



## October Update

Dear Colleagues,

It was great to see so many of you at Brick City Homecoming weekend. Thank you to everyone who participated in showcasing all that RIT has to offer. It's hard to believe that in just a few short weeks, we will be heading into Thanksgiving break. Before then, I want to draw your attention to the following updates.

### **Inauguration of Dr. Solomon | National Technical Institute for the Deaf**

Dr. Caroline Solomon was officially installed as NTID president on October 10, 2025. Dr. Solomon is the first deaf female President of NTID. Her acceptance remarks were incredibly inspiring. She reminded the audience that "leadership does not have one voice or one story" and encouraged everyone to "imagine higher education not as it has always been, but as it must become." To accomplish this, she challenged us to see our role as educators, "not only to reflect the world, but to reshape it—to ask the hard questions, to disrupt the status quo, and to model the society we hope to create." You can [read her remarks](#) on the NTID website. Her message holds something for each of us.

### **Disability Services Office (DSO) Office Hour**

I am pleased to share that Keri Barone, DSO Faculty Fellow in the Provost's Office, and Kate Torres, Director of the Disability Services Office, will host a live Zoom Question and Answer Session designed to help faculty navigate accommodation

processes for students who need support in the classroom. I encourage you to join this call to get clear answers in real time.

### **Disability Service Office Open Hour for Faculty**

Friday, Nov 7, 2025 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://rit.zoom.us/j/93634662624>

Meeting ID: 936 3466 2624

Please request Interpreting Services in advance.

They will touch upon topics like note-taking support, setting up flex plans, and managing competing access needs. However, most of the time will be dedicated to answering your questions. If you would like to submit questions in advance to be addressed during the meeting, please email: Keri Barone ([klbgpt@rit.edu](mailto:klbgpt@rit.edu)).

### **Managed Vacancies**

After a thorough review, a limited number of mission-critical faculty and staff positions were approved to begin searches. The managed vacancy directive is still in place, and we will continue to carefully evaluate every open position. 100% grant-funded positions are exempt from the formal review process and may proceed through standard hiring protocols.

### **Faculty Workload**

Early in AY 2024-2025, I engaged the deans in a discussion about faculty workload and requested that they review, discuss and potentially revise their college workload guidelines with their faculty. Some colleges actually completed this process in AY 23-24. An executive summary titled, *Faculty Workload: Executive Summary - October 2025*, is available on the [Office of the Provost Communications website](#).

### **General Education**

The General Education Taskforce recently presented its recommendations to the Inter-college Curriculum Committee (ICC) and Faculty Senate. The ICC endorsed forming working groups to develop detailed proposals on the task force recommendations. Once proposals are developed they will then proceed to GEC,

ICC, and Faculty Senate for approval. The full report has now been shared with key governance bodies; and [a summary is available](#).

I asked the General Education Committee (GEC) to issue a call for faculty nominations for the identified working groups. Once nominations are in, I will request GEC's guidance on the selection process. I'm grateful to the task force members for their thoughtful work and to the many members of our community for their input and feedback over the last year and a half.

### **Provost Speaker Series**

As a reminder, please join us for the first installment of the Provost's Lunch and Learn Speaker Series, featuring Dr. Jeyhan Kartaltepe, who will present:

[“Exploring the Universe with the James Webb Space Telescope”](#)

Friday, November 14, 2025

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Online only | [Registration is required](#).

You don't need to be an astrophysicist to enjoy this talk! Dr. Kartaltepe will guide us through the groundbreaking discoveries made possible by the James Webb Space Telescope in a way that is accessible and engaging for all members of Academic Affairs. She'll also highlight why this work matters—not just to the field of astronomy, but to the broader academic and research community.

As always, thank you for your dedication to RIT and our students.

Sincerely,



Prabu David, Ph.D.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs