is known for its Portuguese restaurants and shops. The Prudential Center, also known as "The Rock," hosts over 175 events annually, including concerts and professional hockey games.

In addition to its corporate and cultural growth, Newark is focused on community development. NJIT contributes nearly 70,000 hours of community service annually and collaborates with local organizations through initiatives such as Newark 2020: Hire, Buy, Live Local, which promotes hiring residents, supporting local businesses, and providing housing incentives to NJIT employees.

ABOUT RESEARCH AT NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Reflecting the institution's growth, NJIT has steadily increased its research output and, in 2019, was designated an R1 research university. In FY2025, research expenditures surpassed \$170 million.

The university is home to over 170 research centers, institutes, and specialized laboratories, which seed multidisciplinary research collaborations and technology innovation-based entrepreneurship among faculty, staff, and students, all of whom are recognized by NJIT as playing a central role in advancing science, engineering, and technology to fuel societal progress.

Included among them are the Center for Solar-Terrestrial Research, the Center for Injury Biomechanics, Materials, and Medicine, and the Center for Natural Resources, among many more pathbreaking research hubs. Altogether NJIT's centers and institutes form a powerful innovation ecosystem that allows NJIT's scholars to move nimbly from discovery to translation in partnership with the 501c3 New Jersey

Innovation Institute (NJII), which is dedicated to accelerating innovation and fostering collaboration among industry, academia, and government, with a particular focus on the areas of defense, entrepreneurship, and healthcare.

NJIT's external expenditures derive primarily from the New Jersey Department of Health, the National Science Foundation, NASA, and the U.S. Departments of the Army, HHS, and Transportation, with significant additional funding supported by the NIH, DOE, and the defense and intelligence enterprise, including the Office of Naval Research (ONR), ARL, and defense industrial base partners. With its geographic advantages and rich industry environment, NJIT is also closely connected with major multinational corporations across the high-technology and pharmaceutical industries, including GlaxoSmithKline, Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals, Qualcomm Technologies, and Southern Data Science, among others.

NJIT incorporates six schools and colleges: Newark College of Engineering; Hillier College of Architecture and Design; Jordan Hu College of Science and Liberal Arts; Martin Tuchman School of Management; Albert Dorman Honors College; and Ying Wu College of Computing, comprising more than 350 tenure-stream faculty and serving more than 12,000 students. 2025 saw NJIT's largest and most diverse entering class in the university's history. NJIT's faculty drive its innovation ecosystem, and 2026 has seen the filing of 32 invention disclosures so far. The University holds 137 U.S. patents and launched its chapter of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) in 2021.

ROLE OF THE SENIOR VICE PROVOST FOR RESEARCH

The Senior Vice Provost for Research reports to Provost John A. Pelesko and is the chief proponent for and administrative leader of NJIT's considerable research enterprise. The SVPR will have a demonstrable grasp of the dimensionality of NJIT's scholarly endeavors, coupled with the vision to grow federal, industry, and foundation funding and generate new opportunities. The SVPR leads the Office of Research (OR), presently comprising 32 dedicated professionals who run the critical internal functions of pre-award support; research management and finance; technology and IP; research compliance and integrity; and export controls, all of which fall under two associate vice provosts who report to the SVPR. The SVPR must ensure the effective and efficient internal functioning of NJIT's research infrastructure while interfacing across the institution—leveraging associate deans for research, research councils, and the NJIT Library—to build a cohesive, responsive, and forward-looking research posture for the institution. The SVPR will also serve as a key partner to the newly created Chief Innovation Officer and will be a critical conduit for the university's connectivity to the broader NJIT innovation ecosystem, including NJII, regional research universities, industry partners, the U.S. Army's nearby Picatinny Arsenal, and the tremendous economic dynamism of the New York Metropolitan Area. The SVPR will be a champion for NJIT's research enterprise internally and externally, positioning the institution to meet its highest aspirations.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE SENIOR VICE PROVOST FOR RESEARCH

The Provost and the NJIT community will look to the next SVPR to address the following opportunities and challenges:

Advance critical functionality to meet NJIT's research needs

The SVPR will inherit a team of dedicated staff who have adapted well to changing federal research guidelines, increasing regulatory complexity, and the increasing demands of a growing research enterprise. However, the Office of Research is in need of organizational adaptation and realignment, with the resourcing to match NJIT's strategic aims. The SVPR must understand the value, importance, and challenges of supporting world-class researchers and have the acumen and drive to implement necessary changes to bolster pre- and post-award support, research development, compliance, safety, and other critical functions of the office. The SVPR will foster a culture of excellent customer service in which research staff are informed, integrated, and responsive to faculty needs and to the timelines and demands of funders. The SVPR will also partner with the Provost to set priorities for research allocation, risk mitigation, and will help design strategies to ensure that research infrastructure grows and is able to continuously adapt to changing needs. The SVPR will strengthen coordination across the Office of Research, the NJIT Library, and Advanced Research Computing and Digital Strategy to support data management, compliance workflows, research output tracking, and institutional research infrastructure.

Leverage NJIT's research leaders to craft a cohesive and coherent institutional research posture

The SVPR must strategically access and engage scholar-leaders across the institution, leveraging their expertise and institutional knowledge to advance NJIT's research enterprise holistically. The SVPR will collaborate with the college deans and their associate deans for research to cultivate an empowered research advisory council that advises on strategic opportunities on which NJIT can capitalize, both internally and externally. The SVPR will leverage NJIT's geographic advantages and external ecosystem in this effort, finding opportunities for partnership with Rutgers and Princeton Universities, state entities, industry partners, and others in an area that is a magnet for top-ranked educational and clinical institutions within and beyond New Jersey. Research development functions, such as workshops and trainings on where to find grant opportunities, as well as support in the proposal writing stage, will be key initiatives to build out in support of junior faculty. The SVPR will work with the Provost to find ways to encourage faculty to more directly engage with NJIT's innovation ecosystem through a considered approach to technology transfer, licensing, and entrepreneurial activity that fosters faculty success and career advancement. And, through a deliberate and collaborative approach to faculty, the SVPR will also support the inquiry-driven and applied research that underpins this strong research enterprise. Finally, the SVPR must wield the expert advice of NJIT's research leaders to align research policies for future growth, ensuring that processes and timelines are clear, risk posture is responsive, and that faculty feel the agency and support to pursue large awards to match their larger ambitions.

Define an expansive vision for research excellence and efficiency that will position NJIT for growth and impact

While NJIT's research footprint has grown historically, it faces similar exigencies and pressures as other research institutions across the county. The SVPR will help define NJIT's research footprint for a modern era, strengthening the structures that support research, particularly Research Compliance, Security, and Export Controls, while creating an office culture that is responsive, proactive, timely, and service-oriented, and is seen as such by internal constituents and external partners. NJIT's research function will shift to become a strategic, nimble force multiplier for scholars across NJIT's domains. The SVPR will assess the office's talent pipeline to ensure that staff uphold their duties to the highest standards of integrity and compliance while thinking creatively about new opportunities for innovation and impact. The SVPR will work with leaders across the university to create new conduits for cross-pollination of research efforts, expand funding mechanisms, and formulate new models for collaborative research. The SVPR will serve as a robust and vocal advocate for the university's research aspirations to external audiences, while tirelessly carrying the message across the university of the importance of collaboration and creativity to its future successes.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The ideal candidate will be a distinguished scholar and research leader who embodies NJIT's mission, vision, and culture. A doctoral degree and a distinguished record of excellence in scholarship, coupled with administrative success, are required. Strong candidates will have some combination of the following qualifications and characteristics:

- A visionary and catalyzing leader who exercises superb judgment, evaluates trends, anticipates emerging areas, and defines adaptive and collaborative strategic priorities;
- A proven record of achievement in building, enhancing, and sustaining research infrastructure;
- Demonstrated experience in securing fundamental and translational research funding, particularly for interdisciplinary projects;
- Deep ties to senior leadership in government, business, and industry communities, and an intimate understanding of the culture and processes for success in the federal funding;
- Effective management of a complex organization within a large university or comparable public or private sector research organization;
- A record of leading organizational and cultural change in a complex research environment, and the empathy and presence to nurture an organization through such transformation;
- A noted scholar with the ability and credibility to provide intellectual leadership and support a diverse research ecosystem across NJIT's six schools and colleges;
- Inspire and galvanize others around large-scale and multidisciplinary efforts including fields that reflect NJIT's broad definition of scholarly research encompassing creative academic activities in architecture, management, design, theater, etc.;

- Excellent communication skills to represent the university persuasively and compellingly to a broad range of internal and external audiences, including strong listening skills;
- Knowledge and understanding of the current legislative, regulatory, security, and policy environment impacting research.

COMPENSATION

The anticipated pay range for this position is between \$295,000 and \$325,000.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the following link on the Isaacson, Miller website: www.imsearch.com/open-searches/new-jersey-institute-technology/senior-vice-provost-research

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As an EEO employer NJIT is committed to building a diverse and inclusive teaching, research, and working environment and strongly encourages applications from individuals with disabilities, minorities, veterans, and women.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by Senior Vice Provost for Research. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by Senior Vice Provost for Research would supersede any conflicting information in this document.