

# Advancing New Jersey's Innovation Legacy into a New Era of Global Leadership

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New Jersey's story is, at its core, a story of invention. It is a place where bold ideas have consistently been transformed into world-changing realities – where discovery has not only flourished, but endured across generations. From the earliest days of American industry to the frontiers of artificial intelligence and biotechnology, the state has cultivated a unique and powerful identity: a global epicenter of innovation.

Today, that legacy is being actively shaped and propelled forward by InnovationNJ, a coalition purpose-built to unify the state's vast and diverse innovation ecosystem that serves as a critical nexus – one that ensures New Jersey's leadership in innovation is not only preserved, but expanded in ways that meet the demands of a rapidly evolving world.

## What is InnovationNJ?

Founded in 2010, "InnovationNJ is a long-standing coalition co-founded by HINJ and NJBIA and currently administered and led by HINJ.

Its mission focuses on policy alignment with the goals of:

- Encouraging collaboration between industry, academia, economic development, and government
- Breaking down silos between institutions
- Supporting STEM jobs and workforce development
- Promoting policies that attract investment and innovation
- Highlighting the value of New Jersey's life sciences and tech sectors

In short, it acts as a convening and advocacy platform for innovation-related policy in the state.

At a time when technological progress is accelerating at an unprecedented pace, InnovationNJ stands as a coordinating force – aligning vision, policy, and collaboration to sustain the state’s role at the forefront of discovery and economic growth.

### A Legacy Rooted in Discovery

New Jersey’s innovation economy did not emerge overnight. It is the product of centuries of ingenuity and ambition.

Few places can claim a lineage as influential. Thomas Edison’s laboratories in Menlo Park ushered in the age of electric light, fundamentally reshaping modern life. The state’s deep involvement in early telecommunications helped refine the telephone and build the foundation for today’s hyper-connected world. Life-saving and life-enhancing inventions, from the Band-Aid to advances in pharmaceuticals, have long been associated with New Jersey’s biopharmaceutical and medical technology companies’ research and manufacturing prowess.

The influence extends even further back. Alexander Hamilton’s vision for Paterson as America’s first planned industrial city laid the groundwork for a manufacturing economy that would power a young nation. Decades later, Albert Einstein’s presence in Princeton reinforced New Jersey’s status as a center of intellectual and scientific excellence.

These milestones are not isolated achievements – they represent a continuous thread. New Jersey has consistently been a place where ideas are not only imagined, but realized, scaled, and shared with the world. InnovationNJ operates squarely within this tradition, ensuring that the state’s legacy remains a living, evolving force.

### InnovationNJ: A Coalition for a Connected Innovation Ecosystem

Innovation today is inherently interdisciplinary. Breakthroughs emerge not from isolated efforts, but from collaboration – where research meets application, where policy meets possibility, and where diverse perspectives converge.

InnovationNJ was created with this reality in mind. It functions as a coalition that brings together:

- Leading universities and research institutions
- Private-sector innovators across multiple industries
- Public-sector leaders shaping economic and innovation policy

## President's Letter

The HealthCare Institute of New Jersey (HINJ – [www.hinj.org](http://www.hinj.org)) is the leading voice of New Jersey’s biopharmaceutical, medical technology, and diagnostics community.

With 350,000 jobs supporting 2,400 life sciences facilities and generating \$120 billion in annual economic activity, New Jersey proudly stands as a global hub of life sciences innovation – researching, discovering, and manufacturing life-saving treatments and cures for patients around the world. Our commitment to advancing human health helps patients live longer, with less pain, more independence, and greater hope.

While the life sciences play a vital and thriving role in New Jersey’s innovation ecosystem, they are not the only component. Our state’s contributions to advancing technology go beyond these remarkable medical breakthroughs. From Thomas Edison to Albert Einstein, New Jersey has been a center of innovation for 150 years, transforming lives around the globe for generations.



New Jersey’s story is, at its core, a story of invention. It is a place where bold ideas have consistently been transformed into world-changing realities

I am honored to serve as the president and chief executive officer of HINJ, where we strive to ensure that New Jersey’s innovation ecosystem – including our academic, workforce, policymaking, manufacturing, and business leaders, alongside labor community leaders and other key stakeholders – develops strategic partnerships to uphold our longstanding success in driving the world’s technological advances by discovering new, cutting-edge innovations right here in New Jersey.

—Chryssy Buteas, President & CEO of HINJ

- Workforce and educational organizations preparing future talent

By aligning these stakeholders, InnovationNJ helps eliminate fragmentation within the innovation ecosystem. It fosters an environment in which ideas can move seamlessly from concept to commercialization, supported by policies that encourage growth and investment.

This collaborative model is particularly vital in a state like New Jersey, where proximity, density, and diversity of expertise create unique opportunities for cross-sector engagement. InnovationNJ amplifies these advantages – ensuring that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

### Life Sciences Leadership – and a Broad Innovation Horizon

New Jersey’s reputation as the “Medicine Chest of the World” remains one of its defining characteristics. The state is home to some of the most influential pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device and technology, and diagnostics companies globally, as well as a dense network of research institutions and clinical organizations. This life sciences community serves as a key anchor of New Jersey’s reputation as the Innovation State.

At a time when technological progress is accelerating at an *unprecedented pace*, InnovationNJ stands as a coordinating force, aligning vision, policy & collaboration.

InnovationNJ plays a central role in sustaining this leadership. By convening on-going, cross-disciplinary dialogue and by advocating for policies that support research and development, streamline regulatory pathways, and encourage investment, the coalition helps maintain a competitive environment for New Jersey’s innovation ecosystem. We recognize that the modern innovation economy’s scope encompasses a wide array of industries, collaborations and partnerships that are reshaping how people live, work, and interact, including:

- Biopharmaceuticals and medical technologies
- Advanced manufacturing and materials science
- Nanotechnology and clean energy innovation
- Aerospace and defense systems
- Telecommunications and digital infrastructure
- Data science and artificial intelligence

This breadth reflects a key understanding: that breakthroughs increasingly occur at the intersections between fields. By supporting a diverse innovation portfolio, InnovationNJ ensures that New Jersey remains agile, resilient, and globally competitive.

### Artificial Intelligence and the Next Frontier

Among the most transformative forces shaping the future is artificial intelligence. New Jersey is already positioning itself as a leader in this domain, with significant investments in research, infrastructure, and collaboration.

Institutions such as Princeton University are advancing cutting-edge work through initiatives like the Princeton AI Hub, which brings together researchers, students, and industry partners to explore the frontiers of machine learning, data science, and responsible AI development. Across the state, universities and companies are integrating AI into disciplines ranging from healthcare and drug discovery to advanced manufacturing and logistics.

InnovationNJ is uniquely positioned within this landscape. By connecting AI research initiatives with industry needs, workforce development programs, and policy frameworks, the coalition helps ensure that advancements in artificial intelligence translate into real-world impact.

Equally important, it supports the development of an ethical and inclusive AI ecosystem – one that balances innovation with responsibility and broad societal benefit.

### Building the Infrastructure of Innovation: HELIX and Strategic Innovation Centers

New Jersey’s commitment to innovation is not only conceptual – it is physical, visible in the infrastructure being built to support collaboration and growth.

The HELIX, a transformative, multi-building innovation hub in New Brunswick, exemplifies this approach. Designed as a space where academia, healthcare, and industry

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intersect, the HELIX represents a new model for innovation ecosystems – one that emphasizes proximity, partnership, and shared resources.

Similarly, the state’s Strategic Innovation Centers (SICs), located across New Jersey, are creating regional hubs of excellence. These centers are designed to anchor innovation in key industries, foster local economic development, and provide spaces where research, entrepreneurship, and workforce training thrive together.

InnovationNJ’s coalition model aligns naturally with these developments. By connecting stakeholders across these hubs, the organization helps ensure that investments in infrastructure are matched by coordination and strategic vision – maximizing their impact across the state.

**Workforce Development:  
Fueling the Innovation Economy**

At the heart of every breakthrough is a skilled and adaptable workforce. InnovationNJ places significant emphasis on workforce development, recognizing that talent is the engine of innovation.

Through partnerships with educational institutions, training programs, and employers, the coalition helps align curricula with industry needs. This ensures that students are prepared for careers in high-growth sectors, from biotechnology and engineering to data science and advanced manufacturing.

Equally important is the focus on accessibility and inclusion. By expanding pathways into innovation-driven careers, New Jersey can tap into a broader

and more diverse talent pool – strengthening both its economy and its communities.

This commitment to workforce development reinforces a central principle: that innovation is not only about technology, but about people.

**Federal and State  
Visions for New Jersey’s  
Innovation Future**

As New Jersey looks to the future, new ideas are emerging about how to further elevate its position as a global innovation leader.

Gov. Mikie Sherrill’s administration recently published its official Transition Report on how New Jersey not only maintains but strengthens its global leadership in innovation. US Senator Andy Kim recently unveiled his plan for an “Einstein Corridor.” Both of these visions call for a connected, statewide innovation ecosystem that builds on the state’s historical strengths while integrating modern capabilities in areas like artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and advanced research.

Our state and federal leaders recognize that New Jersey’s greatest asset lies in its density of excellence: world-class universities, leading corporations, cutting-edge research facilities, and a highly skilled workforce, all within close geographic proximity. Bringing this vision to life requires more than investment. It requires coordination – across institutions, industries, and regions. It calls for a shared strategy that aligns priorities, leverages existing assets, and fosters collaboration at scale.

In this context, organizations that can convene diverse stakeholders, facilitate dialogue, and translate vision into action become indispensable. The ability to bridge perspectives, align incentives, and sustain momentum is essential to realizing such an ambitious and forward-looking concept.

**Supporting New Jersey’s  
Innovation Ecosystem**

 **EXPANDING PATIENT ACCESS**

 **DRIVING INNOVATION**

 **CREATING NEW JERSEY JOBS**



**Chrissy Buteas**

HINJ President & CEO



**Steve Issenman**

Senior VP, Federal & External Affairs



**Kyle Sullender**

Director of Government & External Relations



Learn more:  
[www.hinj.org](http://www.hinj.org)

## Convening the Future of Innovation

That's why InnovationNJ is convening a discussion among New Jersey innovation leaders this summer – one that will involve all the various innovation stakeholders – including our state's telecommunications, life sciences, nanotechnology, defense, transportation, AI, manufacturing, and other innovation sectors – to serve as the on-the-ground resource to our federal and state leaders as we move those visions into actions. InnovationNJ's role in New Jersey's ecosystem is both practical and aspirational. Practically, we will connect stakeholders and implement the initiatives and visions that drive growth. Aspirationally, we will use that on-going collaboration – intentional, structured, and sustained – to serve as the key to unlocking the state's future.


As new opportunities emerge – whether in artificial intelligence, life sciences, advanced manufacturing, or beyond – the need for a unifying force becomes increasingly clear. The complexity of modern innovation demands coordination at a level that transcends individual organizations; or sectors. InnovationNJ embodies that capacity. It is a platform where ideas can be shared, partnerships can be formed, and strategies can be aligned. It reflects the understanding that leadership in innovation is not achieved alone, but together.

### A Future Built on a Proud Past

From the glow of Edison's light bulb to the theoretical insights of Einstein, from Hamilton's industrial vision to today's breakthroughs in medicine and technology, New Jersey has consistently shaped the trajectory of human progress.

InnovationNJ stands as both a steward of this legacy and a catalyst for what comes next. By fostering collaboration across sectors, supporting emerging technologies, and aligning efforts toward a common goal, it helps ensure that New Jersey remains not just a participant in global innovation – but a leader.

In a world defined by rapid change and boundless possibility, the state's greatest strength lies in its ability to bring people, ideas, and resources together. InnovationNJ reflects that strength, and channels it toward a future where innovation continues to improve lives, strengthen communities, and inspire the world.

The next chapter of New Jersey's innovation story is already being written – and through collaboration, vision, and shared purpose, it promises to be its most impactful yet. 



## Leading Innovation, Inspiring Impact

Inspira Health proudly congratulates Warren E. Moore, FACHE, president and chief operating officer, on this well-deserved recognition as one of New Jersey's innovative leaders. His dedication, vision and leadership continue to make a meaningful difference for the patients and communities we serve across South Jersey.



Scan to learn more about  
Inspira Health