

# Preparing for a career

## New Jersey Institute of Technology

NEWARK—Through New Jersey Institute of Technology's extensive cooperative education and internship opportunities, students gain valuable, real-world experience that puts them ahead academically and makes them more marketable when they are ready to launch their careers.

Imagine your daughter or son was working as an assistant engineer, a software developer, an architectural intern, a lab researcher, a marketing assistant or a nuclear power technician while still in school. At NJIT, such opportunities are plentiful through internships and cooperative education (co-ops), which take students off campus to work in a position related to their major.

In the co-op program, NJIT helps students find the right opportunity and guides them through it, integrating their workplace and academic experiences to an extent found at few other universities. A faculty adviser works with students through the co-op experience to make sure it's a quality program that meets their academic goals. Advisers also visit students at their worksites. At many universities, students would have to pay full tuition and fees during their co-op; at NJIT, students pay only for three courses taken during the co-op semester. At the same time, students earn not only academic credit, but also a competitive salary that can help to pay for their education.

NJIT's Career Development Services (CDS) administers the co-op program. CDS annually of-

fers more than 50 career development workshops to help students select careers that best fit their skills and interests, and polishes their resume and interviewing skills. Last semester, CDS posted more than 4,700 technology job opportunities. And twice a year, a career fair brings more than 125 employers, such as IBM, Anheuser-Busch, Colgate-Palmolive, Honeywell and Verizon, to campus.

Students involved in NJIT's co-op program realize the following benefits:

- **Students gain experience.** Nothing makes a resume stand out more than direct, significant experience in the industry or business related to a graduate's major.

- **Students earn money.** While not all internships are paid, all co-ops offer a salary and academic credit. The average monthly salary for co-op students is \$2,500. This money can be used to help pay for a student's education. Each semester, NJIT students in co-op, internship, community service and work-study programs earn more than \$1 million collectively.

- **Students make connections.** Each year, more than 350 students take part in co-ops with 175 employers. NJIT has partnerships with 2,600 companies, from international corporations to entrepreneurial ventures.

- **Students gain career insights.** Experience helps students understand the reality of working in a particular field and confirms their interests. Experience sometimes even leads to new career possibilities. ♦