

# RIT HHMI Inclusive Excellence—Overview

## Initiative Goals

- Develop community understanding of inclusiveness
- Foster a welcoming and inclusive environment in the College of Science
- Cultivate meaningful research and workshops
- Generate classroom metacognitive & affirmative activities

## Contact:

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## VISION

A college that recognizes the importance of inclusivity, nurtures the unique abilities of diverse students, and forms a community with multiple opportunities for formal and informal mentoring.

## INTENT/OBJECTIVE

This initiative will increase diversity among undergraduate science majors, which includes developing a strategy for supporting success. The project will increase infrastructure, resources and expertise to strengthen inclusion in STEM education—embracing perspectives, strengths and insight from a multicultural base of faculty, staff and students in the natural sciences.

## About the Initiative

In June of 2017, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) awarded Rochester Institute of Technology \$1 million to conduct the 5-year project, with a focus on undergraduate science majors. This initiative plans to ultimately extend campus-wide, and will serve as a national model for other institutions.

## Three Critical Strands

Multiple aspects are key to a successful student experience. They include a strong support network, inclusive environment that encourages open and safe conversation and good listening, and tools to understand themselves and others. Focus will be placed on impacting students across three areas with three distinct objectives:

### Research/Labs

Engage faculty in discussion about identifying, recruiting, and mentoring a diverse student population in the research lab

### Teaching/Classroom Practice

Introduce faculty to metacognitive strategies that improve student learning

### Community/Theater

Foster a welcoming and inclusive environment in the College of Science

**Visit:** <https://www.rit.edu/science/castle/programs/hhmi/overview>

for information and full list of faculty leadership team and strand leaders.

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