

*This message is sent on behalf of Jeremy Haefner, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that Dr. S. Manian Ramkumar (known to many of us as just 'Ram') has accepted my offer to become the Interim Dean of the College of Applied Science and Technology (CAST). His appointment is effective July 1, 2016 and it follows an internal search process that was anchored by the Interim Dean Selection Advisory committee. I am grateful that there was a terrific pool of candidates who applied for the interim position and for the thoroughness of the committee's deliberation and analysis.

Dr. Ramkumar came to RIT in 1989 as a graduate student and has grown successfully within the RIT community to presently hold the department chair position in the Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering Technology (MMET) department. During his tenure in MMET, he has held various leadership positions including Undergraduate Program Director, Graduate Program Director, Endowed Chair, and Faculty Associate for Scholarship Advancement. Dr. Ramkumar has earned the reputation as an outstanding teacher, as evidenced by his nomination for the Eisenhart Outstanding Teaching Award multiple times. His pioneering online course was recognized by the "Innovation in Teaching and Learning with Technology" award for the best use of technology in an online course. Dr. Ramkumar has also been recognized by industry as outstanding for the many workshops, training programs and keynotes he has provided.

From the early days of his career, Dr. Ramkumar has collaborated with faculty from other colleges to secure grants from NSF, DOD, DOL and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), to support his scholarship and develop state-of-the-art laboratories. He was appointed the Russell C. McCarthy Endowed Chair, to develop the Center for Electronics Manufacturing and Assembly (CEMA), an enterprise center. The Center has built a strong reputation for RIT within the electronics industry and complements the capability within the Semiconductor and Microelectronics Fabrication Laboratory (SMFL). The Center is currently a key player within the AIM Photonics efforts and it boasts a \$3 million equipment capability secured through donations from industry. Dr. Ramkumar has also been recognized twice as a Millionaire PI by Sponsored Research Services, for his success as a research scholar.

He has implemented many unique programs within MMET to engage students, faculty and staff. Over his years at RIT, Dr. Ramkumar has also contributed tirelessly to the broader RIT community through his services on various critical university-wide committees including the Academic Senate and the Executive Committee of the Senate.

Dr. Ramkumar received his M.S. in manufacturing from the Kate Gleason College of Engineering and his Ph.D. in systems science and industrial engineering from Binghamton University.

This decision to appoint Dr. Ramkumar was informed by the work of the Interim Dean Selection Advisory Committee, which included the following members:

- Mary Banna, Hospitality & Tourism Management
- Sean Bennett, Dean's Office (committee co-chair)
- Beth Carle, MMET
- Todd Dunn, CETEMS Department Chair
- Malar Hirudayaraj, Service Systems
- Jerrie Hsieh, Hospitality & Tourism Management
- Deanna Jacobs, Packaging Science
- Maureen Valentine, CETEMS (committee co-chair)
- Lindsay Vallone, ECTET
- Teresa Wolcott, CETEMS

I am immensely grateful to the committee for its work in this process.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Ramkumar in his new role.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Haefner

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

*For more information on this and other topics, please visit <http://www.rit.edu/provost/>*