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## Dr. James DeCaro Receives Local, International Honors

September 4, 2007

Dr. James J. DeCaro of Pittsford, director of the Postsecondary Education Network-International, a grant program affiliated with Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf, received the inaugural James. J. DeCaro Leadership Award from the Rochester Hearing and Speech Center and was named Ambassador of Goodwill for People who are Disabled by the city of Tianjin, China.

DeCaro, immediate past chairman of the RHSC board, has served on the board for seven years. He was chairman during the renovation of the Center's Elmwood Avenue campus and the 2007 opening of a satellite location in Webster.

"Jim has been a generous donor and has helped spearhead new and improved development efforts for RHSC," said Dr. Peter Hixson, RHSC president. "He has brought an immense amount of enthusiasm, energy and talent as leader of the board and our volunteers."

The award from China recognizes DeCaro's commitment to bettering educational opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing students in that country. PEN-International is a multinational partnership of colleges and universities worldwide that was created in 2001 through grants funded by The Nippon Foundation of Japan. Its goal is to improve and expand postsecondary education for deaf and hard-of-hearing students around the world by sharing educational technology and conducting faculty development and training, particularly in developing countries.

Zhang Jianqing, deputy director of the Office of International Programs, Tianjin Education Commission, accepted the award for DeCaro at a ceremony in Tianjin.

"We applaud your efforts and contributions on behalf of all deaf and hard of hearing people in China," said Professor Bao Guodong of Tianjin University of Technology, who nominated DeCaro for the award.

NTID is the first and largest technological college in the world for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. One of eight colleges of RIT, NTID offers educational programs and access and support services for the 1,100 deaf and hard-of-hearing students from around the world who study, live, and socialize with 14,400 hearing students on RIT's Rochester, N.Y., campus.

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**Rochester Institute of Technology**

National Technical Institute for the Deaf

52 Lomb Memorial Drive | Rochester, NY 14623 | Office of Admissions: 585-475-6700 (voice/TTY)

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