

A Letter From the President



Welcome to RIT!

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all students, both new and returning, to RIT. This is only my fourth year as President, and in the brief time I have been on campus I have discovered that RIT is a true “category of one” university and a center of innovation and creativity. I encourage all of you to take advantage of this extraordinary university and all that it has to offer.

Where else can you find students on the same campus studying photography and engineering? Where else can you find students studying business and furniture design working side-by-side? Where else can you find deaf students and hearing students working together on team projects?

This kind of intellectual and cultural diversity is available only at RIT, and RIT provides an extraordinary outside-the-classroom educational opportunity to all students. How much you benefit from it, however, is really up to you. I encourage all of you to first find your footing in your academic studies, and then branch outward into the various opportunities for campus engagement that are available to you. It is this opportunity to grow intellectually in areas inside and outside of your major that makes the RIT experience so special.

The faculty and staff at RIT are here to support you on this journey, and I encourage you to take advantage of all they have to offer you. Also, please feel free to contact me with suggestions on how we may better serve you. I look forward to watching your progress and celebrating your achievements.

Finally, GO TIGERS!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to William W. Destler, Ph.D.

William W. Destler, Ph.D.
President

A Letter From the Senior Vice President of Student Affairs



Dear RIT Student:

On behalf of Student Affairs at RIT, welcome! We are delighted that you have chosen RIT, and are confident that you will find this an exciting, challenging, and supportive place to study and grow. It is our hope that you will encounter many opportunities that will help you achieve your academic, professional, and personal goals. The faculty and staff of RIT are here to assist you in maximizing and enriching this educational experience.

This Student Handbook & Academic Planner, *The Source*, was designed to provide you with a wealth of information about the various programs and services at RIT. It contains information about academic support services, campus life and extracurricular activities, as well as important dates and ways to contact faculty and staff. By using this academic planner, you will have a ready source of information when the need arises.

Your time at RIT is important to your future, and we want you to take full advantage of all that we have to offer. We strongly encourage you to get involved in your academic program, to seek out the support services you need, and to enrich your personal and social life by becoming involved. RIT and the greater Rochester community offer a wide range of educational, cultural, and social opportunities to meet your needs.

I look forward to getting to know you and assist you however I can. Feel free to stop by 2410 Student Alumni Union (SAU) if you have questions, need assistance, or just to say hello.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Beth A. Cooper". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mary-Beth Cooper
Senior Vice President, Student Affairs

A Letter From the Student Government President & Vice President



Hello RIT Students!

You are now among 16,000 students who are fortunate enough to attend RIT this year. Whether you are a first-year who is about to attend their first class, or an upper classman returning from a co-op, you should know that you are enrolled in one of the most unique and diverse universities in the world. RIT is known for combining the left and right sides of the brain to come up with innovative solutions to real-world problems. It is not unusual to find engineering students working with graphic designers or computer science students with business students. Students even have the opportunity to work within a mainstream community of hearing, hard-of-hearing, and deaf students. Our advice is to take

advantage of this opportunity to work with people from around the world, from different cultures, and from different majors; you will have a new appreciation for the real world which is waiting for you after graduation!

Ask anyone who has been to college, and they will tell you their favorite memories are of the people they have met and their social experiences, not exams or critiques. For that reason we recommend you **get involved** in any of the 200+ clubs on campus, seven special interest houses, 11 major student organizations, 29 Greek chapters, 24 varsity sports, 13 intramural sports, or Student Government. Another way to get involved at RIT is to attend sport events like soccer, basketball, hockey, or lacrosse games. As we proved in the Frozen Four last year, Tiger fans are the best fans in the NCAA. More importantly, open your door, meet someone new, and make a friend. The friends you make on campus will help define your RIT experience, and will make your experience that much more rewarding. The friends you make during your years here will last a lifetime, and will support you as well.

Student Government [SG] is your voice concerning any and all issues on campus. We are here to relay your input on all major institute policies, procedures, and choices. SG does this by working closely with Staff Council, and the Academic Senate as part of the shared governance system at RIT. The system works by giving faculty, staff, and students equal input on all major institute decisions. SG will work hard to make sure that your voice is heard!

Beyond the organizations that SG oversees, we are also responsible for student services such as rentable vans, the ride board, free newspapers, and a free lawyer. The offices are located in the new Campus Center by the fountain on the first floor. Our office is open almost all day and has free popcorn for students; so stop by and feel free to talk with us about anything from classes to housing. We love to hear from all students, and we hope that we can help you make your RIT experience the best it can be.

Remember, make friends, get involved, and have fun! GO TIGERS!

Phillip Amsler
Student Government President
sgpres@rit.edu

Greg Pollock
Student Government Vice President
sgvp@rit.edu

Year-at-a-Glance

SEPTEMBER 2010

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AUGUST 2011

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The RIT 2005-2015 Strategic Plan

Vision

RIT will lead higher education in preparing students for innovative, creative, and successful careers in a global society.

Mission

To provide a broad range of career-oriented educational programs with the goal of producing innovative, creative graduates who are well-prepared for their chosen careers in a global society.

The RIT community engages and motivates students through stimulating and collaborative experiences. We rigorously pursue new and emerging career areas. We develop and deliver curricula and advance scholarship and research relevant to emerging technologies and social conditions.

Our community is committed to diversity and student centeredness and is distinguished by our innovative and collaborative spirit. Internal and external partnerships expand our students' experiential learning.

RIT is committed to mutually enriching relationships with alumni, government, business, and the world community. Teaching, learning, scholarship, research, innovation, and leadership development for promoting student success are our central enterprises.

Values

RIT reaches the highest levels of quality of education through collective and individual commitment to ethics, pluralism, and respect for humanity. Together we value collaboration, openness, flexibility, pragmatism, experiential learning, entrepreneurship, global awareness and relationships, innovation, creativity, and practical applications. Individually, we are responsible, hard-working, critical thinkers who pursue personal and professional growth with diligence, pride, and spirit.

Key Results Areas, Definitions, and 2008-2013 Goals

Be Renowned for Student Success

The extent to which students obtain an education that prepares them for the challenges and opportunities awaiting them in a rapidly changing and diverse global society.

- Improve student retention and graduation rates
 - Achieve a 2nd-year retention rate of 93% by 2012
 - Achieve a 6-year equivalent graduation rate of 72% by 2012
- Achieve "best in class" diversity % for minority student, faculty, and staff populations through increasing:
 - First-year AALANA students to 16% by 2013
 - First-year female students to 40% by 2013
 - Females in tenure-track faculty positions to 32% by 2012
 - AALANA faculty in tenure-track positions to 11% by 2012
 - AALANA staff in exempt positions to 12.5% by 2012
- Increase student participation in global initiatives through:
 - Growing the number of international students enrolled at Rochester campus to 1600 by 2012

The RIT 2005-2015 Strategic Plan

- Growing the number of students enrolled at RIT international sites to 1700 by 2013
- Growing the number of RIT students studying abroad to 350 by 2012
- Growing the percentage of global coop assignments to 7% by 2013
- Increase percentage of graduating students with employment offers or graduate school acceptances to 97% by 2012

Maximize Opportunities for Innovation, Creativity, Research, and Scholarship

The extent to which the educational experience is characterized by opportunities to develop and apply creative and innovative approaches to learning and problem solving.

- Provide opportunities for 100% of RIT students to experience innovation, creativity, and scholarship by 2012
- Increase sponsored research awards to \$100M/year by 2013
- Grow RIT's reputation in sustainability
 - Grow Golisano Institute for Sustainability to 40 students, 9 full-time faculty, and 19 research/extended faculty by 2012
 - Increase students enrolled in other sustainability-related programs by 100 by 2012
- Achieve 100% faculty participation in scholarship as defined by RIT's Scholarship Policy by 2012

Execute with Organizational/Operational Excellence

Achieve the organizational mission in the most cost-effective/efficient manner.

- Maintain a balanced annual operating budget
- Achieve an endowment valued at \$1B by 2012
- Develop and implement an annual strategic planning process including measurable goals aimed at assuring university-wide quality enhancement
 - Track academic program improvement via Academic Program Review (APR)
 - Deploy Middle States assessment recommendations
 - Track improvements in academic engagement via National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

Achieve the Highest Levels of Stakeholder Satisfaction

The extent to which the requirements and expectations of key stakeholder groups are met or exceeded by RIT, including students and their families; alumni; RIT faculty and staff; business community; government; donors.

- Through brand enhancement strategies contained in the 2006 Art and Science study, increase:
 - Undergraduate applications to 18,000 by 2012
 - Out-of-state undergraduate applications to 60% by 2012
 - Graduate applications to 5,500 by 2012
- Increase fundraising by increasing:
 - Annual fundraising to \$50M by 2013

The RIT 2005-2015 Strategic Plan

- Alumni giving to 13% by 2012
- Local and national annual donors to 20,500 by 2012
- Achieve best-in-class stakeholder satisfaction levels by 2012 as measured by regularly administered faculty, staff, and student satisfaction instruments
 - Attain a best-in-class average overall satisfaction score on Noel Levitz SSI
 - Attain a best-in-class average overall satisfaction score on employee satisfaction survey (to be selected)
 - Attain a best-in-class average overall satisfaction score for graduating students on Noel Levitz SSI

Guiding Principles

Students

- Providing opportunities for student success will motivate everything we do.
- The student climate will reflect the highest caliber of academic advising, professional counseling, caring, support, and mentoring.

Academics

- An RIT education will be a unique integration of high quality academic study and experiential learning, innovation, and creativity with a specific focus on successful careers.
- A high level of scholarship will be conducted in all academic areas to strengthen teaching and research and enhance the engagement of all undergraduate and graduate students in their learning experiences.
- Flexible and responsive curricula, programs, and systems will characterize the educational infrastructure.

Climate and Environment

- The campus climate will be one of openness, access, diversity, trust, mutual support, and effective communication.
- The university environment will reflect an aura of pride, spirit, and inclusion among all constituencies.

Synergy

- Global awareness and experience will permeate the university.
- Academic and extracurricular programs will be connected and mutually reinforcing.
- Interdisciplinary academic programs will be encouraged.

Financial Base

- Cost effective and revenue opportunistic activities—always consistent with and supportive of the above principles and priorities—will be pursued to augment the required financial base. There will be a continual review of the cost base of the university to insure that funds are appropriately allocated to support the strategic plan.

April 7, 2009

RIT's Expectations for Community Behavior

- RIT is a learning community where time, energy, and resources are directed toward learning and personal development.
- Members of the community live and work together to foster their own learning, as well as the learning of others, both in and outside the classroom.
- Within the community, members hold themselves and each other to high standards of personal integrity and responsibility.
- Individual members continually strive to exceed their personal best in academic performance and the development of interpersonal and professional skills and attributes.
- As a member of the community, each person continually conducts himself/herself in a manner that reflects thoughtful, civil, sober, and considerate behavior.
- As a member of the community, each person respects the dignity of all persons and acts to protect and safeguard the well being and property of others.
- As a member of the community, each individual contributes to the continued advancement and support of the community, personally challenging behavior that is contrary to the welfare of others.
- Members of the community create a campus culture that values diversity and discourages bigotry, while striving to learn from individual differences.

Approved by Institute Council – 2/11/98

RIT Honor Code

Integrity and strong moral character are valued and expected within and outside of the RIT community. As members of the RIT campus community, including students, trustees, faculty, staff, and administrators, we will:

- Demonstrate civility, respect, decency, and sensitivity towards our fellow members of the RIT community, and recognize that all individuals at this university are part of the larger RIT family, and as such are entitled to that support and mutual respect which they deserve.
- Conduct ourselves with the highest standards of moral and ethical behavior. Such behavior includes taking responsibility for our own personal choices, decisions, and academic and professional work.
- Affirm through the daily demonstration of these ideals that RIT is a university devoted to the pursuit of knowledge and a free exchange of ideas in an open and respectful climate.

The RIT Honor Code encompasses other RIT policies and procedures which can be found at www.rit.edu/policies. They include:

- RIT Core Values
- RIT Diversity Statement
- Research Oversight Policy (C1.0)
- Misconduct in Research and Scholarship (C2.0)
- Intellectual Property Policy (C3.0)
- Conflict of Interest Policy Pertaining to Externally Funded Projects (C4.0)
- Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research (C5.0)
- Policy Prohibiting Discrimination and Harassment (C6.0)
- Code of Conduct for Computer and Network Use (C8.0)
- Policy with Respect to Demonstrations on Campus (C11.0)
- Drug and Alcohol Policies (C15.1 – Student; C15.2 – Faculty/Staff)
- Illegal Conduct (C18.0)
- Academic Honesty Policy (D8.0)
- Academic Conduct and Appeals Procedures (D17.0)
- RIT Student Conduct Process (D18.0)
- RIT Expectations for Community Behavior (found in Student Rights and Responsibilities)

Approved October 11, 2006

Diversity at RIT

Statement of Information: Regarding the Chief Diversity Officer and the President's Commission on Pluralism and Inclusion. (www.diversity.rit.edu)

Revised 4/21/10

Chief Diversity Officer (CDO), Kevin McDonald

The Chief Diversity Officer has the responsibility for guiding efforts to conceptualize, define, assess, nurture, and cultivate diversity as an institutional and educational resource. For more information about the Chief Diversity Officer contact the office at **475-6546**.

The CDO is supported by the long-established President's Commission on Pluralism and Inclusion.

President's Commission on Pluralism and Inclusion

The President's Commission on Pluralism and Inclusion, established in 1991, is a university-wide committee comprised of RIT faculty, staff, students and administrators who regularly consults with the President of RIT on issues of diversity. The Commission organizes formal and informal programs and dialogues about the multi-faceted aspects of diversity—from celebrating cultural richness to developing interpersonal skills to interacting better within the global village. The Commission is recognized by the university as a professional development opportunity and qualifies as service to the Institute. The Commission is open to all members of the RIT community. Terms are for a period of two academic years (September–June)—renewable for one additional two-year term.

Mission

The mission of the President's Commission on Pluralism and Inclusion is to advocate for and promote a pluralistic and inclusive campus environment that honors the uniqueness of individual and cultural differences while incorporating those differences into the greater good of the entire campus.

As members within the RIT community, we work together toward the common goal of creating a community where shared values are incorporated into the vision and mission of the Commission, resulting in an enriched RIT organizational culture. The Commission promotes appreciation of diverse individuals in spite of differences in race, color, creed, religion, gender, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, language use, and physical ability. Respecting these differences results in a positive change and becomes a key factor for promoting pluralism at RIT.

Diversity at RIT

Opportunities To Make a Difference

The President's Commission on Pluralism and Inclusion seeks nominees and recommendations for membership on an annual basis. Members serve two-year terms and participate on one or more of the sub-committees listed below. The Commission also encourages and welcomes participation from all members of RIT on any of the sub-committees of the Commission or, by:

- attending and/or volunteering at commission-sponsored events throughout the year
- providing feedback to the Commission regarding current issues relating to pluralism and diversity
- recommending topics of interest or strategies that would promote a better sense of community and understanding
- sharing concerns with the Commission if RIT is not meeting its commitment to promote a diverse community or if a specific instance where discrimination has taken place is known
- reflecting on one's own stance and feelings about being part of a diverse community and renewing your commitment to making RIT a place where all community members can feel welcomed and appreciated

Subcommittees of the Commission

Program Development

This committee plans, coordinates and implements annual programs of the Commission and researches and recommends new initiatives. The Program Development Committee also facilitates discussions on issues related to cultural diversity within the RIT community through programming events, workshops, and seminars.

Public Relations

This committee promotes the work of the Commission to the RIT and greater Rochester communities. Public Relations also increases the visibility of campus initiatives and news related to diversity.

Diversity Leadership

Through research of best practices, this committee makes recommendations regarding the integration of diversity into the many facets of the academic and professional experiences at RIT. Additionally, the committee recommends and supports the assessment of diversity initiatives and programs at RIT.

Community Affairs

This committee develops and plans new strategic initiatives and external funding opportunities to support current programming. Community Affairs also increases the commission's presence with K-12 partnerships and the RIT student and alumni communities.

Diversity at RIT

Annual Events Sponsored by the President's Commission on Pluralism and Inclusion

Each year the Commission hosts several signature events, which are open to all members of the RIT community. All events are free and touch on current topics of interest in the diversity and pluralism arena.

Campus Week of Dialogue November 8-12, 2010

Offers campus members an opportunity to build relationships, acknowledge and understand the needs of the RIT campus community, and engage in needed conversation to increase the comfort level when talking about difficult issues related to diversity and inclusion.

Expressions of King's Legacy January 24-28, 2011

A celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as well as a week-long series of workshops, entertainment, and dialogue, covering topics such as social and educational issues, culture, and music.

For more information regarding the President's Commission on Pluralism and Inclusion, please contact the Commission chairpersons:

Jason T. Yonker, Ph.D.
475-5549
jtygla@rit.edu

Sandra Whitmore
475-5453
swwpro@rit.edu

Website: www.diversity.rit.edu



Johnnetta Cole, Diversity Conference Speaker

Image by A. Sue Weisler, RIT

Sustainability at RIT

What is sustainability and why does it matter?

Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations. RIT recognizes that the sustainable choices made by students, staff, and faculty will resonate for generations throughout western New York. The RIT community is improving the cleanliness of the greater environment in real and measurable ways by making the campus more environmentally friendly and by engaging in sustainable practices. (www.rit.edu/ritgreen)

Five things RIT is doing to practice sustainability

- The new University Services Center at RIT has been certified LEED Platinum by the U.S. Green Building Council, which represents that organization's highest designation. RIT's University Services Center became the first building in Monroe County to receive platinum certification. It is also only the second such designated facility at a college or university in New York State.
- To reduce automobile pollution, RIT is creating new bike paths on campus, utilizing a fleet of alternative energy vehicles including three hydrogen-powered cars, and is expanding its free shuttle services.
- The dining facility, The Ritz Sports Zone, recently partnered with Regional Distributor, Inc. to convert as many RIT's food and drink containers as possible to recyclable PET #1 and #2 plastics.
- On Earth Day 2009, President Destler signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, which has been signed by hundreds of college and university presidents nationwide. The Commitment provides support and a framework for America's colleges and universities to go climate neutral.
- RIT has partnered with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to advance clean energy research and education.

Five things you can do as a student to live more sustainably

- Always recycle. Find out what is recyclable in Monroe County at www.rit.edu/sg/seal/rit/recycle
- Bring your own mug when you purchase fountain drinks on campus. Most places will give you a discount for doing so.
- Unplug devices like cell phone chargers from outlets when you aren't using them. Electronic devices still draw power from the wall if they remain plugged in.
- Print documents double-sided at the computer lab and read articles on the computer instead of printing them.
- Become involved in environmental student organizations such as the Student Environmental Action League (www.rit.edu/seal) and Engineers for a Sustainable World (www.rit.edu/esw).