

# RUTGERS

## *Food Innovation Center Grand Opening*



*Marcia and Tom Blackwell of  
Blackwell's Organic*



*Rutgers Food Innovation Center facility rendering*



*Penni and Bill Heritage of  
Heritage Station Winery*

## **A Message from the University President**

The Food Innovation Center (FIC), a unit of Rutgers University's New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is a model for regional economic development. Since 2001, FIC has served more than 1,000 companies, bringing new businesses, jobs, and innovation to every county in the state. As such, it has been recognized as the "Incubator of the Year" by the National Business Incubation Association; as an "Innovative Program Model" by the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and as one of only 10 "Agricultural Innovation Center Demonstration Programs" in the United States.

All of this had been achieved before the new state-of-the-art facility was even built. Now, because of the foresight, imagination, hard work, and cooperation of a number of partnering agencies, FIC is poised to expand significantly its client services and processing ability. It will offer state-of-the-art facilities and equipment, enabling even more highly innovative, value-adding product development by its users.

We owe sincere thanks to the U.S. Economic Development Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the New Jersey Casino Reinvestment Development Authority, the New Jersey Commission on Science & Technology, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, the State of New Jersey, the Cumberland Empowerment Zone, and the City of Bridgeton. Their investments will make a profound difference in building upon the success of the FIC and, more to the point, in building the economic future of New Jersey.

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is extremely proud of its role in bringing this project to fruition and serving the economic, educational, and social interests of the citizens of our state.

Sincerely yours,

*Richard L. McCormick*

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President  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey