

# ROI-NJ presents its first-ever ROI Influencers: Technology list

From our print edition

By **ROI-NJ Staff** (New Jersey) - April 19, 2021



([https://roi-nj-com-images.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/TT\\_Landing-page.jpg](https://roi-nj-com-images.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/TT_Landing-page.jpg))

Determining our first-ever ROI Influencers: Technology list was a process that followed our traditional format: We spoke to approximately a dozen New Jersey tech leaders (all of whom are on the list) to get their takes on various categories.

Defining the list? That wasn't as easy.

It starts with the founders — those who have created the cool and innovative companies that dot the state. But it wouldn't be complete without the investors that helped many of them grow, the academics who are mentoring and inspiring the next generation, the executives of tech companies that give the state such a rich ecosystem and the thought leaders that help bring everyone together.

Our Top 10 list brings together the best in all of these categories.

We're overwhelmed with the quality of honorees on the list — and humbled to know that there are many others out there deserving of the recognition. We're confident this list will only grow each year.

*Read all of our ROI Influencers: Technology ...*

- Who's No. 1? (<https://www.roi-nj.com/2021/04/19/roi-influencers/technology/2021-technology/roi-influencers-technology-2021-no-1/>)
- The Top 10 (<https://www.roi-nj.com/2021/04/19/roi-influencers/technology/2021-technology/roi-influencers-technology-2021-the-top-10/>)
- Founders (A-M) (<https://www.roi-nj.com/2021/04/19/roi-influencers/technology/2021-technology/roi-influencers-technology-2021-founders-a-m/>)
- Founders (N-Z) (<https://www.roi-nj.com/2021/04/19/roi-influencers/technology/2021-technology/roi-influencers-technology-2021-founders-n-z/>)
- Investors (<https://www.roi-nj.com/2021/04/19/roi-influencers/technology/2021-technology/roi-influencers-technology-2021-investors/>)
- Executives (<https://www.roi-nj.com/2021/04/19/roi-influencers/technology/2021-technology/roi-influencers-technology-2021-executives/>)
- Thought leaders (<https://www.roi-nj.com/2021/04/19/roi-influencers/technology/2021-technology/roi-influencers-technology-2021-thought-leaders/>)
- Academics (<https://www.roi-nj.com/2021/04/19/roi-influencers/technology/2021-technology/roi-influencers-technology-2021-academics/>)

*Plus ...*

- Editor's Desk: A call to change our plates to 'The Innovation State' (<https://www.roi-nj.com/2021/04/19/opinion/editors-desk/a-call-to-change-our-plates-to-the-innovation-state/>)
- Autonomous vehicle industry could take off in N.J. ... if state does this one thing, Genova Burns' Kelin says (<https://www.roi-nj.com/2021/04/19/tech/autonomous-vehicle-industry-could-take-off-in-n-j-if-state-does-this-one-thing-genova-burns-kelin-says/>)

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# ROI Influencers: Technology 2021 – Academics

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([https://roi-nj-com-images.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/TT\\_Academics.jpg](https://roi-nj-com-images.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/TT_Academics.jpg))

Joel Bloom and Nariman Farvardin appear in our Top 10 (<https://www.roi-nj.com/2021/04/19/roi-influencers/technology/2021-technology/roi-influencers-technology-2021-the-top-10/>).



**David Bader**

Director, Institute for Data Science

***New Jersey Institute of Technology***

An expert in massive-scale analytics and computational genomics, he also is an adviser to the White House and serves on the leadership team of the Northeast Big Data Innovation Hub.



**Jason Corso**

Director

***Stevens Institute of Artificial Intelligence***

His research lies at the intersection of visual computational systems, natural language, the physical environment and, of course, humans. His larger focus is to empower and educate society on using AI ethically and responsibly.



**Andrea Goldsmith**

Dean of engineering and applied science

***Princeton University***

An expert and entrepreneur in wireless systems, she was awarded the Marconi Prize, the highest honor in telecommunications research, in 2020.



**Pavita Howe**

Director, entrepreneurship partnerships

***Rutgers University***

A veteran of many startups, she now manages relationships with external partners, including investors, alumni, entrepreneurs and industry partners. Previously served as director of the Rutgers TechAdvance Fund, where she helped launch and manage 50 projects.



**Rod Priestley**

Vice dean for innovation

**Princeton**

He provides academic leadership for innovation and entrepreneurship activities across campus; but, he's also a leading researcher in the area of complex materials and processing — the co-inventor of a device that uses sunlight to drive water purification.

**Simon Nynens**

CEO

**New Jersey Innovation Institute**

Heads NJII, an NJIT corporation that helps turn ideas into workable solutions across six divisions: biopharma, data and advanced technology, defense and homeland security, entrepreneurship, health care delivery and human capital.

To read the rest of the ROI Influencers: Technology 2021, click here. (<https://www.roi-nj.com/2021/04/19/roi-influencers/technology/2021-technology/roi-nj-presents-its-first-ever-roi-influencers-technology-list/>)

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