NJIT
New Jersey Institute of Technology

THE FORUM

Dear Colleagues,

November was an energizing month, underscoring the deep engagement and vibrancy of our faculty. We successfully hosted two significant events that tapped into critical academic discussions:

- *Faculty Fridays:* Engaging with AI provided a crucial forum for understanding disruptive technology.
- The New Faculty Research Showcase powerfully celebrated the diverse and compelling scholarship happening across our campus.

Save the Date: December 5th. Please mark your calendars for our final *Faculty Fridays* of the semester. This essential session will tackle the critical topics of *Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech*. This is an event you won't want to miss.

We value your voice. Please help shape our future dialogue by sharing your responses, opinions, or questions—anonymously—through our submission form.

Thank you for your active participation and for making our academic community so strong.
Omowunmi “Wunmi” Sadik, Ph.D. Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

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The **Faculty Fridays "Engaging with AI" Event** provided a comprehensive, three-track exploration of Artificial Intelligence, focusing on its role as a disruptive technology. Participants engaged in a deep dive on the **cutting-edge of AI innovation**, covering the latest advancements in data science and future research directions. A second track addressed the p**ractical integration of AI** into the academic environment, exploring strategies for educators to effectively incorporate AI into teaching and learning while maintaining pedagogical rigor. Finally, the third major topic centered on **Digital Ethics**, emphasizing the necessity of responsible AI and Extended Reality (XR) application in the classroom, with discussions likely covering issues of algorithmic bias, data privacy, and ethical frameworks for responsible usage.

Watch the panelists' remarks here





New Faculty Research Showcase

The Office of Faculty Affairs successfully hosted the **New Faculty Research Showcase**, an energetic and well-attended event designed to integrate our newest scholars into the community.

The showcase featured our new faculty members delivering concise, **five-minute research pitches** to a packed audience of colleagues and students. This rapid-fire format was highly effective, serving not only to introduce the exciting scope of their work across various disciplines but also to actively **cultivate new collaborations** by quickly connecting faculty with shared research interests.

Watch the Video of the event







Faculty Fridays: *Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom*

Friday December 5, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Life Sciences Building, Room 102

The discussion surrounding Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom in research and the classroom is one of the most critical issues facing higher education today. Colleges and universities are fundamentally designed to examine complex issues, challenges, and ideas, providing a forum where opinions can be openly explored and debated.
The Office of Faculty Affairs invites you to a compelling fireside chat featuring Dr. Amit Bose, President of the Professional Staff Association and Dr. Stephen Pemberton, Expert in the history and sociology of science and U.S. History.

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- **Office of Faculty Affairs events** - see more
- **Faculty Fridays** - Save the dates: Dec 5, Feb 6, Mar 6, Apr TBD, May 1
- **2025/2026 Promotion and Tenure Promotion dates:**
  https://www.njit.edu/provost/promotion-and-tenure

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Office of Faculty Affairs is currently working on the following awards and seeks nominees.

National Academy of Inventors Senior Member: At a minimum, candidates must demonstrate a high degree of innovation by holding 1 issued U.S. patent. Candidates must be in professional practice or research in his/her current field for at least 5 years.

American Association for the Advancement of Science, AAAS Fellows: Eligible nominees are AAAS members whose efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its

applications are scientifically or socially distinguished and who have been a continuous AAAS member for at least four years leading up to the year of nomination.

IEEE Senior Member: A candidate shall be an engineer, scientist, educator, technical executive or originator in IEEE-designated fields. Candidates shall have been in professional practice for at least ten years and have shown significant performance over a period of at least five of those years.

American Society for Engineering Education Awards: Through the Awards Program, ASEE annually recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of engineering and engineering technology educators. By their commitment to their profession, desire to further the Society's mission, and participation in civic and community affairs, ASEE award winners exemplify the best in engineering and engineering technology education.

If you are planning to apply for a prestigious award, please contact Dr. Shivon Boodhoo for assistance and advice 8 weeks to two years ahead of the deadline. See the faculty awards website for information.

We Want to Hear from You!

Your contributions are valued! We invite you to share your suggestions, news materials, opinions, student success stories, and classroom engagement examples for inclusion in *The Forum*. Please email them to vpfa@njit.edu or use this anonymous form by the 15th of each month.

*A note on "Letters to the VPFA": The Forum operates in strict adherence to all ethical standards. No content will be redacted or removed from letters received and all letters are requested to be under 300 words for publication. Please note that all opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and do not represent the official views or endorsement of the institution.

The Forum is dedicated to supporting the professional development and community of NJIT faculty.

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