

RIT

Provost Town Hall

October 6, 2025



Kudos

Lyndsey McGrath

Director of Global Programs and International Partnerships

"Lyndsey is the linchpin between the main campus, our global campuses and international partnerships. She is known for her extraordinary professionalism, care, compassion, generosity, and warmth that makes all our partners feel proud to be part of the RIT family!"



Tamaira Brown

Policy Coordinator, University Council & Faculty Senate

“Tamaira consistently ensures our policy library is accurate and up-to-date. She also plays a key role in informing the university community of policy updates and tracking institutional changes.”



Nancy Popolizio

Exec. Asst. to the NTID President

During the NTID Presidential search process, Nancy was responsible for communications, coordination and ensuring smooth progression throughout. Kudos to Nancy for providing this vital support to NTID!



Lisa Monette

Director of Academic Affairs Events

“Lisa is the engine who powers all our events –commencement, convocation, OUS, awards ceremonies, you name it. I have seen how hard she works to make each event a success.”



Matt Cornwell, Melissa English, Kirstin Pedersen, Frank Cammarata

Saunders College of Business – Office Of Student Services

"Staff are here to help students. These four individuals didn't think twice to help a student in an emergency. They worked together to make our student safe and gave them attention they needed."



Lauren Cannon

Assistant Director for Combined Accelerated Programs

“Lauren’s dedication to creating clear, consistent systems, accessible resources, and caring student-centered approach, has made an impactful difference for both students and academic programs.”



Samantha Valdivia

CET Senior Staff Assistant



"Sam is a highly professional and organized member of the ECET department, dedicated to supporting students by handling tasks and fostering a welcoming environment."

Beth Livecchi

IGM Manager of Admin and Student Services

“Beth is constantly ‘keeping the ships on time’ and always moving the programs forward. Due to her tireless efforts, she has been an unsung hero, helping us maintain top-notch programs.”



CourseLeaf Team

"This cross divisional team worked together to successfully build RIT's catalogs on the CourseLeaf CAT platform. The new catalogs have enhanced functionality. This was achieved 'on time' due to this team's 'on task' attitude. "



Quick Updates

AI

- We filled 36 positions through our AI cluster hire
- Check out RIT AI Foundry, which is live with single sign-on aifoundry.rit.edu, showcasing software applications designed by RIT faculty and students
 - **Research Amplifier**, which generates summaries of faculty research
 - **ProsodyLab**, a tool developed by Kierstin Muroski at NTID, which supports ASL learners
 - **TutorBot**, a tutor for chemistry and STEM fields is being tested rigorously before it will be available to all faculty

Compute Resources

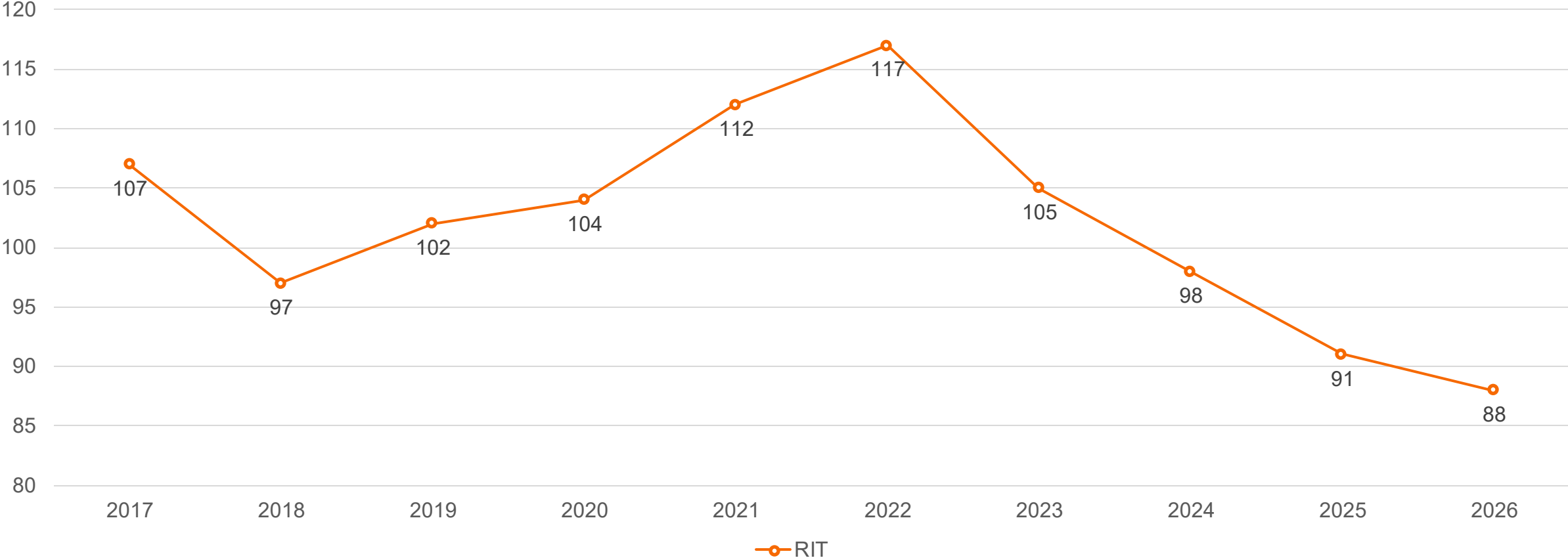
- RIT is a member of the Empire AI Consortium, a unique partnership among NY's leading universities that offers access to a state-of-the-art GPU cluster.
- Our researchers have already requested for 650K GPU hours of consortium resources.
- In addition, our researchers have access to RIT's next generation GPU platform featuring 128 GH200 GPUs and 12K Grace CPUs and 3.5 petabytes of storage.

Other Key Projects

- MSCHE Reaccreditation
- Strategic framework
- GenEd Reform
- AI as a differentiator for RIT
- Summer semester

Collective Kudos

U.S. News Ranking



U.S. News Rankings

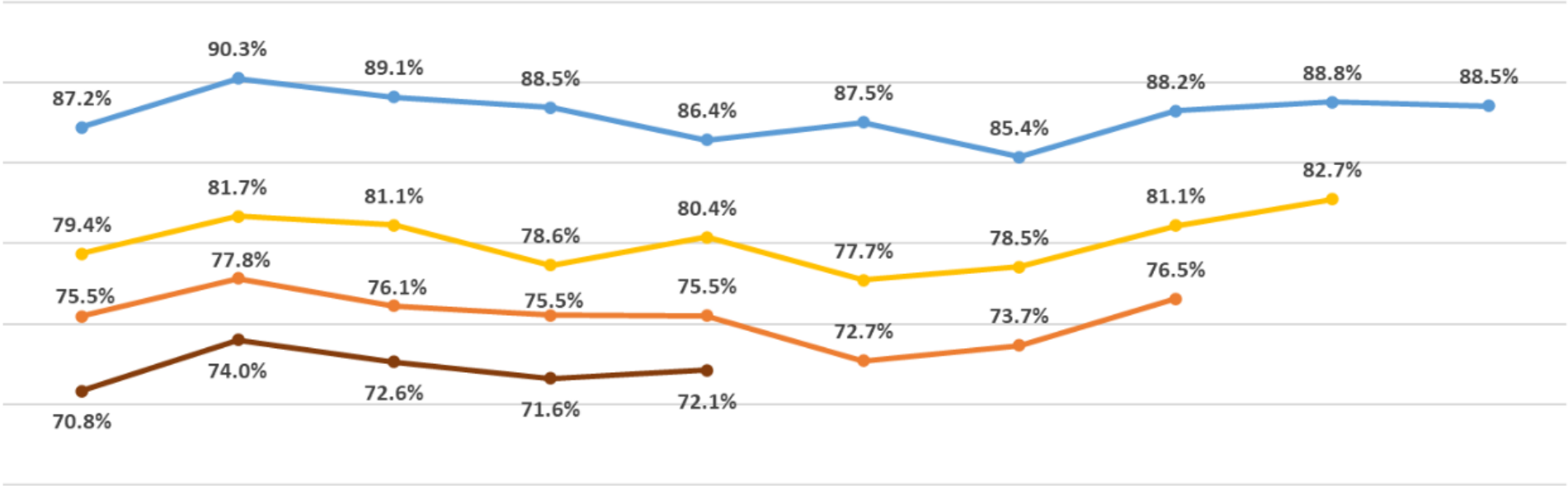
- No. 3 for game design/simulation
- No. 5 for co-ops and internships
- Undergrad CS, No. 54, up 10 spots
- Undergrad Engineering, No. 57
- Undergrad Business, No. 77
- In other rankings, our Film program is rated in the top 25, and programs such as animation, AI, and cyber are well-regarded

Undergraduate Student Success

RIT Persistence and Graduation Rates

For Bachelor Degree Seeking Students

1 Year Persistence 2 Year Persistence 3 Year Persistence 6 Year Graduation



N=2,716	N=2,423	N=2,610	N=2,693	N=2,554	N=2,966	N=3,212	N=3,086	N=2,927	N=2903
Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024

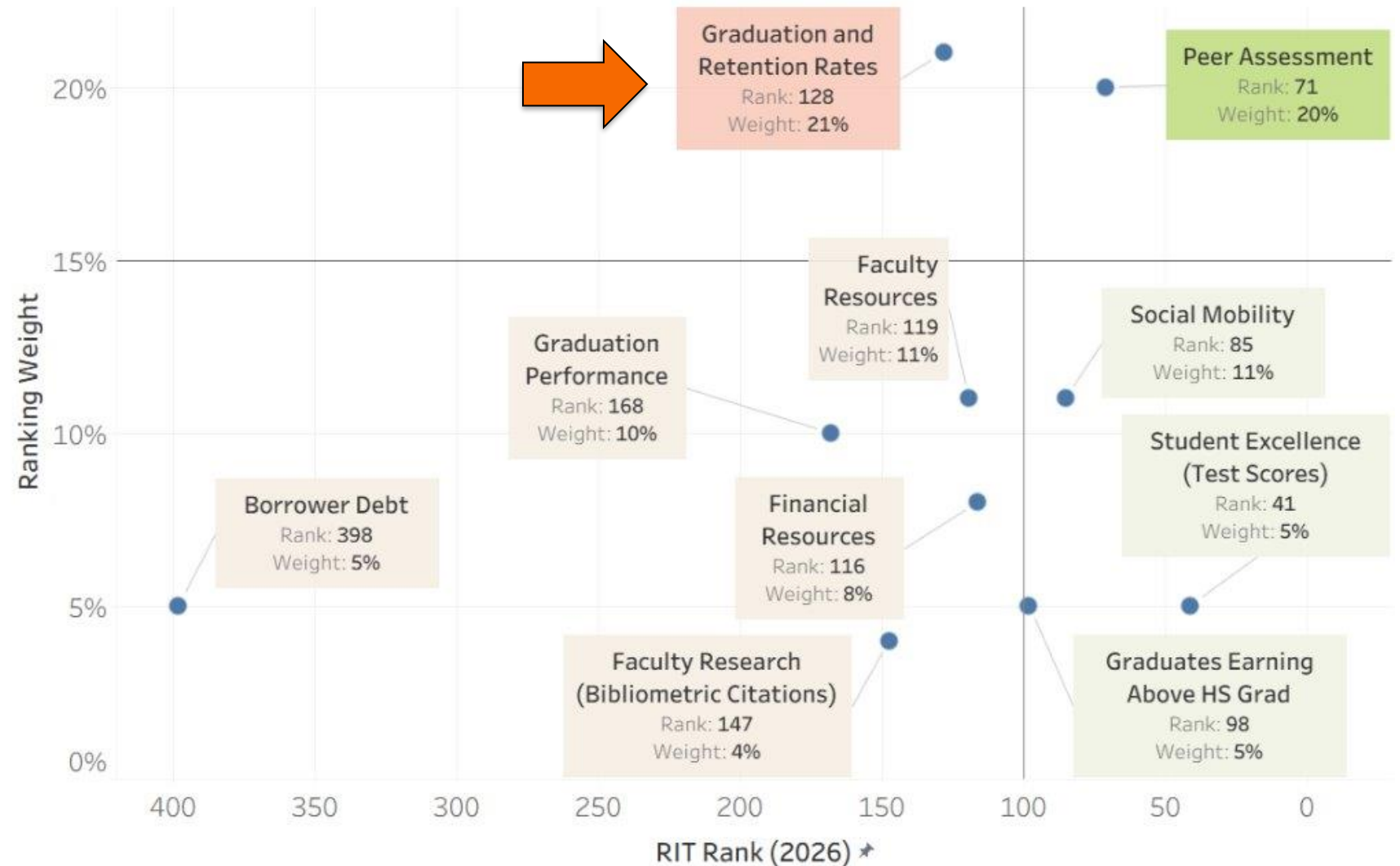
Cohort Entry Year and Count at 1 Year

Undergraduate Success Outcomes (Fall 2025 Census)

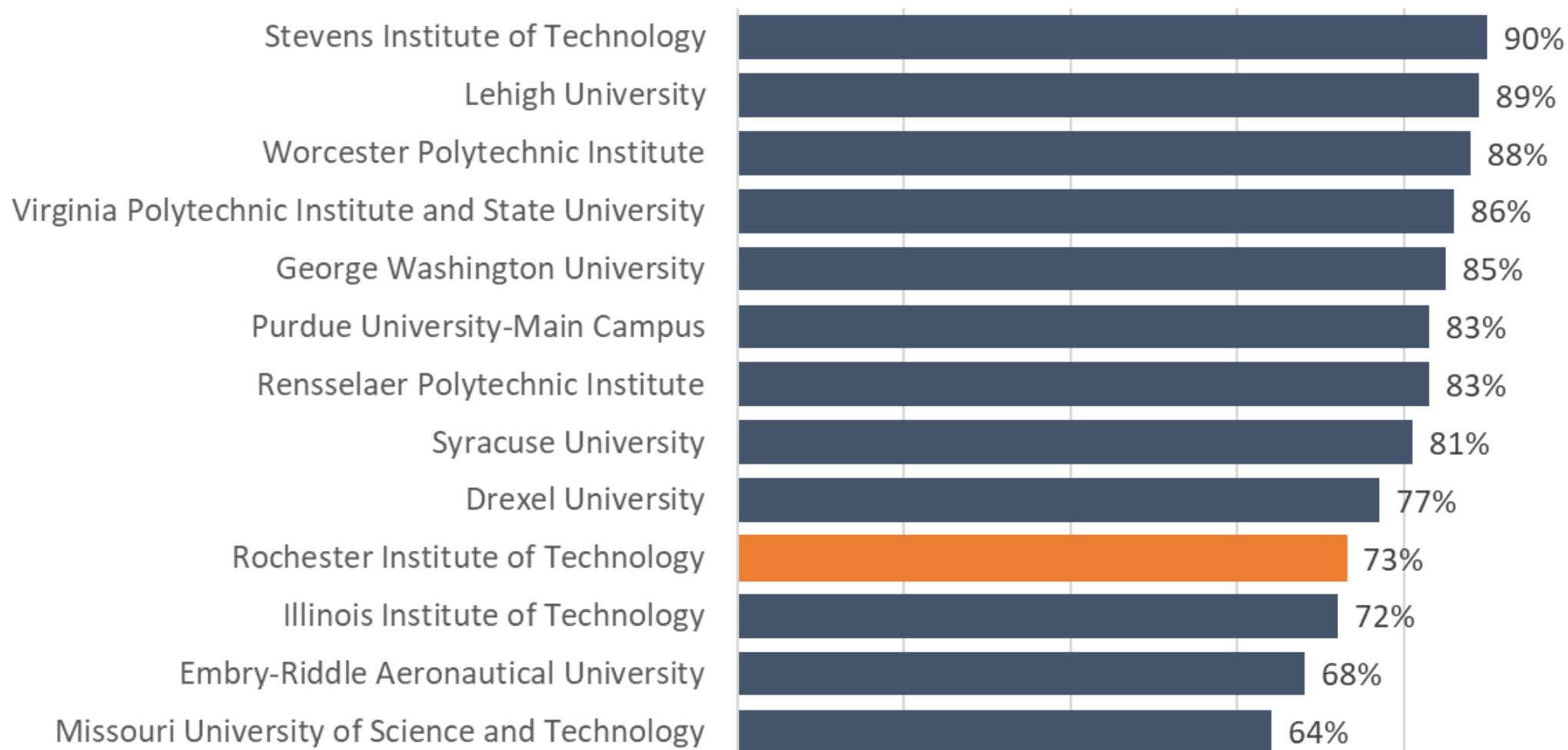
Metric (cohort)	Value (change)
1-year Persistence (2024)	88.5% (-0.3%)
2-year Persistence (2023)	82.7% (+1.6%)
3-year Persistence (2022)	76.5% (+2.8%)
6-year Graduation (2019)	72.1% (+0.5%)

Impact of graduation on *US News* Ranking

If RIT had a sustained 80% average graduation rate for the last four years, RIT's overall ranking could have been **between 69 and 81**, if everything else stayed the same.



Six Year Graduation Rates for Peer Universities Fall 2017 Bachelor Degree Seeking Cohort



Efforts to Improve Retention

Academic Resources

Math readiness including new math placement exam and critical trig course.

Peer mentoring (supplemental instruction) in freshmen courses.

Drop-in tutoring at Academic Success Centers in Res Halls and in the colleges.

Curricular Changes

Partnering with colleges to **standardize deadlines**, GPA and requirements to transfer to a major.

Create on- and off-ramps for students wanting to change majors.

Experiential learning, such as VIP, can replace some co-op blocks.

Affinity Groups

Performing Arts and ArtX.

Climate and Sustainability Leaders.

Athletics, **Esports**, and student clubs.

Vertically Integrated Projects.

Sense of Belonging

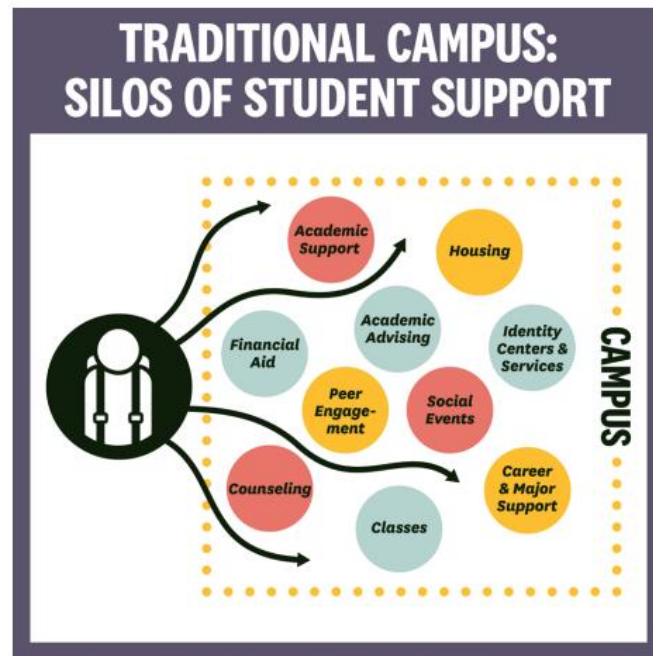
Programs such as Roar and Soar, and First Byte offered by colleges.

Community-building activities offered through Student Services.

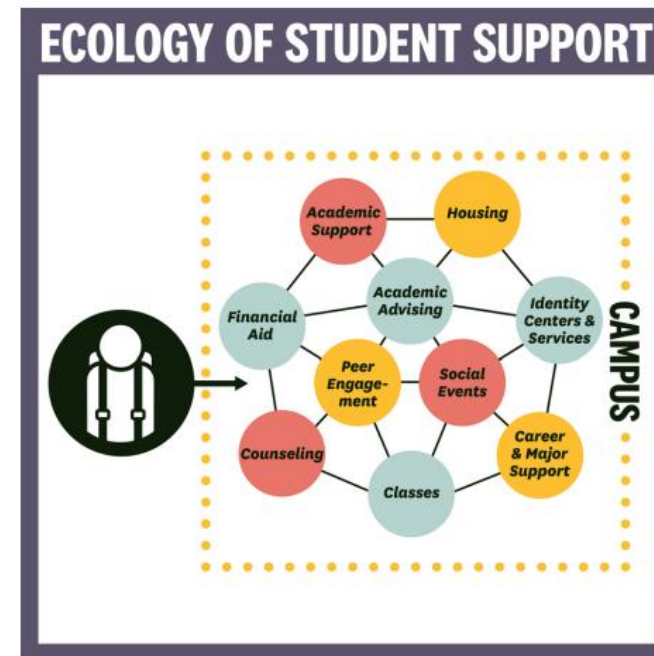
What are Undergraduate Studies Special Projects?

Cross-functional initiatives designed to

- Promote a culture of Student Success
- Support continuous improvement within units
- Catalyze **innovation** and **collaboration** across units.

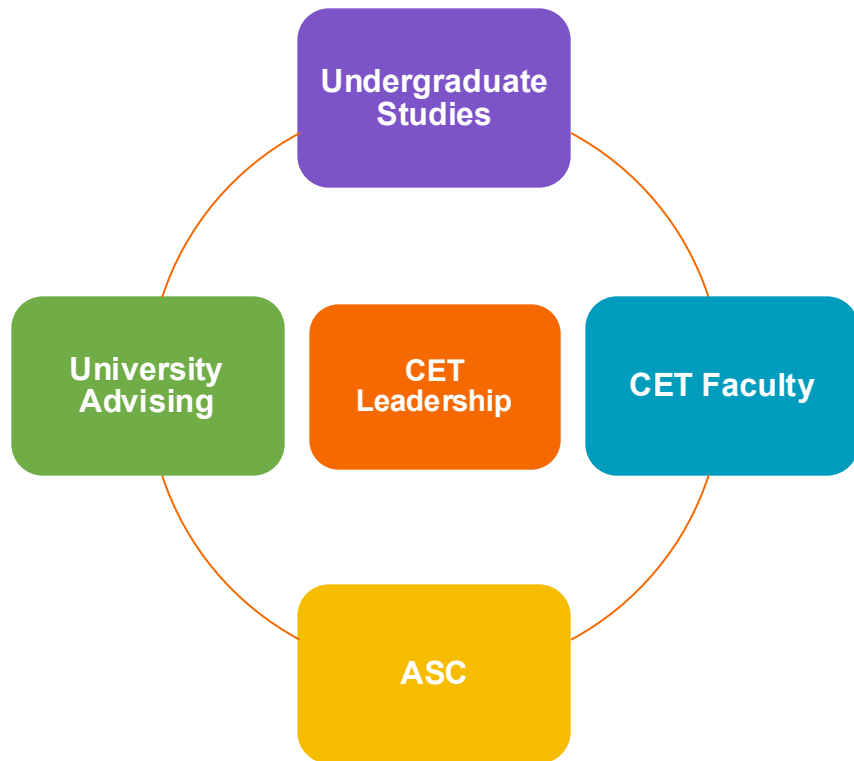


Special Projects



Promoting At-Promise Student Success
(USC Rossier, 2024)

CET Exploration Pilot



Fall 2025 Pilot: Revised *Exploration* Seminar

Challenge

- Degree curricula reflect prevailing practice of direct admission into degree programs

Goals

- Facilitate informed choice of major
- Provide structure to help students explore options w/o jeopardizing timely graduation

Pilot Design

- **Coordinated Care model**
 - Integrating other Fall courses & instructors
 - Promote academic *and* social engagement
 - Bolster undeclared students' sense of belonging

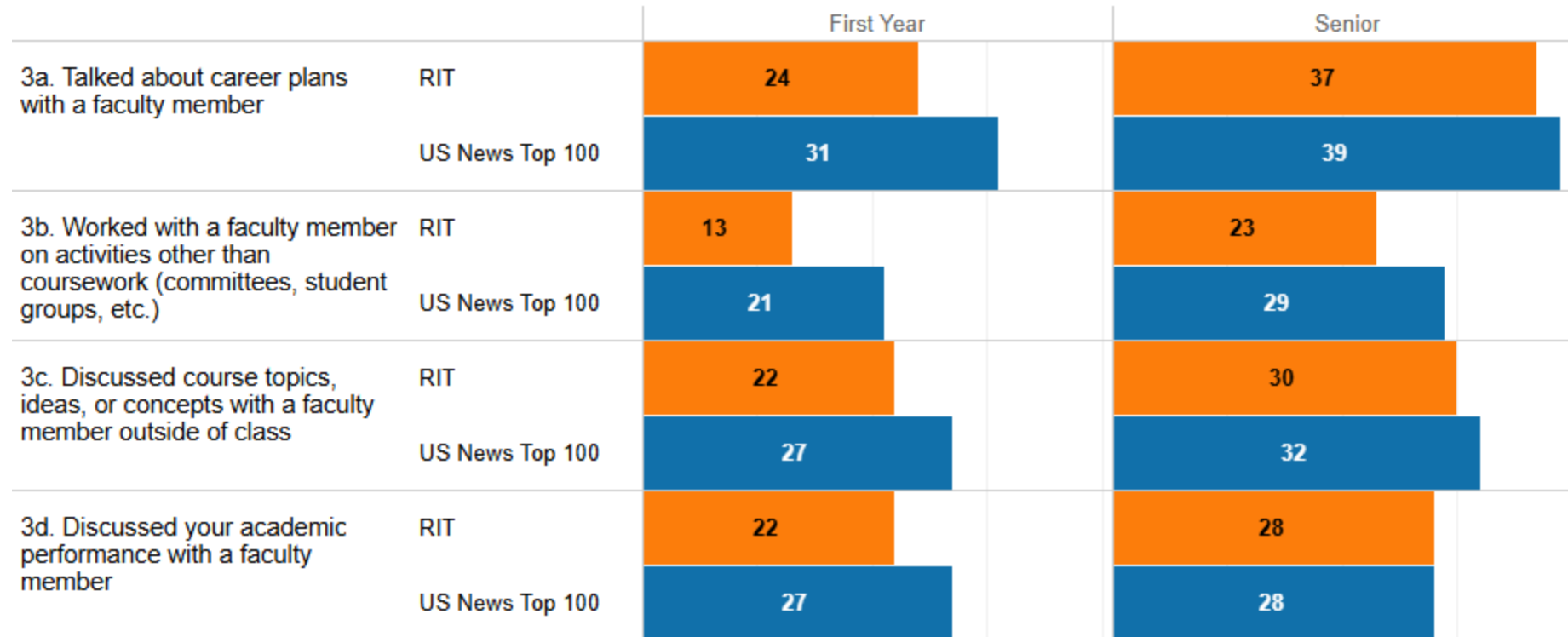
Actions to Improve Retention

- **Coordinated care model and an ecology of student support and the role of faculty**
- **Streamline the change of program process**
- Learn from the CET pilot and extend to other colleges
- Develop better understanding of faculty-student interactions at RIT

NSSE: Student-Faculty Interactions

The 2023 National Survey of Student Engagement indicated low interactions between students and faculty

NSSE 2023: How often have you done the following (% responded "Often" or "Very Often")



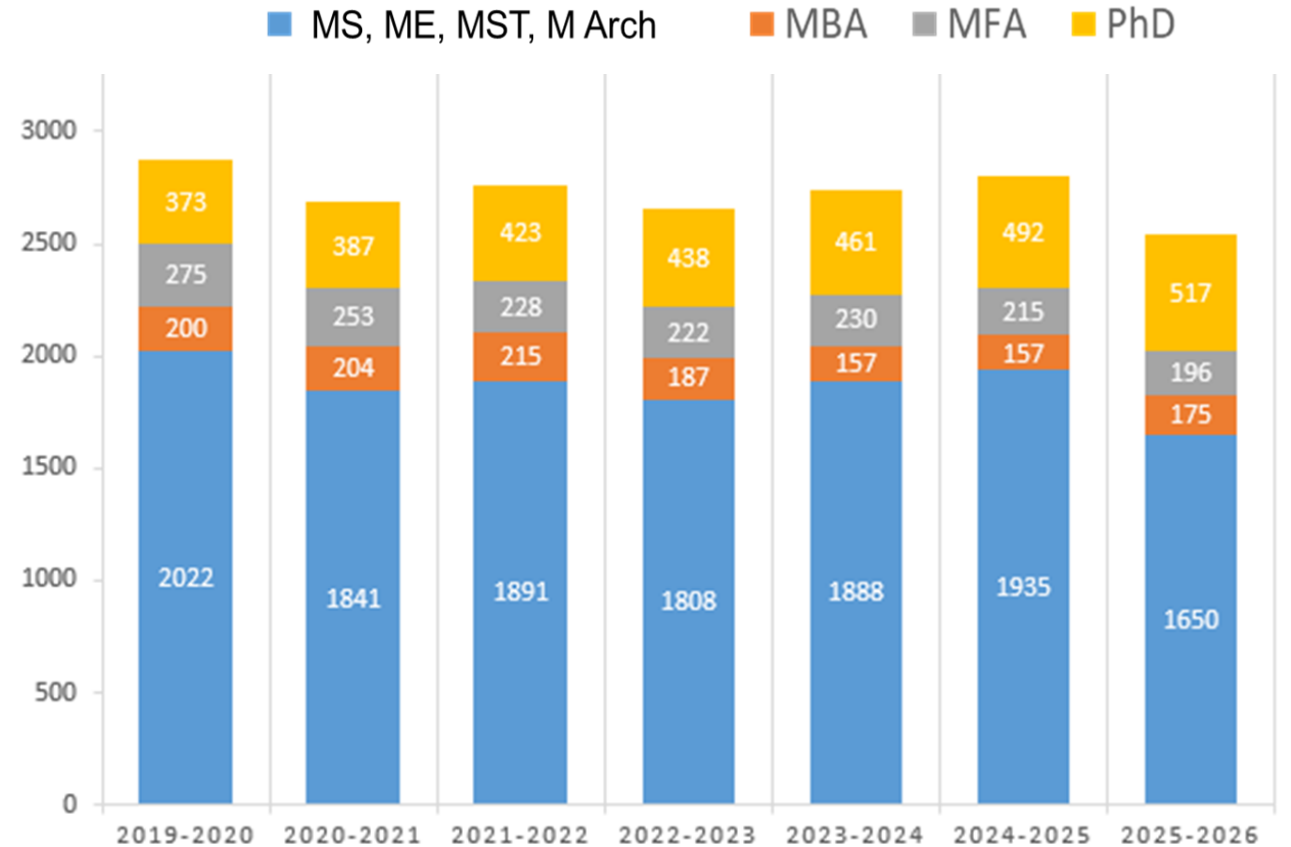
Graduate Studies

Graduate Total Enrollment by Degree Type

Total enrollment trends over time: growth in PhD, declines in Master's

Fall 2025 census
2,602 students, main campus
273 students, global campuses

* *Chart does not include non-degree and advanced certificate students

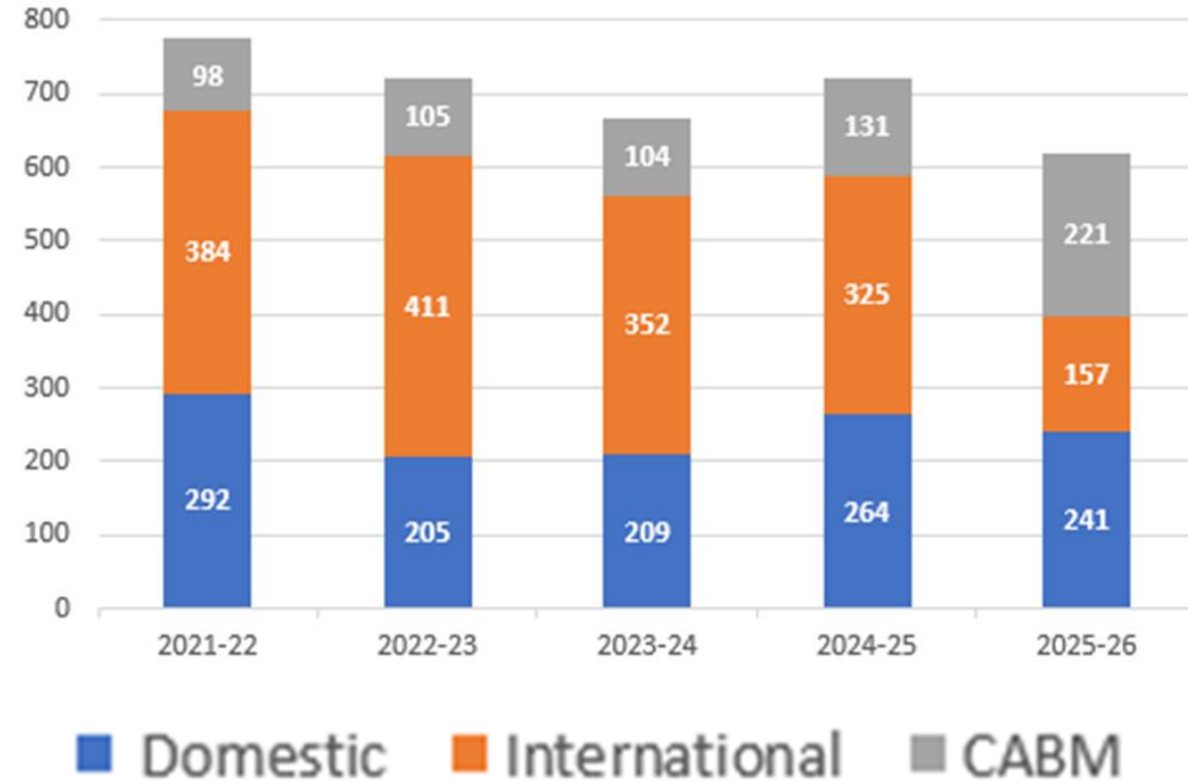


Master's 1st Term Enrollment - Fall 2025

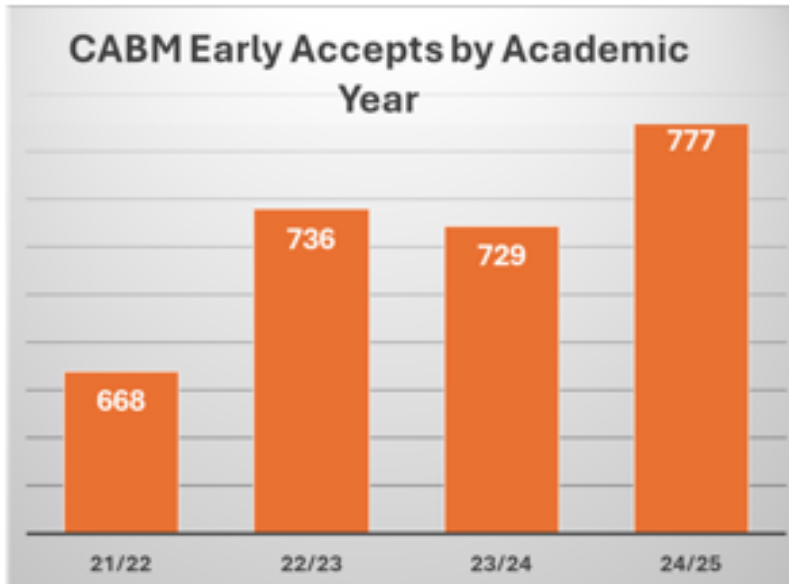
Significant drop in International

Domestic holding steady

Increase in Combined Accelerated
Bachelors/Masters
(CABM:MS, ME, +1MBA)



1 out of 3 Early Accepts Remain CABM



Early accept CABM comprise 26% of F25 undergrad 1st years

Approximately 30-40% of our first cohort remain in CABM

70% of 1st term Masters are in KGCOE (46%) and GCCIS (24%)

Enrollment in Master's Programs

- 70 Master's programs at RIT
 - 2021 enrolled Master's students
- 11 programs account for 52% of enrollment
- 38 programs have an enrollment of 20 or less
- 22 programs have an enrollment of 10 or less
 - Does not include deactivated/discontinued programs

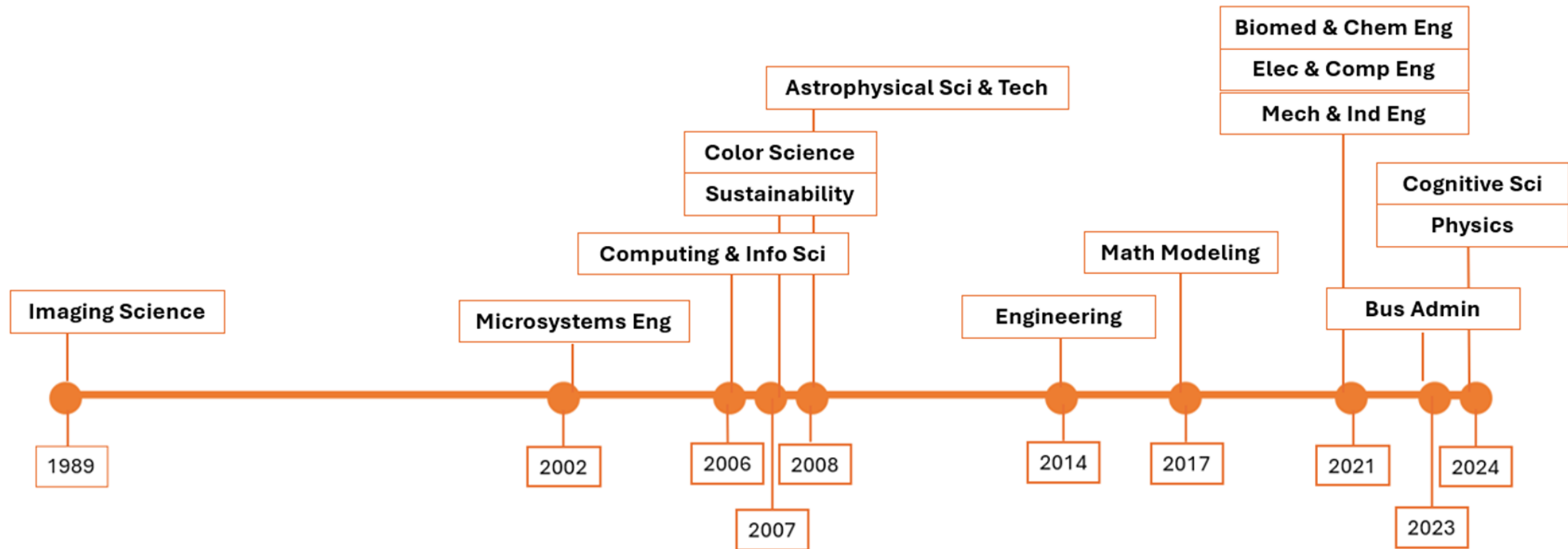
Academic Program Review

- Data-driven analysis providing a year-to-year comparison of elements related to resources and student success
- **Student interest and success will be weighed along with other metrics.**
 - Average fall enrollment of at least 10 students
 - Average degrees awarded to at least 5 graduates
 - 1-year retention rate $\geq 89\%$
 - 7-year graduation rate $\geq 80\%$

Actions

- Build on our strong master's programs
- Develop competitive programs (new or revise existing) to recruit domestic master's students
- Examine online/hybrid delivery options and differential tuition
- Work with faculty and college leaders to consolidate or sunset programs

PhD Programs: Outlook and Actions



PhD Degrees Conferred and R1

Carnegie Research 1 classification: Very High Spending and Doctorate Production

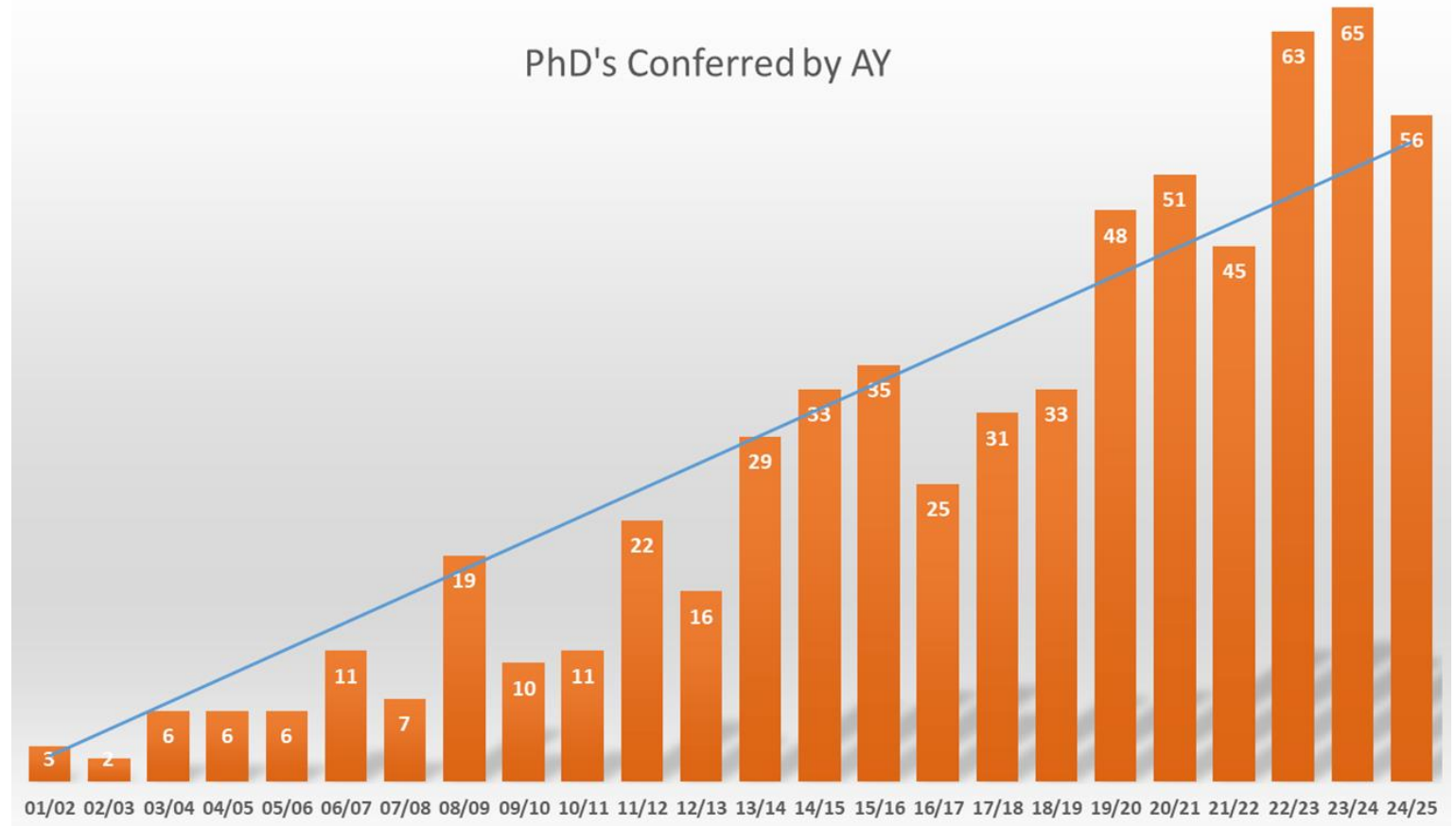
“On average in a single year, these institutions spend at least \$50 million on research & development and award at least **70 research doctorates**”

Source:

carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu

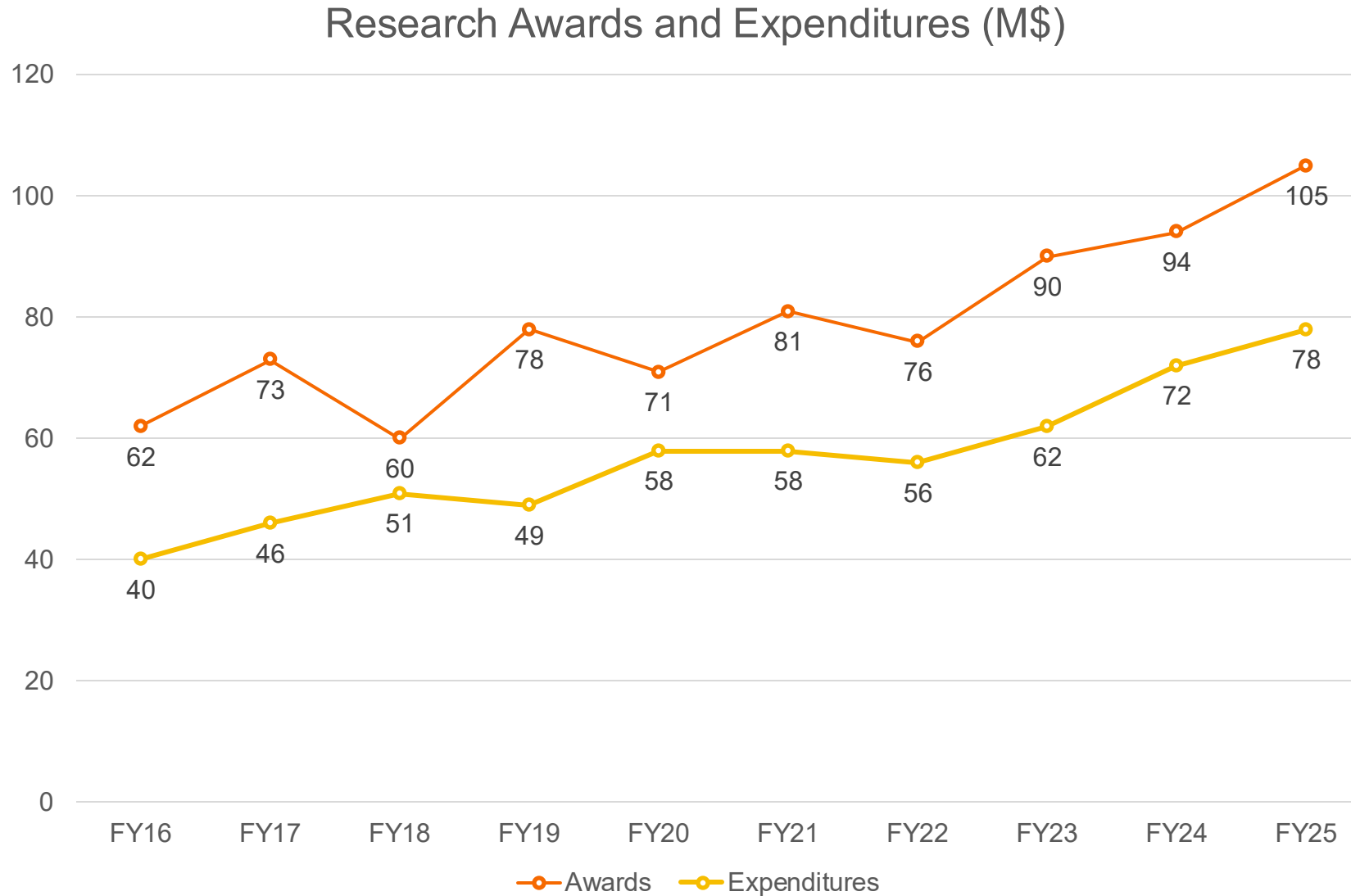
Action:

Drive towards 70 degrees conferred/year



Research

\$105M in sponsored research awards ... a new record!



Awards

- New record for Sponsored Research Awards (\$105M)
- Tied our record set last year for awards over \$1M (18)
- Two new NSF Career Award Winners (Rui Li – GCCIS, Shima Parsa – COS)
- KGCOE took top honors for awards exceeding the \$20M mark for the first time
- Research Centers led the way accounting for 70% of our new awards

Congrats to the AMPrint Center for ...

\$5M grant renewal

Dennis Cormier for
receiving the FAME
(Freeform and Additive
Manufacturing) award'.



Actions

- Our awards are currently at \$14.8M, 50% down from our three-year average
- However, we are on record pace for proposals submitted – 173 proposals totaling \$85M
- Interdisciplinary centers from the last strategic plan have fueled our growth (i.e., K-12, PHT180, CHAI, Batteries, NPRL, P2I, CCRG, MAGIC, etc.)
- Foster new research in our centers and add new centers in the new strategic plan

New Research Building

Labs in the center are used for retention and recruitment of grant-funded PIs.

VPR and the college deans are jointly deciding on lab allocations.



Challenges and responses

Challenges

Potential decline in UG enrollment
Decline in int'l master's students
Softness in GCCIS this year
Reduction in federal research funding
F & A rates for research

Responses

UG Retention
MA programs streamlining
New programs in AI and Health
Summer offerings
Managed vacancy process

Faculty Compensation

Compensation Values

- We believe in our people, and we believe in merit.
- RIT is committed to paying competitive salaries.
- RIT salary increases are administered through the merit raise process.
- We prioritized a merit raise amid a challenging budget year during which many top schools offered no raise.

Faculty Benchmarking

- RIT uses a benchmarking process to monitor competitiveness of our salaries.
- Since 2021, at the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Compensation, our faculty comparison group has been R1 & R2 schools who report their salary data through the CUPA faculty salary survey¹.
- Median faculty salaries of the comparison group, shown by rank and discipline, are shared with the community every year.

¹ GCCIS uses the Computer Research Association Taulbee Survey;
SCOB uses the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) Survey.

Faculty Benchmarking

- In January 2025, the Provost's Office partnered with Faculty Senate to create a committee to propose a new set of schools for faculty salary benchmarking.
- Committee proposed a comparison group of 61 institutions based on four criteria; that information is included in the Appendix.
- The list of 61 institutions has been reviewed. We will use this new set of schools in our faculty salary benchmarking process moving forward.
- An employee's salary may be below, at, or above the published median based on factors such as years of experience, time in rank or position, annual performance, specialized skills and contributions.

RIT

Q & A