



September Update

Dear Colleagues,

It has been an exciting and busy September, culminating in the inauguration of RIT's 11th president. My heartfelt gratitude to the RIT community—faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends—who made the inauguration memorable.

General Education Revisions Update

Last week, the GE Task Force sent me their final report with recommendations. You may recall, this group was established in Fall 2024 to reimagine the university's general education (GE) program, which has remained largely unchanged since 2012. The Task Force held three open campus forums and 27 meetings to solicit input on topics such as foundational skills, curricular structure, student experience, and implementation logistics. I am considering their recommendations and will work with the deans and the Faculty Senate to determine the next steps. In the meantime, I have requested the co-chairs of the Task Force, Dr. Lauren Hall, Dr. Elizabeth Hane and Dr. Leah Bradley, to share the recommendations with the campus community. My thanks to Lauren, Elizabeth and Leah for their leadership.

Rankings

Congrats, RIT students, staff and faculty for raising our US News ranking to 88 ([Read the RIT News article here](#)). Special congrats to our Game Design program,

which was ranked No. 3 in the country. Computer Science, Engineering, and Business continue to hold their strong positions in the rankings.

AI as a Differentiator

Building upon RIT's strong reputation in AI research and the exciting momentum of our AI-focused faculty cluster hiring last year, RIT has a renewed opportunity to establish AI as a Differentiator across our curriculum.

For instance, as part of General Education curriculum revision, we have exciting opportunities to support students in learning about AI ethics, literacy, and societal impact, which is rooted in critical thinking. New tools available on our campus, such as Google Gemini and Adobe Express, make it possible for our students to get hands-on experience in using the latest AI technologies, regardless of what field of study or future career opportunities they pursue.

For students who are seeking a more in-depth exploration, our faculty have been hard at work developing advanced electives, minors, and new degree programs, some of which will be launching in the coming year. I plan to discuss some of the ideas at the provost's town hall.

Rethinking our Summer Session

It is a shame that during the glorious summer months in Rochester, our campus has very little foot traffic. Summer provides an opportunity for us to increase offerings that can enhance student success. I have asked a team of deans to explore ideas and options, including differential tuition, special sections of in-demand courses, retention-oriented coursework, and potentially revitalizing our Maymester, and courses for working professionals through RIT Certified.

Disability Services Office (DSO) Update

Our DSO Fellow, Keri Barone, has been actively involved as a liaison between faculty and the DSO. We are also glad to welcome Dr. Kate Torres, as the new director of DSO. Keri and Kate will be visiting colleges to address faculty concerns and share best practices. Stay tuned.

Managed Vacancies

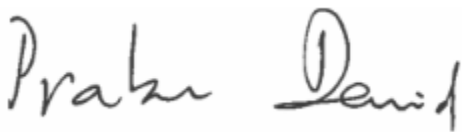
The 21-day registration report is used as an authoritative source of enrollment data for RIT. The report suggests a 2.9% drop in student FTEs, which is about 420 fewer full-time students. With the uncertainties faced by international student applicants and the potential demographic cliff, we should be prepared for various enrollment scenarios. Further, in the foreseeable future, we must contend with the uncertainties in research funding.

Given these budget realities, we will continue our managed vacancy process. To avoid the major cuts that other universities have had to endure, it is prudent to limit new appointments. I am working closely with the deans and the president to prioritize immediate and strategic hiring needs. This approach, no doubt, requires some staff and faculty to take on additional responsibilities to fill gaps in service to our students. I want to personally thank our faculty and staff for their understanding and patience as we navigate the evolving budget landscape.

Town Hall

Please remember to join me for the Provost Town Hall Meeting scheduled for Monday, October 6 at 1:00 p.m. in the SHED (Sklarsky Theater). RSVP not required; but if you would like to hear about a specific topic, please email provost@rit.edu by 5:00 p.m. on October 1. If you choose to join via Zoom, please [register in advance](#).

Thank you for your service to RIT,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Prabu David". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Prabu David, Ph.D.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs