

# TECH NEWS

Congratulations to  
the Class of 2026!





# SPRING '26

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From The Desk  
Of President  
**RICHARD GOUSE**

Greetings,

Our campus community recently gathered at the Amica Mutual Pavilion to celebrate New England Institute of Technology's 2026 Commencement ceremony. Associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees, along with certificates, were awarded to accomplished graduates as they reach this important milestone.

We congratulate the Class of 2026 as they step confidently into their professions! Commencement affirms our purpose as an institution — preparing graduates who are ready to contribute, lead, and make an impact from their very first day in the field.

We were honored to welcome Ashley Judd, who delivered an inspiring address. In recognition of distinguished achievement and meaningful contributions to his field, Vincent Rossi '87 received an honorary degree from the university.

As one class of graduates embarks on new opportunities, we also continue to strengthen the learning environments that prepare future classes for success. The development of our new Innovation Center for Building Sciences and the update of our Criminal Justice learning spaces reflect our ongoing commitment to industry-aligned education. These state-of-the-art facilities are designed to mirror today's professional environments and evolving workforce needs.

As industries evolve, so must we. Our focus remains clear: provide students with an education that is relevant, experiential, and directly connected to meaningful careers.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026! We look forward to the many accomplishments that lie ahead and remind you that you will always have a home at New England Tech.



## 2026 Graduate, Alexis Gilchrist Finds Her Purpose in Nursing

Just weeks before graduating from New England Institute of Technology, Alexis Gilchrist secured a position at Rhode Island Hospital, where she will begin working in the oncology unit. It's a milestone that once felt far out of reach. "Being able to say I'm a nurse is just something I wouldn't have imagined I would've actually been able to accomplish," she said.

For Alexis, Commencement wasn't just the completion of a degree. It was the realization of something that, for a long time, felt uncertain. As a first-generation college graduate, the moment carried weight not only for her, but for her family. "I think when they see me cross the stage, it'll really solidify it," she said.

Growing up, Alexis faced challenges that made it difficult to see a clear path forward. Even as she found success in high school, she often felt held back and questioned what her future might look like.



Her sense of purpose began to take shape through early experiences in healthcare settings, where she found comfort and a feeling of being truly heard. It was there that the idea first took hold... not just of being helped, but of becoming the person who helps. She reflects, "as soon as I realized that I could help a little girl like myself, I knew that was exactly what I needed to do."

After high school, she took the expected next step, enrolling at another local college while working full-time and living on her own. But instead of gaining direction, she found herself feeling increasingly disconnected. Without the support system she needed, the experience became overwhelming, and eventually, unsustainable.

Stepping away from school was difficult but it also clarified something important. The goal hadn't changed. The environment needed to.

That realization led her back to a place she had first encountered years earlier during a high school field trip – New England Tech. She came across an ad for the accelerated nursing program, attended an open house and from that moment on, everything changed.

At NEIT, Alexis found the structure, support, and hands-on learning environment she had been missing. The accelerated



nursing program gave her a clear path forward, while small class sizes and engaged faculty created a sense of accountability and belonging. "They just create a support system here that is unmatched," she says.

That support translated into confidence. Through early clinical exposure and immersive lab work, Alexis quickly developed the skills and nursing mindset needed to succeed in a fast-paced healthcare setting. "There was nothing to be scared of. They had me every step of the way."

Just as important was the community she built along the way. Surrounded by peers with a shared goal, she found connection, motivation, and a sense of place. "You become such a big family," she says. "If you don't belong anywhere else, you'll belong here."

Now, as she begins her career, Alexis is stepping into a role that reflects not only her training, but her purpose.



“ As soon as I realized that I could help a little girl like myself, I knew that was exactly what I needed to do.”





# ASHLEY JUDD

## Delivered NEIT 2026 Commencement Address

Actress, humanitarian, and author Ashley Judd delivered the 2026 Commencement address to New England Institute of Technology graduates on May 3. Judd is a Golden Globe and Emmy-nominated actress with a career spanning more than three decades. She is equally well known for her global social justice work and is an outspoken advocate for the rights and protections of women, often lending her voice to influence policy and speak out for the most vulnerable.

Judd first gained recognition in the early 1990s with her breakthrough role in the critically acclaimed film *Ruby in Paradise*. She quickly became a leading lady in Hollywood thrillers and independent dramas, known for portraying complex, resilient women. Her roles in "Kiss

the Girls", "Double Jeopardy", and "Heat" established her as a major box-office star. She earned Best Actress nominations for her roles in "De-Lovely", "Norma Jean & Marilyn", and the television series "Missing". She has more than 40 films to her credit, including "Dolphin Tale", "Tooth Fairy", and the "Divergent" series. Her latest movie, "21 Down", will be released later this year.

Judd is the daughter of country music singer Naomi Judd and the half-sister of Wynonna Judd. Growing up in a family of performing artists brought challenges. She attended 13 schools before college and often had to fend for herself. A determined student, she graduated from the University of Kentucky honors program, majoring in French and minoring

in anthropology, art history, theater, and women's studies. She later earned a Master of Public Administration from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, receiving the Dean's Scholar Award for her research on gender violence.

She encourages NEIT graduates to step confidently toward their future. "There can be a lot of indecision coming out of school or a sense of paralysis around making decisions," Judd says. "Is it the right decision? Decision making is a self-correcting process. I make the best decision I can with the information I have now, and I can adjust."

Judd is known for her resilience, compassion, and service to others. She believes in the intrinsic worth of every person and chose to scale back her moviemaking to focus more on humanitarian work. She is the longtime Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Population Fund, working toward a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential

is fulfilled. She has traveled to 22 countries to promote policies that protect women and girls, spending time in refugee camps, hospices, and slums to better understand violence against women and gender inequality. She chronicles these journeys and her own challenges in her New York Times bestselling memoir "All That Is Bitter and Sweet".

She has spoken out about women's rights, exploitation, and mental health. In 2017, Judd was named *TIME* magazine's Person of the Year as one of the Silence Breakers who came forward with their stories about workplace harassment. Her activism was pivotal in sparking the #MeToo movement, inspiring many others to share their experiences. In 2019, the United Nations honored her as Global Advocate of the Year.

"Overcoming challenges is really just about being with them and learning from them," says Judd. "You have to build inner trust, inner resources and inner capacity."

Judd is a sought-after public speaker and op-ed author,

writing on topics ranging from conflict mineral mining to child marriage. She defines success by the policies that result from her advocacy and the connections she's made with women and children around the world. She characterizes success as "when a child knows that someone noticed and someone cares. When a child feels loved and cared for."

Despite the heaviness of her work, Judd is an advocate for joy in everyday life. She enjoys dancing, playing games, looking closely at flowers, going to museums, and spending time with animals.

In addition to promoting her latest movie, Judd is spending time in Africa this spring and Europe in the summer. In the fall, she will be teaching a course at Harvard, where she is Leader in Residence at the Women and Public Policy Program at the Kennedy School.

During commencement, Ashley Judd received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in recognition of her work to improve life for others.

“Wonder and awe are the real portal to learning. They spark curiosity,” she says.

# NEIT Alum Vincent A. Rossi III '87 Honored at Commencement

Rhode Island entrepreneur Vincent A. Rossi III received an honorary degree during this year's Commencement. Rossi, the founder of Rossi Electric, is a New England Tech graduate who built one of the most prominent electrical contracting companies in the area. With a focus on commercial and industrial projects, his work touches the lives of New England Tech students and those who live and work in Southern New England.

Rossi, known to family and friends as "Vinnie," first became intrigued by electrical work at 14 when his parents hired an electrician for projects at



“ I wouldn't be where I am today if they (his parents) hadn't encouraged me to attend NEIT.”

their home. He knew early on that he wanted to be a tradesman and enrolled in construction courses at Cranston West Vocational. He spent summers working for a mason and developing the work ethic that would define his career. His parents supported his dream and encouraged him to pursue an education at New England Tech.

“It was mostly on the job training inside the classrooms, which really helped me once I got into the field,” says Rossi.

Rossi stepped directly from graduation in 1987 into a job as an electrician. He applied to IBEW Local 99 and was accepted as an apprentice, quickly advancing through the ranks and earning his Journeyman's License. He worked with the owner of Commercial Electric for seven years, developing technical mastery of the trade.

At 27, with little more than a van, a modest set of tools, and determination, he launched his own business. With a young family, starting a business was a leap of faith, but one he'd prepared for by working full days and taking on side jobs that became the foundation of his company.

“Having a young family really gave me the drive to work hard,” says Rossi. “It was all about making sure my family had a good life.”

Rossi ran his business from home for three years before earning

enough to rent a commercial space and hire his first employees. He built a reputation for quality and reliability, and his business grew. Within five years, he signed as a union contractor, gaining access to a higher caliber of workers and larger projects.

When New England Tech built its East Greenwich campus, Rossi led the electrical work for the main building and student housing, returning to his alma mater to help shape the environment for future students.

Over nearly three decades, Rossi grew a one-man business into an enterprise with more than 100 employees, focusing on large-scale commercial, industrial, and institutional projects. He also developed a road division to install traffic signals and street lights.

Rossi sees a growing interest in the trades. His advice to NEIT grads is to “get as much education and background in your trade as you can, and work in that trade. The more you know, the more it's going to help you in the long run.”

And for students who want to own their own business: “You've got to be a people person, especially in the electrical industry because you talk to a lot of contractors, architects and engineers,” he says. “And you've got to treat your employees well. I treated my employees the way I wanted to be treated. That's a key to life, not just work.”

For nearly two decades, Rossi has contributed to NEIT's Student Scholarship Fund to support students pursuing careers as electricians. He also donates to the Local 99 Union and made a contribution for the naming rights of the café on NEIT's East Greenwich campus in honor of his parents, saying, “ I wouldn't be where I am today if they hadn't encouraged me to attend NEIT.”

In 2021, Rossi sold his business to a family-owned company with generations of experience. The company has since doubled in size, with his original employees playing a key role. Rossi consulted during the transition and now serves as chairman. He is also building houses with his son-in-law in Naples, Florida, where he lives part of the year, and returns to Rhode Island to visit family.

In recognition of his achievements, Rossi will receive an honorary Doctor of Business Administration during commencement.

# CONGRATULATIONS!

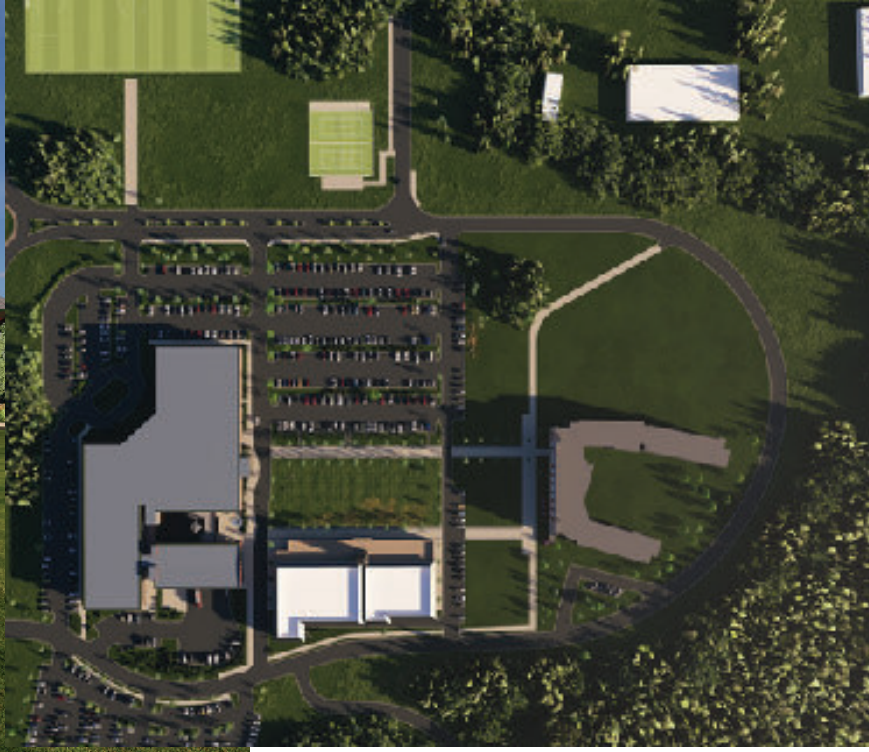
## CLASS OF 2026!



“

YOU HAVE STOOD IN THIS THRESHOLD AND ARE ACKNOWLEDGING YOURSELF, YOUR INTELLIGENCE, YOUR HARD WORK, YOUR HARDSHIP, AND SAYING, 'I FOUND A WAY WHERE THERE HAD BEEN NO WAY, AND HERE I AM.' CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU."

**ASHLEY JUDD**



# NEIT's \$40 Million Investment for new Innovation Center for Building Sciences

This spring, New England Institute of Technology moves from vision to action as plans advance for the new Innovation Center for Building Sciences – a transformative \$40 million investment that deepens NEIT's position as a leader in skilled trades education and expands opportunity for the next generation of professionals.

With groundbreaking expected soon, the 45,000-square-foot facility will mark a significant expansion of NEIT's East Greenwich campus and its capacity to serve as a regional workforce catalyst.

Across the Northeast, the need for skilled workers is urgent. Nearly 42,000 skilled trades jobs will go unfilled across the region by 2030, with shortages spanning electricians, plumbers, HVAC technicians, and construction professionals.

The Innovation Center is NEIT's answer, scaling its hands-on, career-focused training model that prepares students for the workforce from day one.

"There is growing recognition of how vital the skilled trades are to our communities – something New England Tech has embraced for more than 80 years," said Amy Grzybowski, Vice President

of Workforce Development and Community Relations. "Our Innovation Center will expand opportunity for the next generation of skilled trade students while ensuring our region has the workforce needed to meet the labor demand."

Designed to mirror real-world job sites, the facility will feature modern labs, industry-grade equipment, and flexible learning spaces. The goal is simple: give students the kind of experience they'll step into on day one of the job.

Once complete in 2027, the center will double NEIT's skilled trades training capacity, serving approximately 1,000 students annually.

Programs housed within the center will include building construction, electrical technology, plumbing, architectural building engineering technology, HVAC, and construction management, with degree pathways offered at the associate, bachelor's, and master's levels.

More than an expansion of space, the Innovation Center positions NEIT to play an even larger role in closing the region's workforce gap—preparing the skilled professionals needed to build, maintain, and modernize the systems that power the region.

## SKILLED TRADES IN HIGH DEMAND

For every 5 tradespeople retiring, only 2 are replacing them.

### NATIONAL IMPACT



By 2030:

1.4 million jobs unfilled  
\$325.6 billion economic impact

### REGIONAL IMPACT



By 2030:

41,784 jobs unfilled  
\$11.1 billion economic impact

### LOCAL IMPACT



By 2030:

5,366 jobs unfilled  
\$1.3 billion economic impact

\*Source: Bring Back the Trades Inc. & Parker Strategy Group, 2026 Workforce Report



# NEIT Community Comes Together to Host 2026 SAM Conference

This spring, New England Institute of Technology welcomed more than 300 students, faculty, and business professionals from over 50 colleges and universities for the 81st annual Society for Advancement of Management (SAM) International Business Conference. It marked the first time that NEIT has hosted this international event.

Founded in 1912, SAM is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the study and practice of management. Its annual conference brings together students and professionals to compete, collaborate, and strengthen leadership skills through real-world experiences.

For NEIT, the event was as much about community as it was competition. "What

stood out most was the genuine willingness of the NEIT community to come together and contribute in ways that went far beyond expectations," said Shelby Perry, SAM Marketing/ Membership Chair and 2026 Conference Chair. "This wasn't just about fulfilling roles; it was about people stepping up because they care about the experience and about each other."

That collaboration was evident across campus throughout the multi-day event. Students led the planning and execution; faculty provided guidance and academic support, and staff ensured that logistics and operations ran smoothly. "It was a true team effort, with each group playing a distinct and essential role," Perry said.

That same energy was carried into the competition. Students supported one another throughout the conference, showing up for their peers and bringing excitement to every event. "Our students were not only celebrating their own achievements, but they were the loudest and most enthusiastic supporters of one another," Perry noted.

When it came down to the competition, NEIT students delivered an impressive performance.

The SAM team earned 18 total medals—more than any other school in attendance. Awards spanned speech, written case, and the Business Knowledge Bowl across undergraduate, open, and invitational divisions.

Highlights included first-place finishes in the Invitational Division team and written case competitions, along with top individual honors for students like Jacque Galligan and Lucas Sutton. NEIT's invitational team also set a new conference record for the most medals earned within its division.

Faculty and staff were also recognized on an international stage. John Szymkowicz, Department Chair and Associate Professor in Graphic Design, received the Advancement of Management Award in Marketing Education. Amy Grzybowski, Ph.D., Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Relations, was honored with the Advancement of Management Award in Business Education.

The conference's top honor went to Liz Remillard, Co-Founder of Empower Spinal Cord Injury, Inc. & Assistant Professor at NEIT, who received the prestigious Gilbreth Medal—one of SAM's highest distinctions for innovation, scholarship, and professional impact.

“ This year’s SAM conference at NEIT was a powerful reflection of what can be achieved when a community comes together with shared purpose, strong leadership, and a deep commitment to supporting and celebrating one another’s succes.” - Shelby Perry SAM Marketing/Membership Chair and 2026 Conference Chair.



## DEAN'S LIST

The following students have achieved academic excellence for the Winter 2026 term. These full-time students have been placed on the Dean's List for achieving a GPA of 3.6 or higher on a maximum scale of 4.0. Congratulations to all!

Abdurrazzak, Idrees	Bowe, Jayda	Constant, Maritza	Edwards, Tascha	Hall, Daniel	Laporte, Joshua	McClure, Spencer	Parsons, Bryce	Rojas, Kayla	Sufrin, Gabrielle
Achille, Sydney	Boxwell Jr, Alvan	Conway, Cameron	Encarnacion,	Handy, Gabriela	Lauro, Colin	McCutcheon,	Pasquariello,	Rojas, Sara	Sullivan, Riana
Alhilali, Abdullah	Boyd, Mason	Cook Dumas,	Stephanie	Hanna, Colby	Lavallee, Janieca	Catherine	Maxwell	Rollan Jr, Joseph	Synott, Tyler
Ali, Benjamin	Brandies, Zachary	Finnley	England, Ashley	Hanssen, Benjamin	Lawton, Gabrielle	McDade, Sean	Patel, Cynthia	Rose, Alexandra	Szymkowicz, Kaitlin
Almeida, Nicholas	Brogan, Jordyn	Cook, Jason	Espinal, Melissa	Harris, Dominique	Leahy, Mark	McDermott, Thomas	Patrao, Avery	Rosensweig, Kyle	Tebo, Kevin
Almstrom, Benjamin	Browne, Robert	Corcino Fife, Samya	Estevez Takayosi,	Hart, Joshua	Ledezma Jr, Adan	McGovern, Denis	Pavarini, Alana	Rossi, Jay	Tejada, Richelly
Alvarado Cubero, Ian	Buchholz, Madeline	Cosgrove, Kolby	Christopher	Harte, Gabrielle	Lefebvre, Cameron	McKeith, Duncan	Peck, Spencer	Rotunno, Dennis	Teotonio, Jasmine
Alvarenga, Stephanie	Burhoe, Evan	Costa Jr, Michael	Fabe, Jaydan	Haxton, Amy	Legacy, Lily	Medeiros, Brandon	Pela, Alexander	Roy, Stephanie	Terceiro, Zachary
Alves, Alexis	Burnett, Monique	Costa-Arruda,	Fanara, Haley	Hebert, Raymond	Leite Depina, Janine	Mignacca, Joseph	Pelletier, Nicole	Rudzinsky, Gavin	Thebaud, Cathiana
Andrade, Jennie	Burns, Gary	Fenner	Feinberg, Carrie	Helm, Jared	Lemon, Yanelis	Miller, Lauren	Peralta-Locke,	Rush, Britanie	Thebaud, Marc
Andrade, Kassandria	Burns, Joseph	Costa-Mello,	Feliciano Jr, Ramon	Hemenway, Jacob	Levesque, Leticia	Miner, Nicholas	Danielle	Russas, Matthew	Thoms, Hannah
Antoni, Sarah	Buron, Lily	Zachary	Fish, Liam	Henault, Hollyann	Lewis, Madison	Miranda, Alexis	Pereira, Rachel	Ruzycki, Connor	Tighe, Samuel
Antunez, Nathaniel	Byron, Jessica	Couillard, Crystel	Fisher, Ryan	Heng, Briana	Liello, Taryn	Monaghan, Zachary	Perez Del Carmen,	Sabin, Brian	Till, Owen
Ardon Barillas, Selvin	Caballero, Jaime	Crowther, Ethan	Foley, Izabella	Hernandez De	Lim, Layhuoth	Monteiro, Melissa	Michelle	Sabourin, Trever	Tondreau, Katelyn
Arraje, Jonathan	Cadorete, Courtney	Cuevas, Melvin	Fontaine, Jennifer	Rodriguez, Yulissa	Lisa, Sarah	Montolio, Meaghan	Perry, Toni	Sadlowski, Suzanne	Torres, Kayla
Arroyo, Hailey	Cady, Robert	Czerwonka, Adrian	Ford, Michaela	Hildreth, Sayre	Littleton, Kayli	Moore, Barbara	Phan, Davina	Salguero, Tamara	Toussaint, Junie
Asade, Oyindamola	Caiola, Bradley	Dabady, Marcaine	Fortier, Nathan	Hilowle, Mahamed	Lodge, Nathan	Moran Borjas, Viviana	Phaneuf, Keith	Sam, Jasmine	Val, Mona
Baafi, Beatrice	Calmeiro Jr, Jose	Danielson, Abigail	Fortier, Nicolas	Ho, Andy	Longo, Michael	Morel, Crislory	Phang, Sylus	Sam, Sokphal	Vargas Figueroa,
Babich, Cory	Calmeiro, Serina	Davenport, Casey	Fournier, Gilbert	Hoerchler, Cullen	Longroy, Joseph	Morgan, Keith	Phivilay, Brandon	Sams, Shelby	Jose
Baez, Gianna	Capirchio, Emma	De Leon Aguilar,	Freitas-Landim,	Holloway, Seamus	Losasso III, Richard	Morocho, Danny	Phrasathane, Ahnyia	Sanchez Vazquez,	Vargas, Katherine
Baker, Dylan	Capron, Elizabeth	Ryan	Celita	Honore, Paula	Loun, Matt	Moseley, Benjamin	Pierson, Kenneth	Maria	Varni, Alessandro
Baldwin, Amanda	Captain, Nicholas	De Souza Azevedo	Fuller, Ryan	Howland, Drew	Lowder, Katharine	Moser, Serena	Pimentel, Owen	Santos, Jennifer	Vekeman,
Barcomb, Aja	Carey, Benjamin	Nogueira, Renata	Furtado, Garrett	Huizar, Daisy	Lowe, Heather	Mullaney, Chantelle	Pinheiro, Matthew	Saporito, Anthony	Cristinalyn
Baughan, Zachary	Carrera, Juana	Del Deo, Luke	Furtado, Hayley	Huxhold, Leah	Lynch, Amelia	Munna, Suraya	Piquett, Spencer	Satterfield, Matthew	Veloso, Matthew
Beatty Jr, Sean	Carrion Avila, Frailin	Del Valle, Mia	Gagnon, Mason	Huxhold, Michael	Maciolek, Michael	Murphy, Kelsey	Ponte, Steven	Savage, Tony	Vidal-Moore,
Beauchemin, Gage	Cassamajor, Rithna	DeLano, Ryan	Gamboa, Suely	Hyppolite, Olguen	Magaldi, Nicholas	Murray, Isaias	Potter, Isabella	Schill, Brian	Jimmette
Beaudoin, Holly	Cassion, Jacsmile	Demicco, Gavin	Garnham, Nicholas	James, Scarlett	Makor, Eunice	Murray, Samuel	Poulin, Paige	Scorpio, Tyler	Villamaino II,
Bechard, Hillary	Ceballo, Liscaury	Dennis, Madison	Gazerro, Nicholas	Johnson, Rylee	Mansolillo, Jack	Musial, Angelina	Presti, Jacob	Scutt, Carlie	Anthony
Becker, Nicole	Ceceri, Destini	DeSantis, Jared	Gerard, Matthew	Johnston, Andrew	Margaletta, Derrick	Nascimento, Rafaela	Price, Katrina	Shalloo, Jessica	Watkinson, Brady
Behringer, Zachary	Chapman, Blaine	Desrosiers, Tara	Gibbs, Gabriella	Joseph, Rose	Marigny, Aereis	Nguyen, Hai Vy	Prout, Thomas	Sheehan, Michael	Wilkins, Madison
Benevides, Anthony	Chase, Holly	Difo, Gabriel	Gilchrist, Alexis	Jussauime, Tristen	Marin Lemus,	Niethold, Mackenzie	Pulisz, Jonathan	Shepard, Kodiak	Wilson, Elanah
Benoit, Olivia	Chavannes, Jeordan	DiMaria, Shane	Gillet, Katherine	Karnwie, Jessica	Christian	Nortey, William	Punchak, David	Silva, Brett	Wishart, Marisa
Benoit, Owen	Chery, Farana	DiMascio, Haleigh	Goff, Lia	Keyes Jr, James	Marra, Makenzie	Nourrissant, Djimeline	Pushee, Paige	Simone, Jacob	Wojcicki, Devin
Bergeron, Nathan	Choate, Michael	Diogo, Nancy	Gomez, Cristian	Khalifa, Liena	Marsh, Jakob	Nova, Catherine	Quilty, Bridget	Skovron, Owen	Worden, Anthony
Blake, Sarah	Clements, Coral	Dion, Brenton	Gonzalez, Maria	Knott, Tristan	Martinez, Alejandra	Nwachukwu, Augusta	Radeka, Tristan	Smith, Connor	Wright, Christian
Blight, Tyler	Coakley, Liam	DiPinto, Amanda	Goris Ramirez,	Komorowski,	Martinez, Alyssa	Ominsky, Dylan	Rebello, Hailey	Soares, Justin	Wrubleski, Spencer
Blye, Robert	Coletti, Amber	Dolan, Michael	Jankairy	Amanda	Martinez, Ashley	Osirus-Renner, Nadine	Renner, Rosaline	Sontag, Olivia	Wyeth, Zachary
Boatwright, Noah	Coletti, Tyler	Draper, Jessica	Gould, Hans	Kong, David	Mason, Alexis	Ottiano, Raymond	Reynolds, Rachel	Soria, Allie	Zani, Mark
Boino, Christianna	Collard, Cameron	Dube, Samantha	Grabill, Ethan	Kores, Danielle	Mason, Ashley	Paine, Katelyn	Richard, Nicole	Sousa, Jodie	Zannini, Oliver
Bollengier, Colin	Collazo, Jayna	Dufort, Chrisline	Greene, Jaclyn	Krom, Naiya	Masters, Kellen	Palmer, Sage	Robberson, Betty	Sousa, Tanya	Zeleznik, Matthew
Bond, Justin	Collazo, Justyn	Dupre, Riley	Grundy, Christopher	Kyenkyenhene, Starr	Mattson, Tyler	Parillo, Emily	Rodgers, Nolan	Spina, Gabriella	
Botelho, Kelsey	Condon, Jonathan	Dupuis, Amanda	Guerriero, Kyle	LaFreniere, Sophia	McAdams, Mitchell	Parker, Kenton	Rodriguez, Elijah	St.Louis, Aidan	

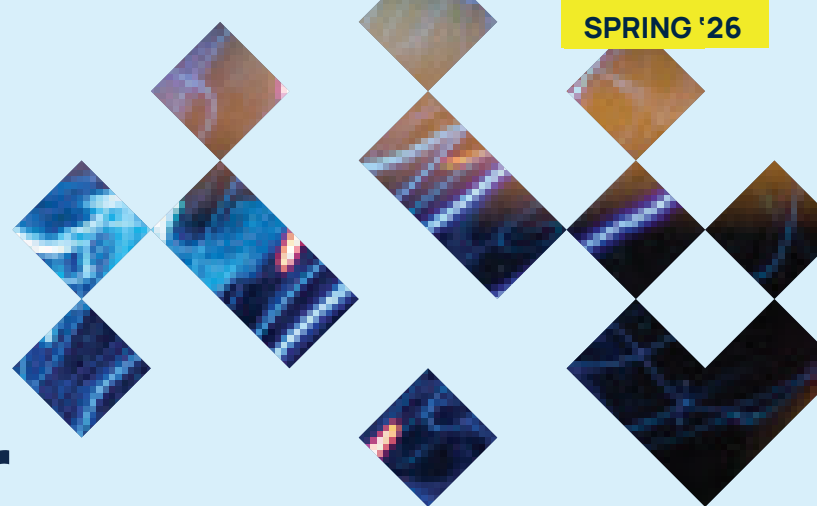
DEAN'S LIST, CONT'D.

Santos, Kevin  
 Schill, Brian  
 Schneider, Scott  
 Scorpio, Tyler  
 Searson, Eleanor  
 Segnere, Grace  
 Semerjian, Zander  
 Serpa, Alice  
 Seward Jr, James  
 Shaloo, Jessica  
 Shead, Zachary  
 Silva, Ari  
 Silva, Brett  
 Silvia, Tyler  
 Simeone, Alberta  
 Simons, Noah  
 Sirr, Caroline  
 Skovron, Owen  
 Smerkar, Sophia  
 Smith, Beautiful

Smith, Connor  
 Smith, Erica  
 Sontag, Olivia  
 Soria, Allie  
 Sosa-Campos, Jokairy  
 Soto, Angelique  
 Sousa, Jodie  
 Spindler, Jack  
 St.Louis, Aidan  
 Steele, Travis  
 Sterling, Ashantae  
 Sufrin, Gabrielle  
 Sullivan, Cyris  
 Sullivan, Riana  
 Szymkowicz, Kaitlin  
 Tanabe, Ethan  
 Tanner, Andrew  
 Tardiff, David  
 Tavares, Brandon  
 Tavares, Connor

Teotonio, Jasmine  
 Terceiro, Zachary  
 Thebaud, Cathiana  
 Thebaud, Marc  
 Thibeault, Daniel  
 Thomas, Melody  
 Thurman, Connor  
 Tiburcio Arias de Rico, Isaura  
 Tillinghast, Jaida  
 Toc, Emely  
 Todisco, Bradley  
 Torres, Caitlin  
 Tortorella, Michael  
 Twitchell, Jacob  
 Underwood, Jonnae  
 Uyi, Eseosa  
 Val, Isabelle  
 Valcourt, Dona  
 Validzic, Jessica

Vallois, Theodore  
 Vargas Figueroa, Jose  
 Varni, Alessandro  
 Vasquez, Angie  
 Wagner, Lance  
 Walach, Benjamin  
 Warner, Perry  
 Weisman, Nathaniel  
 Wilkins, Madison  
 Wilson, Cooper  
 Wilson, Elanah  
 Wishart, Marisa  
 Wojcicki, Devin  
 Worden, Anthony  
 Wrubleski, Spencer  
 Youngstrom, Shye  
 Zani, Mark  
 Zannini, Oliver  
 Zarski, Matthew



# Where Your Former Classmates Are

The Office of Career Services can attest to the fact that our alumni are working in very exciting jobs! We wish them continued success in their careers and all of their future endeavors.

**Jennie Andrade**, 3/26, Surgical Technology, is employed at Care New England - Kent

**Evan Burhoe**, 3/26, Welding Engineering Technology, is employed at GCX Corp

**Jordan Chavannes**, 12/25, Nursing, is employed at Maxim Healthcare

**Emma Coccia**, 3/26, Criminal Justice, is employed at Foster Police Department

**Cameron Conway**, 3/26, Construction Management, is employed at AZ Corporation

**Fenner Costa-Arruda**, 9/25, Respiratory Care, is employed at Tavares Pediatric Center

**Ian Dahl**, 3/26, Automotive Technology with High Performance, is employed at Pat's Auto Center

**Luke Del Deo**, 9/25, Game Development & Simulation Programming, is employed at Robosys Automation

**Michael Huxhold**, 3/26, Mechanical Engineering Technology, is employed at New England Institute of Technology

**Tristen Jussaume**, 3/26, Software Engineering is employed at AIPSO

**Jason Knight**, 3/26, Electrical Technology with Renewable Energy Systems, is employed at IN FIELD

**Heather Lowe**, 9/25, Respiratory Care, is employed at Lahey Hospital & Medical

**Brian MacNeil Jr.**, 3/26, Electronics, Robotics, & Drone Technology, is employed at Solid State Marine

**Holly Mann**, 6/14, MSOT '26, Occupational Therapy, is employed at Charter Care Health Partners

**Lauren Salvatore**, 3/26, Veterinary Technology, is employed at High Ridge Animal Hospital

**Heather Xavier**, 3/26, Nursing, is employed at Tavares Pediatric Center



# Built for the Operating Room:

**Luis Ramirez,  
Surgical Technology '13**

Luis Ramirez (Surgical Technology '13) did not set out to build a career in health care or medical technology. For years, his days followed a different rhythm of job sites and long days in construction. That changed in an instant when an accident crushed three of his fingertips and forced him to reconsider his future.

In those moments, clarity came from an unexpected place: the operating room. As an orthopedic surgeon repaired his hand, he offered a simple observation that stayed with Luis. Ramirez recalls, "he said that people will always need surgery so there is no lack of work – how right he was." During his recovery, he returned to a childhood fascination with surgical procedures and decided to pursue it seriously, enrolling in the Surgical Technology program at NEIT.

He entered the program as a full-time student while working full-time and preparing to become a father. The academic pace was demanding and Surgical Technology required broad knowledge across specialties, not just familiarity with one area. To be successful meant being prepared for any case, any complication, any shift in direction.

Upon graduation, Ramirez was hired immediately at Rhode Island Hospital, where he advanced quickly and became involved in some of the hospital's most complex procedures. He began on the trauma team, working overnight shifts and preparing for critically injured patients to arrive at any moment. He reflects, "in this environment, where every second matters, is where I began truly forging my skills – I gained true understanding of what controlled chaos looks like."

The foundation built at NEIT allowed him to quickly step into his potential and adapt under pressure. He expanded into neuro, vascular, and cardiac specialties, working on complex, high-stakes procedures where preparation often determined outcome.

Seeking further growth, Ramirez moved to Charlton Memorial Hospital to

pursue First Assist certification. There, he joined a young vascular group and became immersed in Endovascular Aortic Repair procedures. He found himself increasingly drawn to the technology in the room and to the Aortic Representative supporting the surgeons. "If the doctor had a question, how to fix a problem or pivot from a bad situation – he would turn to the Aortic Representative because he trusted him to guide the most optimal outcome," Ramirez recalls.

That level of trust left an impression. The role required more than product knowledge; it demanded authority built on experience. Ramirez set a long-term goal to step into that position himself. He later transitioned into the medical device industry, beginning as a Clinical Specialist with Philips and ultimately becoming Senior Territory Manager with Getinge in Cardiac and Vascular. His background as a Surgical Technologist gave him instant credibility – he understood the operating room because he had worked in it.

For Ramirez, his NEIT education was not an endpoint, but a starting place. One that gave him the footing to move through uncertainty with confidence and continue redefining what was possible.

In summary, he says, "the Surgical Technology program will prepare you to become a Surgical Tech. Where you go from there is up to you."

# Lower Tuition, New Training Space: NEIT Invests in the Future of Criminal Justice Education



New England Institute of Technology is expanding access to careers in criminal justice while strengthening how students are trained for the realities of modern public safety work.

Starting July 1, 2026, tuition for Criminal Justice programs will drop by nearly 50%, bringing the annual cost down from \$35,925 to \$18,540 for both new and current students. The change applies to the associate degree, Bachelor of Science, and Career-Focused two-year bachelor's programs.

The decision comes as agencies across Rhode Island and the country continue to navigate challenges in recruitment, training, and retention within the public safety workforce.

“One of the biggest challenges right now is recruiting and retention,” said Michael Pezzullo, Department Chair of Criminal Justice Studies at NEIT. “Fewer people are getting into law enforcement, and the expectations and demands of the job keep increasing.”

Pezzullo, a longtime law enforcement officer who began his career in 1997, now oversees NEIT’s Criminal Justice programs. For him, the shift happening in the profession directly informs how students need to be trained.

“Technology, social media, investigative techniques, and case law are all evolving so quickly. If you’re not staying current, you will fall behind fast,” Pezzullo said.

That kind of training environment is essential to translating classroom learning into field readiness.

The pace of change is driving how NEIT students are trained.

“We need to do more than just teach the basics; we need to build critical thinking, decision-making, and especially communication skills. Scenario-based training, real-world applications, and exposure to current tools and practices are key. The goal is to prepare people for what the job actually looks like today, not what it looked like 20 years ago,” he continued.

That approach is reflected not just in curriculum, but in the environment students train in.

Beginning Fall 2026, NEIT is adding more than 4,000 square feet of dedicated Criminal Justice instructional space on its East Greenwich campus.

The facility will include forensics labs, a firearms simulation lab, a courtroom, and mock crime scene environments designed to replicate real-world conditions.

“I measure student success in a few different ways, but it really comes down to whether they can apply what they’ve learned,” Pezzullo said. “It’s one thing to do well on a test, but I’m more interested in whether they can think through a scenario, make decisions, and communicate it clearly; these skills are necessary in every pathway in Criminal Justice.”

For him, the end goal is clear preparation for the field. “At the end of the day, success means they’re prepared for the next step and can perform when it matters,” he said.

By lowering cost and strengthening hands-on training environments, NEIT is reinforcing its commitment to helping students enter the workforce confident, capable, and ready to perform from day one.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for open house to get a firsthand look at our 50+ programs, and new state-of-the-art facilities across three campuses. [Register Now!](#)

**August Open House**  
MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2026, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

**October Open House**  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM



Students stepped into the kitchen with Chef Austin and Chef Matt, learning new skills and techniques as they prepared crab rangoons from start to finish.



Students took a break with visiting therapy animals during Pet Therapy.



### Esports Update – Ready, Set, Game!

The New England Tech Tigers Esports team began the 2026 Spring season with 48 student-athletes competing across eight titles.

Spring brought new players and rebuilt teams, including Valorant Yellow and Rocket League. It was a strong showing for the Tigers, with six of 11 teams advancing to the playoffs, including:

- Overwatch Blue – undefeated regular season and first-place finish in the ECAC D Division
- Overwatch Yellow & Valorant Yellow – earned spots at Nationals

Contact **Brandon Eigenbrode** for more information on NEIT's Esports at [beigenbrode@neit.edu](mailto:beigenbrode@neit.edu).

# Student Activities

Students kicked off the term with **Casino Night**, enjoying games, prizes, and a lively evening on campus.



At **Model Car Night**, students built and customized model cars while connecting with others on campus.



Creativity was on full display at **Craft Night!**



**Tiger Tuesday** brought a fun challenge to campus as students searched for 400 hidden tigers—those who found and returned five won a prize.



Stop by and visit the Student Activities Suite on the EG Campus, S119-S120B.  
**For information about activities or events, please contact:**  
**Melissa Hague**, Student Activities Director, 739-5000 x3565 or [mhague@neit.edu](mailto:mhague@neit.edu)  
**Hannah Trautz**, Student Activities Coordinator, 739-5000 x3418 or [htrautz@neit.edu](mailto:htrautz@neit.edu)



## Inside NEIT's New Online Master's Program in Speech-Language Pathology

This past fall, New England Institute of Technology welcomed the first-ever cohort of its online Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology (MS-SLP) program. Designed for working professionals and students balancing life responsibilities, the program combines online coursework with two intensive on-campus immersion weeks, blending flexibility with hands-on experience.

The launch comes at a moment when many prospective graduate students are balancing careers, caregiving, and other responsibilities that make traditional programs difficult to pursue, even for those already committed to entering the field.

For some students in the inaugural cohort, that reality shaped their path long before enrollment.

Jamie Medeiros had already completed an undergraduate degree in Communicative Disorders and worked in special education, but returning to speech-language pathology required a program that fit the demands of her current life. She said, "With a full-time job and a family, NEIT's online program felt like the best fit. The structure works with my schedule, and it made pursuing graduate school realistic and manageable."

For Kenya Morgan, the decision came from a different direction. It came from a moment of curiosity while teaching English overseas that grew into a career shift requiring both academic preparation and flexibility. She reflects, "I already knew that I would need



an online program rather than a traditional in-person program due to life. I needed to care for my mother and work, so commuting was also not an option."

While flexibility made enrollment possible, both students emphasize the program's intensity. Kenya shares, "Despite the program being mostly flexible at the end of the day, it is an intensive full-time program. I feel like I've learned so much that it's difficult to remember everything, but I'm also prepared to know what questions to ask and how to find the resources I'll need as a future clinician."

A defining element of the program is its two on-campus immersion weeks, where students meet faculty and peers in person, participate in clinical simulations, and apply skills in real time.

For Jamie, the experience strengthened both confidence and connection. She says, "My favorite part was finally meeting my cohort and the faculty in person. I also really loved the hands-on simulations and getting to assess my clinical skills in real time"

Beyond technical training, the experience reinforced the importance of collaboration in a field built on communication.

For this first cohort, the program opened up new possibilities for graduate education. One that expands access without sacrificing rigor, while preparing students to enter an evolving field.

## Physical Therapist Assistant to Doctor of Physical Therapy

Meet DPT student Sophia Cerky, a member of our new PTA to DPT Bridge Program's first cohort!

A graduate of NEIT's PTA program, Sophia saw the DPT bridge as a natural next step in advancing her career. Familiar with NEIT's accelerated format, she felt confident returning to pursue her doctorate. She made the transition to expand her professional opportunities, including advanced certifications.

NEIT's hybrid model stood out for its flexibility, allowing her to work part time while completing coursework online. Sophia also values the supportive faculty, strong sense of community, and Immersion Week's hands-on learning, which help build confidence and prepare students for their future careers.

**Enrolling Now for January 2027!**



# Center for Technology & Industry

[neit.edu/cti](http://neit.edu/cti)



## CTI news

### Emergency Medical Technician Training

Enrolling Now –  
Classes Start May 26th!

We're proud to mark the completion of our first cohort of the 12-week EMT certification training, a workforce development initiative strengthening the local emergency services pipeline!

After training in our simulation labs, these newly certified EMTs are now job-ready and prepared to serve and support our community's healthcare and public safety needs.

### NEIT: Where Education, Training, and the Blue Economy Connect

As a higher education partner in the Good Jobs Ocean Tech Works Challenge, NEIT is helping to strengthen Rhode Island's advanced manufacturing and Blue Economy workforce by offering tuition-free, 18-month associate degree pathways and direct career connections in Welding Engineering Technology and Mechanical Engineering Technology.

Developed in close collaboration with industry partner PolarisMEP, the program combines hands-on training with employer engagement to ensure graduates are prepared for in-demand careers. Ocean Tech Works exemplifies NEIT's employer-aligned approach to workforce development and its leadership in future-focused industries.

This past March, the program reached full capacity and enrolled its final cohort. We look forward to supporting these students through program completion and into meaningful, industry-aligned careers.

### NEIT's Surgical Technology Grads Shine

NEIT's Surgical Technology program remains a foundational healthcare workforce pipeline. We recently celebrated the graduation of our 61st cohort, who join a network of nearly 1,000 alumni working in operating rooms across Rhode Island and beyond.

The program delivers rigorous, hands-on training that prepares students to step confidently into critical surgical roles. Its longevity, CAAHEP accreditation, and outcomes make it one of NEIT's most impactful career pathways.

We are grateful to Brown University Health for their partnership and Real Jobs RI for supporting future Surg Techs!



### Campus Learning Opportunities for Rhode Island High School Students

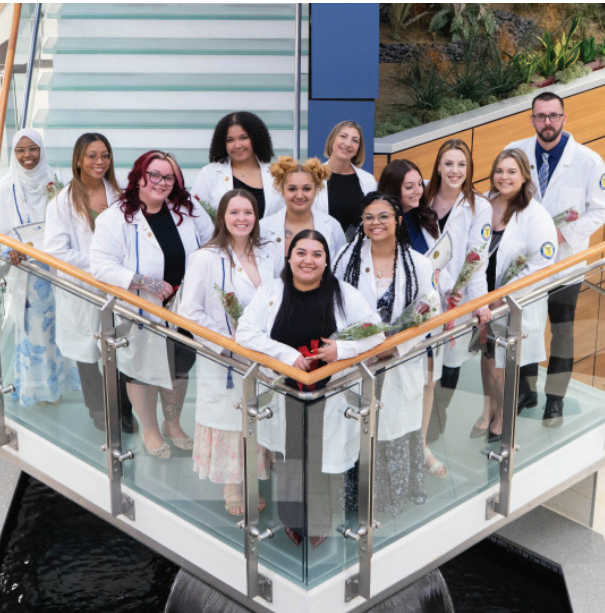
#### Summer Tech Camp

NEIT's Summer Tech Camps provide high school students with hands-on experiences in fields like healthcare, technology, skilled trades, digital media, business, and public safety. Led by faculty in our college labs, the camps support early skill development and career exploration, and we look forward to hosting local high schoolers this summer!

#### Early College + Licensed Practical Nursing

New England Tech recently expanded its Early College Program to allow students to earn a Licensed Practical Nursing certificate and will welcome the first cohort this summer. Enrolled students begin one term early and complete the program one term after high school graduation, reducing tuition costs and enabling faster entry into healthcare careers.

[Learn more at neit.edu/highschool](http://neit.edu/highschool)



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neit.edu/cti



## CNA to LPN / RN Bridge Program

A special pinning ceremony celebrated NEIT nursing students who advanced their careers through the CNA to LPN/RN Career Pathway Programs. Developed in partnership with RIHCA and St. Elizabeth Home, this program allows CNAs to continue working while earning LPN or RN credentials. With a strong focus on equity, access, and career mobility, the program has supported 39 graduates to date and has 24 students still enrolled.



## Experience Tech Youth Programming

Experience Tech allows students to build new skills, discover interests, have fun and explore career opportunities – off or on campus. Programs can be customized across a wide range of academic and technical specialties and are taught by expert faculty.

Connect with us to learn more!

Please contact:  
Sean Marshall, smarshall@neit.edu



## Girl Scouts Learn by Doing at NEIT through New Partnership

New England Tech and Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England recently launched a new partnership to provide Girl Scouts ages 12 and older with hands-on and age-appropriate learning opportunities – while earning badges in the process!

Through monthly, in-person workshops hosted at NEIT's campuses, Girl Scouts build real-world life skills while exploring career opportunities in fields like computer programming, woodworking, automotive, skilled trades, digital media, and health sciences.



“This partnership with the New England Institute of Technology is a powerful example of our mission in action—expanding what girls believe is possible by giving them hands-on access to high-demand, traditionally male-dominated fields. Together, we’re not just building skills in welding, carpentry, and automotive work—we’re building confidence, curiosity, and pathways to futures they may never have imagined.”

**DANA BORRELLI-MURRAY**  
CEO, GIRL SCOUTS OF SOUTHEASTERN NEW ENGLAND


# THANK YOU

for being part of our NEIT community! Together, we're shaping the future of technology, innovation, and education—one student, one story, and one achievement at a time.



**FEEDBACK? Have a story?**  
We'd love to hear from you.  
Contact [marketing@neit.edu](mailto:marketing@neit.edu)!

[neit.edu/technews](http://neit.edu/technews)

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# TECH NEWS

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