Three A’s: Alumni, Achievers, Accomplished
Successful Alumni Driving Economic Growth
“My NJIT degree was 1000 percent priceless. For me, NJIT was the deal of the century. Tuition was affordable, the work ethic I developed in my studio classes was invaluable and the degree was a fantastic help. Once I graduated I never worried about getting a job. I never had a problem finding a job. It was more like, which job do I want to take?”

— Tom Bury, School of Architecture ’02
Known as “Tom the Builder” – Construction Manager on the Food Network’s Restaurant Impossible

The success of a university is told through the stories of its alumni, not only through their achievements, but how they give back to their alma mater by serving as ambassadors, joining leadership committees, donating, mentoring and hiring its students. NJIT’s alumni are over 57,000 strong worldwide. Moreover, their degrees are valuable in the workplace:

• NJIT alumni are among the top 10 percent of high earners for midcareer salaries—Brookings Institution

• Fourth in alumni midcareer earnings potential among public research universities nationwide —PayScale.com

However, our alumni are more than just high earners. Most are first generation college students who work hard in and out of the classroom. In turn, they value the opportunities that their NJIT degree has given them and understand how the university drives economic growth through talent development. Moreover, they pay it forward by becoming instructors in our academic and professional development programs.

Marjorie A. Perry (MBA ’05), CEO and president of MZM Construction and Management Company has a long history with NJIT. The Newark native founded MZM in 1992 at NJIT’s Enterprise Development Center (EDC), understanding the value of utilizing the human and physical assets of NJIT.

Moreover, as she continued to grow her business, Perry had the opportunity to earn her MBA at the Ivy League universities, but chose instead NJIT’s School of Management. The entrepreneur believed that she would be “best-served” by the unique technological context of the curriculum.

Perry has won numerous awards and recognitions, including being listed in New Jersey’s premier business publications as well as being selected to be a member of the NJ Economic Development Authority. The coveted inspirational speaker was awarded NJIT’s Alumni Service Award in 2010 and currently serves on the University’s Board of Overseers. However, she still finds the time to mentor our students, share her experiences, and instruct NJIT students with her motivational message, “You, too, can do it!”
As the city of Newark continues to grow into a destination location, a group of NJIT graduates from the College of Architecture and Design is working to restore landmark buildings to revitalize the city’s downtown. Alumnus Samir Hanini (’99, ’03), a principal in the Newark-based Hanini Group, is redevelopment the historic Hahne’s department store building that has been vacant since 1987. Moreover, this redevelopment effort is creating 150 jobs for Newark residents.

In addition, a five-story mixed-use building will be connected to Hahne’s by way of a shared lobby. Inglese Architecture and Engineering, employing nine NJIT alumni, served as the civil engineering consultants in the planning of the building and subsequently was hired to design and engineer the structure. Founder Jak Inglese also holds an architecture and two engineering degrees from NJIT. While two other principals in his company are NJIT graduates.

One more NJIT connection, Chanda Dawadi ’09, a senior associate for Brick City Development Corporation, played a key role in landing Whole Foods to open a 29,000-square-foot grocery store on the first floor of the Hahne’s building. Just another example of how NJIT continues to facilitate economic growth through talent development.
Newark is a diverse city and we are proud that our university has continually been ranked highly when it comes to diversity:

Top 100 producer of minority STEM graduates:
- 31st in the nation for bachelor's degrees in computer and information sciences
- 28th in the nation for bachelor's degrees in engineering
- 8th in the nation for master's degrees in engineering

Top 100 producer of degrees in engineering awarded to African-American students:
- 31st in the nation for bachelor's degrees
- 8th in the nation for master's degrees

Top 100 producer of degrees in engineering awarded to Hispanic students:
- 18th in the nation for bachelor's degrees
- 11th in the nation for master's degrees

**2015 DIVERSE: ISSUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

We attribute these high rankings and the success of our students in part to our Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). President and CEO of LB Electric, Leon Baptiste ’91, credits NJIT’s EOP with his success by helping him land his first internship that earned him a job after graduation.

In 2000, Baptiste founded his start-up, LB Electric Company at NJIT’s EDC, that designs, installs, and maintains electrical systems and solar arrays. Like Perry, Baptiste recognized the value of having access to the talent and resources of his alma mater.

In addition to multi-million dollar projects like Met Life Stadium and Newark International Liberty Airport, Baptiste has not forgotten about his alma mater. His company installed a solar array on the roof of NJIT’s Campus Center and a solar/hot water heater on the roof of Oak Hill dormitory.

Moreover, his relationship with NJIT’s Continuing Professional Education has been ongoing for 10 years as he partnered with CPE to create the solar panel and installation professional development course. His employees also train hundreds of inner city residents and retired military veterans to work in the solar industry.

The electrical engineer was awarded NJIT’s Newark College of Engineering Outstanding Alumni Award 2012. He also serves on the Advisory Board for the Interdisciplinary Design Program—NJIT’s Albert Dorman Honors College initiative—that trains students to become entrepreneurs and innovators. He often comes back to campus to mentor and speak with students.