



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

HARRY B. BRONSON  
Assemblymember  
138<sup>th</sup> District

CHAIR  
Commission on Skills Development  
and Career Education

COMMITTEES  
Agriculture  
Economic Development, Job Creation,  
Commerce and Industry  
Labor  
Local Governments  
Steering  
Transportation

Dear N.T.I.D. Alumni and Guests,

I welcome you to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the creation of National Technical Institute for the Deaf at the Rochester Institute of Technology, and thank you for your support of Rochester, the state of New York and the N.T.I.D. campus and community. As a nation we have made great strides forward in the education and equality of those who are deaf or hard of hearing and have many reasons to celebrate.

In the words of Peter Peterson, a Deaf teacher at the Minnesota School for the Deaf, who wrote in 1930 that:

*"A national technical institute for the deaf located in a large manufacturing city, is what deaf young America needs more than anything else...dormitories...a director... such an institution should include several buildings filled with modern machines, appliances, tools, materials, dormitories gymnasium, library, tennis courts, trees, shrubs, flowers, a director, staff of competent instructors, and 500 students."*

Starting with the first graduating class of 54 students, I believe that you have been able to accomplish that and so much more.

Today's campus proudly educates in more than 17,000 students including over 1,250 deaf and hard of hearing students enrolled in programs that are unmatched by any university in the world. RIT provides one of the most accessible education communities in the nation for deaf and hard of hearing students.

There is no doubt in my mind that N.T.I.D. has played a significant role in educating so many, both nationally and internationally, so that they may live full and honest lives with dignity, equality, and respect.

You have enriched our nation, celebrated our diversity, and brought visibility to the deaf and hard of hearing community through academic and technical education.

Thank you to the alumni, current students, faculty and staff, both past and present for your strong dedication and commitment to make N.T.I.D. an internationally recognized institution of higher education.

Cordially,

Harry B. Bronson  
Member of Assembly

