

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

Colleagues,

After a healthy internal search process and interviewing a number of candidates, I am pleased to announce that I have selected Dr. Neil Hair to serve as the Executive Director of the Innovative Learning Institute. Dr. Hair has served as interim Executive Director of the ILI for the last two years. During this time, RIT Online has successfully launched, a comprehensive redesign of faculty Teaching and Learning Services has been undertaken, and a number of critical infrastructure projects related to our online offerings have been completed. Dr. Hair's leadership in his interim role has subsequently positioned RIT to be able to make a strategic and informed response to the changing nature of higher education both on and off line.

Dr. Hair is well-known for forging strong relationships across campus and consistently demonstrating a passion for teaching and learning excellence. He is ideally suited to lead the institute, having been awarded five RIT teaching accolades including the Saunders Alumni Teaching Award in 2014, the Eisenhart Award for Outstanding Teaching in 2012, the Executive MBA Faculty Recognition Award in 2012, the Exemplary Online Faculty Award in 2008 and the Richard and Virginia Eisenhart Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2006. He also brings marketing expertise to his role with a Ph.D. in Management from Cranfield University, professional Chartered Marketer status from the Chartered Institute of Marketing in the United Kingdom and scholarly publications in the fields of relationship marketing and customer experience.

I am extremely grateful to the search committee: Chair Rob Garrick (CAST), Joe Geigel (GCCIS), Ann Hager (Saunders College of Business), Therese Hannigan (ILI), Andrea Hickerson (COLA), S. Manian Ramkumar (CAST), Ian Webber (ILI), and Linda Cunningham (Office of the Provost). They did a terrific job running a thorough search in a short amount of time. Thank you!

Finally, please join me in congratulating Neil on his permanent post.

Jeremy Haefner  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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