



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Three new members join NJ Council for the Humanities Board

*Higher education and business experts deepen connections to major NJ institutions*

(Camden, NJ) – Three new members have been elected to the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH). The new members, Alyson Wess, Dr. Cole M. Crittenden, and Dr. David Blake began serving three-year terms in 2023.

“These new members are each highly respected in their professions and have immediately strengthened our efforts to advocate for the humanities in New Jersey,” said NJCH Executive Director Carin Berkowitz, PhD. “Their expertise will help us grow both in our commitment to the humanities as a social force and as a strategically focused nonprofit organization.”

**Alyson Wess** is Vice President for Global Community Impact at Johnson and Johnson, a role in which she helps lead the company’s access, affordability and charitable donations programs in an effort to advance equitable access to quality care in resource limited settings around the globe. During her almost 25 years of experience at Johnson & Johnson, Wess has held several senior leadership roles in the Consumer, MedTech and Pharmaceutical sectors across marketing, strategy, account management, and market access functions. She is also a charter board member of the new Arts Incubator of Montgomery nonprofit, a fine arts community organization established in 2023. She holds a bachelor’s degree in art history and economics from Franklin & Marshall College and an MBA from the Stern School of Business at New York University.

**Dr. Cole M. Crittenden** is Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at Princeton University. In this role, he coordinates and supports the successful development and progress of academic initiatives, particularly those that cut across units and have broad strategic importance to the University and the potential for significant impact. An experienced administrator, Crittenden’s prior roles at Princeton include stints as deputy dean and acting dean of the Graduate School as well as associate dean in the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students and founding director of studies for Whitman College, one of Princeton’s undergraduate residential colleges. A scholar of Slavic languages and literature, he previously held academic roles at Harvard University, Rutgers University-Newark, and Bucks County Community College. He completed his bachelor’s degree from Weber State University and his Ph.D. from Princeton.

**Dr. David Blake** is Professor of English at The College of New Jersey, where he has been on the faculty since 1999. Prior to joining TCNJ, Blake taught English at the U.S. Air Force Academy and at Deerfield Academy in Deerfield, MA. A scholar of 19th- and 20th- century U.S. literature, Blake is the author of three books, including *Liking Ike: Eisenhower, Advertising, and Rise of Celebrity Politics*, winner of the 2017 PROSE Award for the year's best book in Media & Cultural Studies. He has written extensively on the history of fame and the relationship between politics and literature, including numerous publications in scholarly journals and commentary for *Time*, *Huffington Post*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, and *Humanities Magazine*. His time at TCNJ has included stints as Department Chair and Interim Vice Provost, and he is a previous recipient of grants from both NJCH and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He earned a bachelor's degree from Colgate University and a Ph.D. in English from Washington University in St. Louis.