

This message is sent on behalf of Jeremy Haefner, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Colleagues,

Over the past several years RIT has created and expanded a number of programs and organizations to promote student-based innovation and entrepreneurship projects. These organizations have made important progress advancing student innovation projects and learning throughout RIT. For example, BestCollegesOnline.com recently listed RIT's Simone Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship as the top student incubator in the country. Additionally, the Center for Student Innovation's IdeaLab program in collaboration with the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA) received national attention.

Throughout last year, we investigated new approaches to expand and clarify our programs' branding, effectiveness, and inclusivity. After exploring a number of options, I am pleased to announce the following changes:

- The Simone Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Center for Student Innovation have merged to become a new single organization: the Simone Center for Student Innovation and Entrepreneurship. This new organization will continue to provide students with extraordinary multidisciplinary innovation and entrepreneurial training and assistance.
- A new faculty-based Innovation Council will be created with representation from all the colleges. This council will provide the guidance for expanding the Center's inclusiveness and impact on the RIT student community.
- The Center for Student Innovation building will be renamed the Student Innovation Hall, which will continue to serve as a hub for innovation activities throughout the university.

Both centers' existing innovation and entrepreneurial programs will continue and be scaled in the new merged entity. The Center will be administered by Dr. Richard DeMartino, the Simone Endowed Chair for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, with the guidance and support of the new Innovation Council.

Over the next few months, you will see the Simone Center web presence and materials revised to reflect this change. I ask faculty and staff to share with students these changes and the opportunities for students to gain assistance, mentoring, and coaching for their innovative ideas, inventions, and business concepts. For further information or opportunities to participate, please contact Richard DeMartino (rdemartino@saunders.rit.edu).

Jeremy Haefner
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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