

Entrepreneurship and Innovation NJCU—Jersey City Connect Program

News Release

HOBOKEN, N.J. | The **New Jersey City University (NJCU)** [Institute for Dispute Resolution](#) (IDR) attended the grand opening of the Innovation and Commercialization Lab at Mission 50 in Hoboken on Monday, November 8, 2021. They were awarded an indefinite incubator alongside every college/university from Hudson County. The event began at 11 a.m. and featured a lineup of special guests from the areas of higher education, state government and nonprofits.

In attendance on behalf of New Jersey City University which consisted of a Board of Trustee member, faculty, mentors, steering committee members, and students. The New Jersey City University delegation consisted of [Carlos Lejnieks](#), Board of Trustees Member, at New Jersey City University (NJCU); [Professor David Weiss](#), Founder/Director of the Institute for Dispute Resolution's Entrepreneurship and Innovation NJCU-Jersey City Connect Program; [Andres Acebo](#), Interim Chief of Staff for NJCU; [Dr. Michael Arbitblit](#), Assistant Director of the Institute Dispute Resolution; [Donna Bernard](#), Steering Committee member for the Entrepreneurship and Innovation NJCU – Jersey City Connect Program; [Zachary Witman, CEO of Growsquares](#) and Mentor to the students of NJCU; [Michael Jasonos](#), Steering Committee Chair for the NJCU-IDR Innovation and Entrepreneurship Incubator; [Joshua Iannuzzi](#), Career Services Director for New Jersey City University; and NJCU student [Vivek Gadgil](#), President of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship club who recently submitted his green-energy based startup proposal to the [NJIT New Business Model Competition \(NBMC\)](#).

In addition to a New Jersey City University Delegation, other guests in attendance at the November 8, 2021, ribbon cutting ceremony included United States Senator Robert Menendez; Host Gregory Dell'Aquila from Mission 50; Eugene J. Cornacchia, Ph.D., President, St. Peter's University; Nariman Farvardin, Ph.D., President, Stevens Institute of Technology; Christopher M. Reber, Ph.D., President, Hudson County Community, as well as students from the universities and Mission 50 members.

Information about Innovation and Commercialization Lab

This grand opening of the Innovation and Commercialization Lab is set to be the centerpiece of the university-driven entrepreneurial community in Northern New Jersey. It will be a location where the four primary Hudson County colleges and universities can transform their intellectual property discovered and developed through research, testing and theory and commercialize it for the benefit of society and economic development.

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The four key institutions participating in the lab are Hudson County Community College, New Jersey City University, Saint Peter's University, and Stevens Institute of Technology. The lab is comprised of four dedicated offices and a collaboration space in Mission 50's vibrant coworking hub. Each school will have access to its own workspace, as well as conference and meeting rooms equipped with state-of-the-art video conferencing and a range of onsite amenities.

"This is a great example of what is possible when leaders in the private sector and institutions of higher learning think creatively about how they work together to promote innovation and greater opportunities for our citizens in this economy," Sen. Menendez said at the ribbon cutting. "The task of taking an idea and bringing it to market is no easy feat. That's why this lab holds so much promise.

"Here at Mission 50, students, professors, and researchers will have the opportunity to connect with entrepreneurs, business leaders, and investors and find ways to monetize their discoveries," Menendez added. "How exciting would it be to see that the next hit product or revolutionary start-up was born right here in Hoboken and Hudson County?"

Student Pitch Competition Prizes Announced by Mission 50

Dell'Aquila also has committed \$25,000 toward innovation on Hudson County's college campuses. "Each of the four schools will receive \$5,000 to fund university-led student business pitch competitions," he said. "The winners from each school will be invited to compete in a countywide pitch competition hosted by Mission 50 in the spring, with an additional prize of \$5,000."

A core goal of the IDR is inspiring and encouraging innovative thought from students, and through this program, the IDR aims to showcase ways in which young people can tap into their entrepreneurial and creative talents in and around Jersey City, and beyond.

About the Institute for Dispute Resolution:

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