

# NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

November 20, 2020

*This meeting was held via Microsoft Teams teleconference.*

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members of the Commission present:

Public Voting Members: Gunjan Doshi, InRhythm, Chairman; Debbie Hart, BioNJ, Vice Chair; David Pascrell, Gibbons, Treasurer; Dr. Joel Bloom, President, NJIT; Charlene Brown, AT&T.

Ex-Officio Voting Members: Ralph Hoag for Acting Commissioner Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan of the Department of Education; Dr. Brian Bridges, Acting Secretary of Higher Education; Diana Gonzalez, Deputy Secretary of Higher Education; and Brian Sabina for Tim Sullivan, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members: Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker, Senator Robert Singer

Members absent:

Voting Members: Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University; Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members: Senator Paul Sarlo; Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips; Dr. Jonathan Holloway, President, Rutgers University; and Dr. Nariman Farvardin, President, Stevens Institute of Technology

Also present:

Dr. Lisa Gleason, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Academics and Performance, NJ Department of Education; Beth McGrath, Chief of Staff for Stevens Institute of Technology; David Kimball, VP Research & Economic Development, Rutgers University; Raymond Cottiers for Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips; Judith Sheft, Executive Director, CSIT; Deputy Attorney General Elizabeth Tillou; Stephanie Brown, Governor's Authorities Unit; Kai Feder, NJ Innovation; Jeffrey Oakman, Governor's Office; Kathleen Coviello, Executive VP, Technology & Life Sciences, EDA; Hunter Griffin, New Jersey Business & Industry Association; Danielle Esser, Director, Governance and Strategic Initiatives, EDA; Fatou Jobe, Project Officer, EDA; DeAnna Croner, Project Officer, EDA; and Catia Twal, COVID-19 Economic Response Fellow, EDA.

Present from Rowan University: Dr. Ali Houshmand, President; Steve Weinstein, Esq., VP Government Affairs & External Partnerships; Dr. Tabbetha Dobbins, Interim VP - Research & Dean of the Graduate School; Sarah E. Piddington, Interim Director

Chairman Doshi called the meeting to order at 10:03 am with a quorum of the Commission present.

Prior to commencing the meeting, Chairman Doshi asked Danielle Esser to read the Open Public Meetings announcement and perform the roll call of the Commission. No members of the public presented themselves at this time.

Danielle Esser acknowledged the other officials present, specifically, representatives present from Rutgers, The State University and Stevens Institute of Technology. Chairman Doshi gave opening remarks and welcomed all to the CSIT November Board Meeting.

## **ROWAN VIRTUAL VIDEO PRESENTATION**

Chairman Doshi proudly announced the virtual video introduction of one of the great public research institutions in New Jersey, Rowan University. He introduced: Rowan University President, Dr. Ali Houshmand; Steve Weinstein, Esq., VP Government Affairs & External Partnerships; and, Dr. Tabbetha Dobbins, Interim VP for Research & Dean of the Graduate School. Rowan University shared with the Commission the work that they are doing at the University. Chairman Doshi recalled on the Governor's trip to India not too long ago (pre-COVID), he had the opportunity to get to know staff from the University and was impressed.

Chairman Doshi introduced Steve Weinstein who then introduced the President of the University.

Steve Weinstein, Esq., VP Government Affairs & External Partnerships provided opening remarks, introduced President Houshmand to speak – who provided an overview of Rowan University on-going efforts as economic drivers for South Jersey.

Steve Weinstein then introduced Dr. Tabbetha Dobbins, Interim VP for Research & Dean of the Graduate School who lead the following PowerPoint presentation on the group's behalf:

### **ROWAN VIRTUAL VIDEO PRESENTATION – Overview: Transformation & Innovation Creating opportunities at the nation's fourth fastest Growing public research institution**

Dr. Dobbins provided an overview of research: \$45.3M annual sponsored research and grants in FY 2020; 25 tenants at South Jersey Tech Park; \$50M committed to 10-year Camden health research initiative; 9 research centers and institutes throughout University; and, 8 NSF I-Corps Awards, only Carnegie R2 institution to claim 7 or more since 2018.

Next, Dr. Dobbins provided highlights on capabilities and companies that are participating in their incubator program: MRIMath–AI for Health, CREATES, Sentrimed/MASL, Durin Technologies, BiGel.

Dr. Dobbins concluded the presentation; Chairman Doshi thanked her and Rowan University's staff for providing CSIT with an informative virtual tour of the University. Chairman expressed his appreciation to Rowan University for taking the time to share their research efforts and innovations with the Commission.

## **PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

The first item was the approval of the October 9, 2020 meeting minutes.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Debbie Hart    **SECOND:** Dr. Joel Bloom    **AYES: 7**  
Recusal by Chairman Doshi.

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

## **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Chairman Doshi greeted everyone present and mentioned that we are hosting our meetings now via Microsoft Teams until such time that we can meet in person again. He thanked all of the Board members and staff for their continuous support and commitment to the CSIT.

Chairman Doshi acknowledged the newest members on our Board – Brian Bridges is the Acting Secretary for the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education. The Governor’s appointment of Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan as Acting Commissioner of the NJ Department of Education; and Dr. Lisa Gleason, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Academics and Performance. Chairman congratulated both agencies on the new leadership as we work together on needed programs at the CSIT that connect to education and implementation at all levels. Lastly, he took an opportunity to acknowledge the exciting work in innovation happening at universities, leading organizations and anchor institutions across the State of New Jersey.

Despite challenges posed by COVID-19, innovation continues – Chairman Doshi congratulated the following institutes on their recent accomplishments:

- STEVENS – Development NSF Hub – 1<sup>st</sup> NSF Hub focused on financial technology in the US;
- NJIT – On the virtual grand opening for BioCentriq, NJIT’s cutting-edge cell and gene therapy development and clinical manufacturing center located on NJIT’s campus;
- PRINCETON UNIVERSITY – On the hosting of its inaugural innovation and entrepreneurship conference a couple of weeks ago;
- RUTGERS – For its recent symposia with Tel Aviv University on the COVID-19 pandemic;
- BioNJ – For its Recent Manufacturing Briefing on biomanufacturing, cell and gene therapy;

And on Thursday, November 19, 2020:

- The Governor announced the first tenants of The HUB in New Brunswick, which include Princeton University, Rutgers University, Hackensack Meridian Health and RWJ Barnabas Health, at the new site downtown designed to foster research, entrepreneurship, innovation and start-up incubation in New Jersey.

Chairman Doshi requested that the Universities and Organizations (both public and private, including state agencies) have an opportunity to “report-out” at Board Meetings, in the form of a newsletter. This will provide each institution of higher learning and other leading organizations an opportunity to share any news-worthy items for the benefit of the Commission and the members of the public in attendance.

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY:** The next item was the presentation of the Executive Director’s Report.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT TO THE BOARD**

Judith Sheft gave opening remarks and special thanks to EDA staff and Board members for ongoing contributions to the Commission. Judith provided the Commission with an update on CSIT’s entrepreneurial initiatives, our interests in the NSF Grant Proposal Programs, Federal Fast Program, and COVID-19 related cluster initiatives. Judith, too, shared that EDA’s Marketing/Product Team and CSIT are in the process of developing a new website for CSIT slated for Q1 launch.

Lastly, Judith Sheft shared an event update – on October 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – CSIT hosted “Opportunities for NJ’s Innovation Economy During COVID-19” – the event yielded 100+ guests each day.

Chairman Doshi asked Judith to walk the Board through the next Agenda Item - the Approval of SBIR/STTR Direct Financial Assistance Grant Program (Round 2).

### SBIR/STTR DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM (ROUND 2)

#### Summary of Round 2, NJ SBIR/STTR Direct Financial Assistance Grant Program

The Members of the Commission on Science, Innovation, and Technology (CSIT) are requested to approve the following items to launch applications for Round 2, of the New Jersey SBIR/STTR grant program:

- Notice of Funding for Round 2, Direct Financial Assistance for businesses applying to the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR) Federal grant programs (\$550k Grant Program)
- Evaluation method
- Scoring criteria

Additionally, the Members of the CSIT are requested to delegate authority to the Executive Director to move funds between the Direct Funding and Bridge Funding based on the applications received, decline applications as incomplete where the application is missing required documentation, and appoint a Hearing Officer for appeals.

The next item was the approval of the approval of SBIR/STTR Direct Financial Assistance Grant Program (Round 2).

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Dr. Joel Bloom                      **SECOND:** Brian Sabina    **AYES: 8**

Judith Sheft continued the SBIR/STTR PowerPoint presentation, discussing the program in further details: program summary, program design and the eligibility criteria.

#### **FOR INFORMATION ONLY:**

Judith Sheft announces upcoming CSIT virtual tours for 2021, see the [CSIT website](#) for more information.

Brian Sabina provided an update on EDA’s Angel Tax Credit program – its increased activity from 10% to 20%, received 640 applications, 60 unique investors in total.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

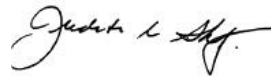
There being no further business, on a motion by David Pascrell, and seconded by Charlene Brown, the meeting was adjourned at 11:24 am.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation, and Technology was scheduled for January 8, 2021 at 10:00 am, 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 Meeting on November 20, 2020.



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Judith Sheft, Executive Director  
Secretary