Dear RIT Community:

I am pleased to announce that October 3-5, RIT will be hosting 28 faculty from Malmö University, Malmö, Sweden to participate in a symposium, *Sustainable Urban Development: International Perspectives on The University as Partner in the Transformation of The Post-Industrial City*. The symposium is sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and the Office of the Associate Provost for International Education and Global Programs. It will take place 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. in Louise Slaughter Hall. The symposium will include many panels involving faculty from across RIT and faculty from Malmö University. Topics include:

- International perspectives on the engaged university
- Social innovation, transformation and the co-production of knowledge
- The role of art, culture and aesthetics in the discourse of sustainability
- Governance, collaboration, and advocacy
- Producing, mapping space and designing space
- Environment, social sustainability and public health
- Sustainable architecture and sustainable community: what is the connection?
- Immigration, migration and urban sustainability
- Visualizing the city: ways of imaging and representing the built and social worlds
- Digital practices and sustainable publics

The purpose of this symposium is to bring together scholars and administrators from Malmö University (MU) and Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) to broaden and strengthen the academic and international collaboration between MU and RIT and to further develop the partnership that has been emerging between these two institutions since 2009. Since its formal inception in 2010, the partnership has been built on mutual interest and commitment, enthusiasm, similarities in institutional mission, academic orientation and pedagogical approach, as well as on collaborative research projects. MU and RIT share a pronounced ambition to collaborate with the private and public sectors and a strategic aim to offer education that can meet future societal challenges. With the foundation already established, the symposium will highlight the unique opportunities associated with a comprehensive international university partnership.

A key outcome of the symposium will be a deepened academic partnership, with specific implications for collaborative research and scholarship, curriculum and program development, and student/academic staff mobility.
A major focus of the symposium will be the strategic value of the university to the municipalities and regions of Malmö and Rochester. The emphasis on sustainable urban development will be the foundation for MU and RIT to engage in joint course, curriculum and program development; collaborative research and scholarship; and student and academic staff mobility. Major areas for ongoing exploration include sustainability, urban development, architecture, media and communication, interactive design, photography and film, technology and engineering, migration and health.

Further, the symposium will provide opportunities for members of the Rochester community to learn about and to engage in the MU/RIT partnership. This will reinforce existing university/community collaborations and identify new ones, including connections between the City of Rochester and the City of Malmö. Planning is underway to formalize a sister-city relationship between Rochester and Malmö, under the aegis of Sister Cities International. The symposium will provide a venue for further discussions on this relationship, the role of MU and RIT, the potential for cultural exchange programs, shared research, and economic development projects between Malmö and Rochester.

A final schedule will be available shortly. Please plan to attend and invite your students, as schedules will allow.

Jeremy Haefner, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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