

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

To RIT faculty and staff:

I'm pleased to share some exciting news with you. After lengthy discussions and much due diligence, RIT has signed on to become the newest partner of edX, an open-source, research-focused learning portal now serving some 5 million learners online.

The partnership was announced today at edX's worldwide partnership forum in Washington, D.C. Partnering with this nonprofit, which was founded by Harvard and MIT and already counts some of the nation's top universities such as Cornell, University of Texas, Georgetown, Caltech, UC Berkeley and Columbia among its partners, offers many opportunities that are central to achieving our strategic goals, including our commitment to be on the cutting edge of understanding how students learn and how technology can be used to enrich that learning..

It offers RIT the chance to collaborate with edX's other university partners, helping RIT continue to raise its national profile among innovative leaders in education. It provides RIT with the ability to reach nearly 5 million learners already accessing the edX platform, connecting us with new students and raising awareness of the educational opportunities RIT has to offer.

The platform also will be available to divisions beyond Academic Affairs, with the details of how RIT will engage edX to be discussed in the coming weeks and months. A university-wide task force will be formed to offer guidance on aspects of the implementation and use. I look forward to sharing more information and hearing your ideas, and will devote part of an upcoming Provost's Town Hall – 8:30 a.m. January 28 in University Gallery – to answer questions and discuss how we can leverage this partnership to assist in achieving our major academic goals. More information on edX is available on my [website](#).

EdX plans to make a more formal announcement on this exciting venture in the coming months.

Jeremy Haefner
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

For more information on this and other topics, please visit <http://www.rit.edu/provost/>