

**The Greater Expectations Tiger Team:
Integrating the undergraduate experience
April 2009**

Context: RIT will send a team of faculty, staff, and students to the Greater Expectations Institute, which is sponsored by the American Association of Colleges and Universities.

Charge: The RIT Team will devise a cohesive framework and plan to maximize RIT student learning and engagement through the integration of RIT's general education outcomes and curriculum, first year experience, innovation curriculum, learning communities, undergraduate research opportunities, and summer book program, particularly as these programs impact RIT first year students. The framework must advance the RIT vision: "RIT will lead higher education in preparing students for innovative, creative and successful careers in a global society." Specifically, the goals of project are to:

1. Integrate in a systemic, cohesive and intentional manner the programs listed above that support student learning and engagement;
2. Provide students with clarity of purpose, intentionality and direction for the undergraduate education experience; and
3. Establish a unique and excellent undergraduate experience in keeping with RIT's vision of an innovation university.

Membership: The RIT Greater Expectations Tiger team will consist of 8 faculty members, 3 student affairs staff, and 2 students. The team will be selected by the provost and the VP for Student Affairs using a nomination process and a small committee from academic senate and student affairs. It is important that individuals are selected who have creative ideas AND the ability to implement changes once they return to campus.

A "Greater Expectations Ground Support" team will also be assembled. The individuals in this group will provide support and assistance for the acceptance/approval of the action plan.

Prior to the Institute: The team will receive a thorough briefing of the current status of general education reform, first year experience, innovation curriculum, learning communities, undergraduate research, and summer programming. The briefing will also include the project plan and goals, the recommendations from the



June 17-21, 2009 | Dudley H. Davis
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Student Success tiger teams, the Innovation Working Group, and the latest from the General Education learning outcomes and curriculum working groups.

The institute: The Greater Expectations Institute is sponsored by the American Association of Colleges and Universities and will take place June 17-21, 2009 at the University of Vermont. RIT will cover all travel, food and boarding expenses during this workshop. The Institute helps campus teams develop and strengthen learning environments and align their specific project to their institution's mission, clarify desired outcomes, create a comprehensive vision for change, refine planning and processes, and build a culture of high expectations that fosters student and institutional learning. More information about the institute is available at: <http://www.aacu.org/meetings/gexinstitute/index.cfm>.

After the institute: The team will return from the Greater Expectations Institute and will complete a report, capturing their plan of action. The team will present a campus forum and then work with a larger implementation team to finalize an action plan. It is expected that parts of the action plan will require governance approval. The team will continue to champion and provide leadership throughout the project.