



Tuesday

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NJIT taps interim president as its permanent chief

By [Melinda Caliendo](#)

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After serving a little more than three months as interim president of the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Dr. **Joel Bloom** was unanimously voted by the school's board of trustees to become president of the university Monday, effective immediately.

Bloom [took over the interim role in late September](#), after **Robert Altenkirch** resigned to become president of the University of Alabama, in Huntsville. Bloom will serve an initial term through June 30, 2014.

Bloom has been with NJIT for 20 years, and is the founding dean of the Albert Dorman Honors College. Recently, Bloom has assumed the role of vice president for academic and student services, and has been heavily involved in fundraising campaigns, campus expansion and curriculum development. He also served as assistant commissioner for education during Gov. **Tom Kean's** administration.

Recently, business leaders talked to **NJBIZ** about the importance of selecting presidents at NJIT and Rutgers University, which also is seeking a new president, with [strong ties to the business community](#).

"Whoever they're getting in there needs to have the ability and desire to interact with the business community," said **Thomas A. Bracken**, New Jersey Chamber of Commerce president. "We need much more of a linkage."

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