A message from the Vice President for Research

Rochester Institute of Technology’s research funding grew by close to 10 percent in fiscal year 2013, topping $47 million in total funding. In spite of the challenging economic and competitive climate, our investigators persevered in obtaining funding and are to be commended for their efforts along with our able research support staff. RIT received more than 400 new awards in the fiscal year 2013 from a variety of state, federal, corporate and foundation sponsors — a record for the university. The past year was in some ways a watershed at RIT, with multiple investigators across colleges and institutes winning several large, multi-year, peer-reviewed research awards. This is an indicator of how much RIT has matured as a research university and bodes well for future funding, as our community of investigators works with sponsors across industry and government to solve problems in innovative ways.

This report provides a brief snapshot of the research enterprise at RIT, including sponsored funding, technology commercialization and company startups. We look forward to fostering exciting new partnerships in the year ahead.

Ryne Raffaelle
Vice President for Research & Associate Provost
FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Callie Babbitt, Golisano Institute for Sustainability, received the prestigious Faculty Early Career Development Program Award from the National Science Foundation to study the sustainable management of lithium-ion batteries.

Margaret Bailey, mechanical engineering, won a $3.2 million award from the National Science Foundation to increase the representation and advancement of women faculty in the engineering and science disciplines.

In partnership with local companies, Denis Cormier, industrial and systems engineering, received a National Science Foundation Accelerating Innovation Research grant to build innovation capacity in the emerging fields of printed devices.

Stephanie Ludi, software engineering, won two National Science Foundation grants totaling nearly $1 million to provide greater access to visually impaired and blind students.

Marc Marschark, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, won a $2.3 million, four-year research grant from the National Institutes of Health to look at the language, learning and cognitive abilities of deaf students with cochlear implants.

Carlos Lousto, School of Mathematical Sciences, was elected as a fellow of the American Physical Society.

Grover Swartzlander, imaging science and physics, has been appointed the editor-in-chief of the international scientific publication Journal of the Optical Society of America B.

The Department of Energy awarded David Forbes, NanoPower Research Laboratory, an $860,000 grant to develop a high-efficiency solar cell, which can achieve a greater conversion efficiency than is currently possible with existing photovoltaic technologies.

Bruce Smith, director, microsystems engineering program, was elected as a fellow of the Optical Society of America.
Venture Creations Incubator
Success Stories

**Darkwind Media**
Focuses on “porting” games and other 3-D based applications between various hardware platforms. Started as a student company that was developing games.

**BlackBox BioMetrics**
Develops concussion measuring devices that are worn by the military in combat. The product is based on DOD-funded research done at RIT and the founder is an RIT faculty member. Product is fully commercial and being worn by soldiers in combat.

**FluxData**
Develops multi-spectral imaging systems. Founder is an RIT alumnus who has been involved in two previous startups. The product is fully commercial with one currently operating on the International Space Station.

**IMSWorkx**
Develops application software for “all IP” telecommunications networks. Founder is an RIT alumna. Finalist in 2013 Rochester Business Plan competition.