Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the recipients for the Innovation in Interdisciplinary Teaching grant awards. President Destler established this new faculty development fund in order to encourage more interdisciplinary activity on campus, a key objective of the RIT “Greatness through Difference” strategic plan.

It was delightful to see the enthusiastic response from the faculty in the form of interesting and creative proposals. The number and quality of proposals submitted exceeded the expectations of the review committee, and many compelling proposals that were not funded show promise for future development. Faculty engaged in implementing the following funded proposals will ultimately explore problems and solutions which span disciplinary boundaries and reflect RIT’s strategic priorities:

“Capstones across Colleges”
Sarah Brownell (KGCOE), Elizabeth DeBartolo (KGCOE), Shal Khazanchi (SCB), Susan Farnand (COS), and Stan Rickel (CIAS)

“Climate Change Curriculum”
Nathan Eddingsaas (COS), Eric Hittinger (COLA), Matthew J. Hoffman (COS), Christy Tyler (COS)

“Interdisciplinary IGM and 3DDD Course”
Jessica Bayliss (GCCIS) and Marla Schweppe (CIAS)

“The Meaning of Things – in Three Objects”
Thomas Hanney (SOIS), Al Biles, (GCCIS), Babak Elahi (COLA), Mark Indelicato (CAST), Mike Johansson (COLA), Mindy Magyar (CIAS), David Neumann (COLA)

“narRITives Project”
Juilee Decker (COLA), Andrea Hickerson (COLA), Brian Larson (CIAS)

World Making and the Creation of Responsible Knowledge: An Integrated Salon and Labinar Approach to Innovation in Graduate Education”
Timothy Engstrom (COLA), Hector Flores (Graduate Studies), Carlos Lousto (COS), Jennifer Schneider (CAST)

These grants will support efforts to grow our interdisciplinary programming, broadening faculty networks and expertise as well as offering students the opportunity to participate in emerging interdisciplinary fields.

I extend my great gratitude to the faculty who helped shape this initiative. A number of individuals developed and executed a process that framed the original request for proposals and others played an important role while serving on the evaluation committee. Thanks go to: Richard DeMartino and James
Hall (co-chairs), Elizabeth Hane (COS), Clark Hochgraf (CAST), Elizabeth Lawley (GCCIS), and Kit Mayberry, vice president for strategic planning and special initiatives.

Please join me in congratulating these colleagues who are blazing a trail for future interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching at RIT. And watch for the next call for proposals in the spring!

Jeremy Haefner
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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