

This message is sent on behalf of Jeremy Haefner, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Members of the RIT Community,

It is with mixed emotions that I inform the campus that Dr. Andrew Sears will be leaving RIT in early July to join Penn State as the next dean of the College of Information Sciences and Technology. If there is a silver lining in this announcement, it is that other institutions are realizing RIT has terrific talent in our people and that we should be proud that Dr. Sears will be leaving us for a great institution.

Under his leadership, the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences has made significant strides forward. Enrollments in the college have substantially increased, more faculty are engaged in sponsored research and have been successful with winning awards, new programs and departments have emerged, and the college has established a reputation as the country's largest producer of computing degrees for a private institution.

The deanship at Penn State is a terrific opportunity for Dr. Sears and we wish him all the best. I am certain that we will see new partnerships emerge between RIT and Penn State.

Regarding the next steps for leadership, I have informed the GCCIS community that we will begin a search for the permanent dean in the fall. This means that, over the coming months, I will identify an interim dean (through an appropriate process) as well as establish a search committee. Please look for further information as we work through the details.

Jeremy Haefner
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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