

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

Colleagues,

I am pleased to formally announce the selection of a new executive director for the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies (CMS). After an extensive interview process, Dr. James C. Hall has accepted our offer and will join RIT in this important role.

Dr. Hall comes from the University of Alabama, where he served as director of New College at Alabama and executive director of the Consortium for Innovative Environments in Learning (CIEL). New College includes two undergraduate interdisciplinary studies programs, as well as distance and adult learning opportunities.

Prior to the University of Alabama, Dr. Hall served as the director of undergraduate studies at the University of Illinois. Dr. Hall completed his Ph.D. and MA in American studies at the University of Iowa. He has also completed an MA in religion and culture and BA in English at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario. Additionally, Dr. Hall has completed an MTS in systematic theology at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. His research and professional interests include African American literature as well as higher education innovation and reform.

In his new role as executive director, Dr. Hall will provide leadership for CMS, working closely with faculty, staff, and administrators across campus to lead CMS and its initiatives, including serving as an advocate to students, faculty, and administrators for the academic and career value of customized, multidisciplinary degrees. Recognizing the importance of this position, Dr. Hall will be a member of the council of deans.

I would like to recognize the search committee members, led by interim Director Mary Boyd and supported by Christine Lang: Abby Cantwell, CMS; Thomas Hanney, CMS; Rajendra Raj, GCCIS; Stan Rickel, CIAS; Kitren VanStrander, Outreach Education and Training; and Lynn Wild, associate provost for faculty development. Thank you for your contributions of time, effort and insight to the candidate identification and selection process.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. James Hall to our university.

Jeremy Haefner  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

*For more information on this and other topics, please visit <http://www.rit.edu/provost/>*