

# THE EVOLUTION OF RIT'S INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY



RITGLOBAL

# RIT INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND GLOBAL PROGRAMS

## STRATEGY SUMMARY

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Five guiding principles developed and approved by the Global Education Taskforce of the Academic Senate (Spring of 2012).

▲ **Comprehensiveness:** RIT is committed to pursuing comprehensive internationalization. This approach to internationalization is integrated and strategic in nature and involves clearly defined curricular and co-curricular international learning outcomes.

▲ **Faculty leadership:** RIT is committed to a model of internationalization achieved through faculty leadership and engagement.

▲ **Academic excellence:** RIT is committed to attaining high standards of ethical performance in international education. Academic excellence is evidence based and demonstrated through best practices in pedagogy, scholarship, outcomes assessment, and program administration. At RIT, academic excellence implies an understanding of both the theoretical and applied dimensions of international education; and, will often include a strong career orientation.

▲ **Engagement:** RIT is committed to a model of international education that requires and supports active engagement with people from different cultures, races, and ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. Through engagement, students develop intercultural intelligence and knowledge and create new friendships with colleagues from around the globe.

▲ **Student Centered Inclusiveness:** RIT is committed to developing international learning experiences and academic programs that are student centered, inclusive, and accessible to all students regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, gender, religion or socioeconomic status. A commitment to student centered inclusiveness is a commitment to developing educational opportunities corresponding to the demographic and cultural realities of RIT students.

### THREE PILLARS AND FOUNDATION FOR STRATEGIC INTERNATIONALIZATION

The Guiding Principles were used to inform and guide the development of three pillars and a faculty centered foundation. These pillars were defined by the Associate Provost for International Education and Global Programs in tandem with the Academic Senate Global Education Taskforce (Spring 2012).

**Pillar I. Fostering Global Knowledge and Competencies:** The curricular dimensions of RIT's International strategy as reflected in the Academic Program Blue Print, the Gen Ed curriculum, Gen Ed outcomes, professional education outcomes, new international course and program

development, and the credentialing and recognition of student attainment of global knowledge and competency.

**Pillar II. Internationalizing the Student Experience:** The domestic and international experiences that are intentional in their focus on career success, innovation, and the highly experiential and STEM orientation of RIT. Dimensions include international cooperative education, short-term and long-term study abroad, international undergraduate and graduate research, domestic multicultural immersions, and integration of the international student population on the RIT-Rochester campus.

**Pillar III. Having Global Impact—Programs and Research Abroad:** The RIT education is uniquely positioned to help solve many of the world's problems and to meet private and public sector need world-wide. Dimensions include the various approaches and rationale for delivering courses, programs, and degrees abroad; and the critical assessment of the geographic relevance of where and how we engage and deliver programs.

**The Faculty Foundation:** The support systems and resources for faculty to develop international networks, deliver international courses, and create unique international experiences. Dimensions include capacity building, governance, promotion and tenure policies, administrative policy development, and ensuring administrative support functions necessary to realize our goals.

## **STRATEGIC GOALS**

The Pillars and Foundation were used to develop a set of Four Strategic Goals for Internationalization and Global Engagement. The following goals were developed in partnership with the Education Core Committee of the Board of Trustees, and approved by the Board of Trustees at the January 2014 Board Meeting.

### **Goal #1**

100% of RIT students will:

- a. Develop global knowledge and cultural competency through course work and experiences grounded in the general education curriculum.
- b. Develop global knowledge and cultural competency through course work and experiences in their chosen field of study.

#### **Sub-goals/Metrics:**

RIT students will be judged "Competent" when assessed on General Education outcomes in Global, Social, Ethical and Artistic perspectives. (Average across class year).

100% of RIT students will have a discipline specific course addressing global and international issues in their career/professional discipline.

Every RIT student will have the opportunity to participate in an international education experience focusing on global issues and cultural differences in discipline specific problem solving. (All campus locations and on-line learning.)

## Goal #2

RIT will become a distinguished international university by creating a select group of unique academic programs focusing on global professional practice and international expertise.

## Goal #3

RIT's international education learning outcomes, and its international reputation, will be materially enhanced by strategically supporting international research partnerships, establishing select programs in emerging international centers of excellence and enabling innovative ways of educating international students.

A subsequent goal (#4), related to Global Community, was added at the request of the Academic Senate Global Education Taskforce, but was not included in the group of goals approved by the trustees.

## **RIT STRATEGIC PLAN: GREATNESS THROUGH DIFFERENCE**

These three strategic goals were used to inform and develop the four goals for international and global education and the 15 objectives, associated with Dimension III, in the RIT Strategic Plan: Greatness through Difference.

### **Dimension III: Leveraging Difference**

Through our new strategic plan, we will intentionally develop practices, opportunities, and programs that harness the power of difference to drive creative solutions, innovative combinations, and productive collaboration.

#### **The Four Difference Makers in the strategic plan related to international and global education:**

- ▲ RIT will be among the **top five national (private) universities in global engagement**, as measured by the breadth and size of its international student and alumni populations.
- ▲ **RIT students** will be internationally recognized for their global experience, their mastery of intercultural competencies, and their engagement with globally relevant problems.
- ▲ **RIT faculty** will be internationally recognized for their global experience, their mastery of intercultural competencies, and their engagement with globally relevant problems.
- ▲ RIT will establish **targeted centers of collaborative research with international universities**, laboratories and/or corporations in areas of common expertise and aligned goals.