

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

May 21, 2025

This meeting was held in-person and via Microsoft Teams teleconference.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members of the Commission present in person: Debbie Hart, BioNJ, Chair; David Pascrell, Gibbons, Vice Chair; Kathleen Coviello for Tim Sullivan, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority; Ralph Hoag for Kevin Dehmer, Commissioner, DOE; Stefani Thachik for Dr. Brian Bridges Secretary/OSHE; and Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University.

Member of the Commission present via teleconference: Senator Robert Singer, Non-Voting Legislative Member.

Members of the Commission absent: Public Members Adam Sternbach, Tessara; Cuneyt Erdogan, Clarus Engineering; Non-Voting Legislative Members: Senator Paul Sarlo, Assemblyman DePhillips, Assemblyman Christopher Tully; Non-Voting University Members: Dr. Nariman Farvardin, President, Stevens Institute of Technology; and Dr. Jonathan Holloway, President, Rutgers University.

Also present: Senator Andrew Zwicker, Kayleigh Lavernia from Senator Zwicker's Office; Dillon McNamara, Governor's Office; Christopher Hughes from Assemblyman DePhillips' Office; Dana Walters from Assemblyman Tully's Office; Vincent Smeraglia for Rutgers University; Judith Sheft, Executive Director, CSIT; Mahako Etti, Program Officer, CSIT; Elizabeth Marshall, and Christine Machnowsky, Deputy Attorneys General; EDA Staff: Danielle Esser, Director; Hector Serrano, Sr. Project Officer; Fabiola Saturne, Project Officer; and Muneerah Sanders; Board Liaison.

Per the Chair's request, Ms. Sanders read the Open Public Meetings announcement and performed the roll call of the Commission.

Prior to commencing the meeting, Chair Hart asked Mr. Serrano to read aloud a statement regarding the process for public comment at the board meeting for any members of the public on the call. No members of the public presented themselves at this time.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The first item was the approval of the March 21, 2025, meeting minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Pascrell **SECOND:** Mr. Hoag **AYES: 6**

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: The next item was the presentation of the Chair's Report to the Commission.

Ms. Hart asked Senator Singer to provide few remarks.

Senator Singer provided an update on the State's Budget, expressing optimism about potential restoration of funding for higher education and CSIT.

Welcome Remarks: Melina Blees, Site Director
BioLabs for Advanced Therapeutics Philadelphia

ITEM Annual Organizational Meeting

REQUEST: Approval is requested for the following actions:

- (1) Election of Officers, including Vice Chair and Treasurer;
- (2) Appointment of Members and ex-officio designees to CSIT Board Committees; and
- (3) CSIT Calendar of Meetings through May 2026.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Pascrell **SECOND:** Dr. Kornhauser **AYES: 6**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 1

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: The next item was the presentation of the Executive Director's Monthly Report to the Commission.

Ms. Hart asked Senator Zwicker to provide few remarks.

Senator Zwicker discussed the challenges faced by the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory due to federal funding uncertainties and emphasized the importance of state-level support for CSIT.

ITEM: The New Jersey Commission of Science, Innovation and Technology's Annual Report for 2024

REQUEST: Approval of The New Jersey Commission of Science, Innovation and Technology's Annual Report for 2024

MOTION TO APPROVE: Dr. Kornhauser **SECOND:** Mr. Pascrell **AYES: 6**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 2

ITEM: Increase in Funding for CSIT NJ SBIR/STTR Direct Financial Assistance Program Pilot, Round 5

REQUEST: Approval of an additional \$475,000 in funding for the CSIT NJ SBIR/STTR Direct Financial Assistance Program Pilot, Round 5 ("Program"), bringing total funding for the Program to \$2,675,000.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Ms. Coviello **SECOND:** Dr. Kornhauser **AYES: 6**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 3

ITEM: Memorandum of Understanding – NJ Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology and New Jersey Institute of Technology

REQUEST: Approval of the following, 1), A transfer of up to \$30,000 from the CSIT FY25 budget to New Jersey Institute of Technology, so that their Leir Research Institute for Business, Technology, and Society (LRI) can conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the economic impact of CSIT grant programs since its inception; and 2), a Memorandum of Understanding with NJIT, attached hereto as Exhibit A, provided the final form is in substantially the same form. The MOU details the transfer of funds to NJIT and the scope of the evaluation to be conducted. Delegation of authority to the Executive Director is also requested so that changes, insertions or deletions to the form of the MOU, as may be necessary or appropriate, may be made with the advice of the Office of the Attorney General.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Dr. Kornhauser **SECOND:** Mr. Pascrell **AYES: 6**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 4

ITEM: Designation of Official Newspaper

REQUEST: Approval of the designation of The Record as the official newspaper of the New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Pascrell **SECOND:** Mr. Hoag **AYES: 6**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 5

FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

PRESENTATION:

Report by NJIT on 2025 Economic Impact of CSIT Programs

Dr. Michael Ehrlich, Associate Professor of Finance & Entrepreneurship, NJIT

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: The next item was an update on EDA initiatives.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

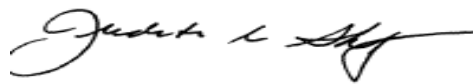
There being no further business, on a motion by Dr. Kornhauser, and seconded by Ms. Coviello, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28am.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology is scheduled for Friday, July 25, 2025 at 10:00 am, in person and virtually.

CERTIFICATION:

The foregoing and attachments represent a true and complete summary of the actions taken by the Commission on Science, Innovation, and Technology at its Annual Meeting on May 21, 2025.



Judith Sheft, Executive Director
New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology