



Provost Update - September 2026

Dear Colleagues,

I hope your semester is off to a good start. It was great to see so many of you at the President's State of the University address. As the president said, our strategic framework underscores the importance of pursuing our goals with velocity. In that spirit, a few priorities in Academic Affairs need our attention this fall. I look forward to working on them with you.

Student Success

Student success remains one of our top goals. Retaining students in their first and second years takes a coordinated care approach across academic advising, student affairs,

residence life, financial aid, tutoring, and other wraparound services.

Each college will stand up a care team to work with students who need help, in concert with the university-level Student Success Committee, co-chaired by Tim Gordon, Associate Vice President, Student Affairs, and Neeraj Buch, Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Associate Provost. We have built a dashboard to help advisors and care teams identify students who need help. Over the next few weeks, I will visit each college to listen and learn from our advisors, who are integral to our students' success.

Artificial Intelligence in Teaching and Learning

The RIT Academic Affairs AI Leadership Sprint launches a year-long initiative to understand the status of AI in teaching and learning at RIT, and to develop guidance that is sensitive to the needs of our faculty, students, and employers. Rather than prescribing one institutional answer, the Sprint equips academic leaders with shared foundations and adaptable tools to meet faculty where they are and move toward thoughtful, values-driven, discipline-specific action. We must

lead with intent on AI, focusing on mission and values alignment, stakeholder needs, and ethics.

Department chairs and university leaders are encouraged to sign up for the workshop and to attend AI Hub meetings throughout the year.

The RIT Academic Affairs AI Leadership Sprint for Department Chairs & Leaders options are:

- [Friday, September 18, 2026](#) | 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. | In person: Golisano Hall, GCI
- [Tuesday, September 22 – Thursday, September 24, 2026](#) | 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. | Virtual option

General Education

General Education revision, which began two years ago, has entered a new phase. Building on recommendations from faculty working groups and support from the Inter-college Curriculum Committee and Faculty Senate, a new framework will be shared with faculty this fall as it moves through governance.

Key changes include a new interdisciplinary first-year course on technology and society, focused on AI, which is being piloted this fall. The revisions also include six refreshed Perspective categories instead of the seven that we currently have and an updated Writing Seminar that incorporates media literacy. Together, these changes will better prepare students for success as professionals, engaged citizens, and lifelong learners. Watch for opportunities this fall to learn more and share your feedback.

Health and Technology

RIT is advancing a new university-wide Health and Technology initiative to expand our research at the intersection of health sciences, biosciences, and technology. The new initiative builds on the work of PHT180, bringing together health researchers from across RIT and builds on our partnerships with Rochester Regional Health and the University of Rochester/URMC to create new opportunities in education, research, innovation, workforce development, and industry collaboration. In addition, we launched Occupational

Therapy and hope to launch an accelerated BS in Nursing next year, expanding our CHST portfolio.

Provost Town Hall

Save the date: Thursday, October 8, 2026 | 1:00 p.m. | [Zoom webinar](#)

Please join me for an online town hall presentation and Q&A. Please register today and email your questions in advance to provost@rit.edu by 5:00 p.m., Friday, October 2, 2026.

Classroom Instruction

As we move through the fall semester, please follow our expectations for assignments and final examinations. Under Policy D05.0 (Grades), Section 1.C, no assignments shall be due during within-semester breaks or Reading Day, including weekends attached to those breaks. Under D11.0 (Final Examination), no final examination or final assessment shall be scheduled on Reading Day. Although it is not a formal policy, faculty are also requested to allow students flexibility to participate in the Career Fair when possible.

Thank you for your continued dedication to student success, to research and teaching, and to the RIT campus community. Please reach out to me anytime at provost@rit.edu, and I look forward to seeing you at the Provost Town Hall.

Sincerely,
Prabu

Prabu David, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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