Center for Student Innovation

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What is innovation?

A process and continuum that entails the realization of an impactful idea.

*Commercial Innovation* refers to innovation that results in a commercial product or service. *Social Innovation* refers to innovation that serves to improve the human condition in a broad sense.
CSI - Mission

The Center for Student Innovation will facilitate diverse student teams to learn to collaborate, communicate, conceptualize, invent, experiment, and iterate through the development and realization of new solutions to worthy problems; in short, the CSI will support the learning process for innovation.
CSI – Vision: What it will be

The CSI will be

- A workplace where students innovate with each other and with clients, businesses and community organizations
- A nexus of multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary innovation for students throughout RIT
- A ‘hands-on’ showcase for innovation, including an innovation ‘hall of fame’ that dramatically displays the innovation of our alumni
- A place for gatherings, seminars, and workshops that support all aspects of innovation
- A virtual hub and clearing house of RIT innovation resources
CSI Primary Activity

With the help of RIT faculty and staff in mentorship capacity, multidisciplinary teams of students will work creatively on

– ideas, whose realization will exemplify social or commercial innovation;

– solutions to worthy problems that may come from students, external partners, faculty or any community member.
CSI Secondary Activities

- An Innovation Showcase that not only highlights current student work but also will celebrate the innovation of RIT alumni.
- Student presentations and displays will serve to (i) promote the CSI activities, (ii) recruit students, and (iii) assess the effectiveness of the CSI.
- The CSI will sponsor and host workshops, lectures, and meetings that support the learning of the innovation process.
- ‘Innovation fairs’ will allow the CSI to host alumni, the greater Rochester community, and other innovators in order to sponsor student teams to develop ideas and solve worthy problems.
CSI – Student Learning Outcomes

Students who participate in the Center for Student Innovation will achieve:

• An understanding and practice in, the entire innovation process;
• An appreciation of historical, cultural, social, environmental contexts as guideposts to future innovation;
• An ability to join, contribute or lead multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary teams;

• An ability to take risks, expose works-in-progress, improvise, admit ignorance and explore;
• An ability to shape processes to achieve goals and produce realizations;
• An understanding of, and proficiency in, technologies of communication and collaboration; and
• An understanding and appreciation for other disciplines and diverse perspectives.
Administration

• Administered from Provost’s Office to reflect institute-wide emphasis

• 3 main administrative functions:
  – Programmatic: coordinates workshops, seminars, relationships (students, solution-seekers, solution-providers, etc.); identifies and encourages new and existing innovation-related RIT activities through the SIH.
  – Strategic and Administrative: provides logistical management and support for student teams; focuses on the advancement of SIH; liaisons with key stakeholders

• Director, staff assistant, faculty associates

• Advisory board – community, alumni, RIT stakeholders
CSI – How students will engage …

The students in the CSI will be …

– Recruited
– Come from all RIT programs
– Enticed by mini-grants
– Employees, co-op students, or mentors
– Participants in special events, workshops, lectures, etc.
SOME AY 09 innovation curriculum projects

- Collaborative Innovation Program
- Simone Center for Entrepreneurship
- MERIT Senior Design Collaboratory
- Open Publishing Lab
- Lab for Social Computing
- Realization Production Development Sequence
- Video Gaming Lab
- Tinkerer's lab
- Rochester Artech
- General Ed discussions