

**NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC MERGER WITH
KEAN UNIVERSITY PURSUANT TO THE OSHE APRIL 2024 TRANSITION PLAN.**

WHEREAS, New Jersey City University (NJCU) has served as an anchor institution for nearly a century, providing an accessible and community-centered higher education to the most socioeconomically diverse student body of any public university in New Jersey, with a mission deeply rooted in student success, community empowerment, and economic mobility; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) has identified in its April 2024 Transition Plan the necessity of NJCU engaging in a strategic relationship with a four-year public institution to ensure long-term sustainability, enhanced academic opportunities, and continued and enhanced service to its students, faculty, staff, and community; and

WHEREAS, Kean University, as a leading public institution of higher education in New Jersey, shares NJCU's commitment to access, student success, and community impact, and has demonstrated a willingness and capacity to collaborate in pursuit of a strategic partnership that aligns with NJCU's mission and long-term vision; and

WHEREAS, NJCU and Kean University have engaged in productive discussions, and preliminary evaluations indicate that a partnership would serve to strengthen NJCU's academic offerings, improve student outcomes, bolster financial sustainability, and reinforce NJCU's role as a vital educational and economic driver in the region; and

WHEREAS, the identification of strategic merger with Kean University and the authorization to develop and negotiate a Letter of Intent satisfies the March 31, 2025, deadline established in the OSHE April 2024 Transition Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University authorizes and directs the President to enter into negotiations with Kean University for a Letter of Intent outlining the terms of a strategic merger, ensuring that such agreement secures NJCU's mission, strengthens community ties, enhances student success, and provides the resources and long-term stability necessary to support the thousands of faculty, staff, and students who uphold the University's purpose; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President shall work in close consultation with, and report regularly to, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees on all aspects of the negotiations, regulatory approvals, and strategic planning related to the proposed partnership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President is authorized to take all necessary regulatory and executive actions, including but not limited to engagement with the Middle States

Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) to facilitate any necessary review, coordination with OSHE, and continued collaboration with state and federal stakeholders to ensure an outcome that prioritizes student success and institutional mission sustainability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board commends the faculty, staff, students, and supporters of NJCU for their dedication, resilience, and unwavering commitment to the university mission's future, recognizing the significant progress achieved in revitalizing the institution and strengthening its partnership prospects.

Adopted this 5th day of March, 2025, by the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University.