



THE INAUGURATION OF RIT PRESIDENT WILLIAM H. SANDERS

SEPTEMBER 26, 2025



RIT has strong momentum

that we can capitalize on to make it *the* destination for students that value its unique brand of innovation, creativity, passion, curiosity, and joy.

- Bill Sanders

RIT President



Thank you for joining us as we usher in a **new era of RIT Leadership.** I was honored to chair the Presidential Search Committee as the university embarked on selecting RIT's next president. When we met Dr. Sanders, we knew he was the right person to continue our university's amazing upward trajectory. Bill was instrumental in advancing Carnegie Mellon's reputation as a leader in transformative education and interdisciplinary, impactful research with an eye on doing good around the world. He demonstrates a deep understanding of and appreciation for RIT and its history while articulating a compelling vision for RIT that will continue to drive this university forward as a distinguished institution both nationally and globally. This is an exciting time for RIT, and we are thrilled that you are all part of it.



Susan M. Puglia Chair, RIT Board of Trustees



The Rochester Institute of Technology traces its roots to 1829, when civic leaders founded the Rochester Athenaeum—a literary society dedicated to advancing public discourse, education, and the arts. The Athenaeum hosted lectures by luminaries such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Oliver Wendell Holmes, establishing Rochester as a hub of intellectual and cultural life in a booming city along the Erie Canal.

In 1891, the Athenaeum merged with the Mechanics Institute, a technical training school created by local business leaders including Captain Henry Lomb, cofounder of Bausch and Lomb. This merger formed the Rochester Athenaeum and Mechanics Institute (RAMI), blending cultural education with practical, career-focused instruction. The institute quickly became known for its pioneering approach to experiential learning, including the introduction of cooperative education in 1912—a model that allowed students to alternate between classroom study and paid work in industry.

In 1944, RAMI was renamed Rochester Institute of Technology, reaffirming its commitment to technological advancement and interdisciplinary education. Over the following decades, RIT expanded its academic offerings, awarding its first bachelor's degrees in 1955 and master's degrees in 1960. In 1966, RIT was selected by the federal government to host the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), which began operations in 1968. NTID remains a cornerstone of RIT's inclusive mission, supporting more than 1,200 deaf and hard of-hearing students across all academic disciplines.

A transformative moment came in 1961, when RIT relocated from downtown Rochester to a 1,300-acre campus in suburban Henrietta. This move, completed in 1968, enabled the university to grow in scale and ambition. In 1990, RIT launched its first Ph.D. program. Today, RIT offers 13 doctoral degrees spanning engineering, business, cognitive science, sustainability, and more.



In 2019, the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education classified RIT as an "R2" institutiondenoting high research activity. In 2024 and 2025, RIT surpassed \$100 million in annual sponsored research, with faculty leading groundbreaking work in artificial intelligence, smart city technologies, gravitational wave detection, and environmental sustainability. The university is consistently ranked among the nation's top institutions for innovation, co-op education, and value.

Today, RIT is a global university with campuses in Croatia, Kosovo, and Dubai, with over 150,000 alumni around the world in 100+ nations. It remains deeply rooted in Rochester while expanding its reach across continents and disciplines. As RIT's 11th president, Sanders begins his tenure by inheriting a university defined by creativity, innovation, and a relentless drive to shape the future. RIT is poised to embrace its next chapter while helping to move the world forward.

RIT Presidents

William H. Sanders	2025 - Present
David C. Munson Jr.	2017 - 2025
William W. Destler	2007 - 2017
Albert J. Simone	1992 - 2007
M. Richard Rose	1979 - 1992
Paul A. Miller	1969 – 1978
Mark W. Ellingson	1936 - 1969
John A. Randall	1922 - 1936
Royal B. Farnum	1919 – 1921
James F. Barker	1916 – 1919
Carleton B. Gibson	1010 _ 1016



On behalf of RIT's international partners and global

campuses in Croatia, Kosovo, and Dubai, we congratulate Bill Sanders on becoming RIT's 11th President. We wish him the best of luck as he joins us to broaden horizons and create new pathways for global education, international partnerships, professional engagement, and cultural exchanges.

At RIT, we believe that understanding and embracing our differences brings us closer together, creating a unified perspective on global challenges and opportunities. A global education reveals our commonalities and showcases the immense benefits of collaboration. We are charging forward as one of the world's most dynamic, inventive, and boundary-pushing universities. Our vibrant student body and faculty members are leaving a lasting impression across the globe, and we're excited to have President Sanders lead the way.

Yousef Al Assaf

President, RIT Dubai

Irena Guszak

President and Dean, RIT Croatia

Michael Hess

Chief Executive Officer, RIT Kosovo

Prabu David

Provost and Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs

James Myers BS '85, MS '92

Associate Provost, International Education and Global Programs



William H. Sanders

William H. Sanders has nearly 40 years of experience in higher education. He most recently served as the Dr. William D. and Nancy W. Strecker Dean of the College of Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh from 2020 to 2025. Prior to Carnegie Mellon, Sanders spent 25 years as a tenured professor and held the Herman M. Dieckamp Endowed Chair in Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Sanders began his career in 1988 as an assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Arizona. He earned his bachelor's degree in computer engineering; a master's degree in computer, information, and control engineering; and a doctoral degree in computer science and engineering, all from the University of Michigan.

Sanders' research interests include secure, dependable, and resilient computing systems with a focus on critical infrastructures. He has directed work at the forefront of national efforts to make the U.S. power grid smart and resilient. His significant scholarly record includes publishing more than 300 technical papers in this field. He is also a co-developer of a tool for assessing the security of networked systems. It is available commercially under the name NP-View from a startup company, Network Perception, which he co-founded.

A recognized leader in his field, Sanders was elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) in 2023—one of the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer—for his contributions to cybersecurity and resiliency technologies for critical infrastructures. Sanders is also an elected fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Among many honors, he was the 2016 recipient of the IEEE Technical Field Award, Innovation in Societal Infrastructure, for "assessment-driven design of trustworthy cyber infrastructures for societal-scale systems."

Sanders is a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan. He and his wife, Emily, have two grown children, Elizabeth and Zachary. When he is not working, Sanders enjoys the outdoors, hiking, kayaking, canoeing, photography, and amateur astronomy.

The Inauguration of President William H. Sanders

ORDER OF CEREMONY

Prelude an	d
Procession	nal

Yunn-Shan Ma, Pianist

Associate Professor, School of Performing Arts Director, RIT Philharmonic Orchestra

Katherine Cheng, Violinist

Adjunct Faculty, Applied Music Instructor

ROC City Guardians Pipes and Drums

Welcome

Prabu David

Provost and Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs

The National Anthem

Eight Beat Measure

RIT Student A Capella Group

Masquers Drama Club

NTID Student Performance Group

Land Acknowledgement

Perry Ground

Storyteller, Onondaga Turtle Clan 2021-2022 Minett Professor

Congratulations from Faculty, Staff, Students, and Alumni

Richard Zanibbi

Chair, RIT Faculty Senate

Gene Vogler

Chair, RIT Staff Council

Rafael Gilboa

President, RIT Student Government

Orlando Ortiz BS'04, MBA'08

President, RIT Alumni Association RIT Trustee



Interlude

E. Elgar: Salut d'Amour

Performed by Yunn-Shan Ma and Katherine Cheng

Personal **Congratulations** **Arvind Krishna**

Chairman, President, and CEO, IBM

Robin Berthier

CEO and Co-Founder, Network Perception

John F. Meyer

Professor Emeritus, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Michigan

Elizabeth and Zachary Sanders

Children of Bill and Emily Sanders

Introduction of **Keynote Speaker** **Prabu David**

Keynote Speaker Andreas C. Cangellaris

Founding President, NEOM University

The Inauguration of President William H. Sanders

ORDER OF CEREMONY CONTINUED

Video	President Sanders's Path to RIT
Installation	Susan M. Puglia
Ceremony	Chair, RIT Board of Trustees
	Susan R. Holliday MBA '85
	Frank S. Sklarsky BS '78
	Vice Chairs, RIT Board of Trustees
Inaugural	William H. Sanders
Response	President, Rochester Institute of Technology
Closing Remarks	Prabu David
RIT Alma Mater	Eight Beat Measure
	Masquers Drama Club
Recessional	ROC City Guardians Pipes and Drums
	RIT Jazz Ensemble
	Student Performance Group
	Reception immediately following in the
	Gordon Field House & Activities Center



Andreas C. Cangellaris

Professor Andreas Cangellaris is the founding president of NEOM University in NEOM, Saudi Arabia. Since joining in August 2022, he has led the establishment and operationalization of NEOM University—the first educational institution within NEOM, a futuristic, AI-powered, and sustainable ecosystem in Saudi Arabia's Tabuk Province.

Prior to NEOM, Cangellaris held several leadership roles at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, including vice chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost (2018–2022), dean of the Grainger College of Engineering (2013–2017), and head of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (2009–2013). He joined Illinois in 1997 after serving on the faculty at the University of Arizona (1987–1997) and working as a senior staff engineer at General Motors Research Labs (1985–1987).

Cangellaris earned his BS in electrical engineering from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and his MS and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.

A renowned expert in applied electromagnetism and computational science, his research has advanced modeling methodologies and design tools for computing and communication systems. His current interests include physics-based machine learning and uncertainty-aware electronic system design automation. He has authored over 300 refereed publications and co-authored the book *Multigrid Finite Element Methods for Electromagnetic Field Modeling* (2006).

Cangellaris is a life fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). His honors include the Alexander von Humboldt Research Award (2005), the IEEE Microwave Theory & Techniques Distinguished Educator Award (2012), and the U.S. Army Research Laboratory Director's Coin (2011). He also served as an IEEE Distinguished Lecturer (2008–2010).

RIT Academic Symbols

Regalia

The academic dress and the processional reflect the costume and influence of the church, when the first universities were organized in Bologna, Paris, and Oxford, where the first convocations of faculty, clergy, and students were held.

Gowns and caps are worn by those holding the associate and bachelor's degrees; gowns, caps, and hoods are worn by those holding master's and doctoral degrees. The usual color is black, and the fashion of the gown designates the degree held by the wearer—the associate and bachelor's have long, pointed sleeves; the master's has an oblong sleeve, open at the wrist; and the doctoral has a facing of black velvet down the front, and three bars of the same material across the sleeves. The tassel on the doctoral cap may be gold, white is the usual color for the bachelor's, and master's is black.

Hoods are faced with velvet in the color of their discipline—white for arts and letters, orange for engineering, brown for fine arts, yellow for science, tan for business, and light blue for education. The color lining of the hood is that of the institution granting the degree. Customarily, those holding the bachelor's degree do not wear a hood at academic ceremonies—the holders of master's and doctoral degrees wear hoods, and those of the latter are longer.

The Academic Mace

The Board of Trustees commissioned the late Hans Christensen, the first Charlotte Fredericks Mowris Professor of Contemporary Crafts in the School for American Crafts, College of Art and Design, to create the academic mace which was then presented to RIT President Mark Ellingson in 1967 to honor his 30th anniversary as president. The academic mace symbolizes the authority of the university to award degrees. It leads processions of academic importance and today is carried by the chair of the Academic Senate, Professor Richard Zanibbi, Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences.

Inaugural Chair

Professors Douglas Sigler and Max Lenderman, retired from the School for American Crafts, along with former faculty member John Dodd, were commissioned to create a ceremonial chair, fit for RIT's president for all times. It is a scholar's chair, with an arm to write on and a place for books or papers. The chair, bearing elements of the crafts—wood, textiles, metal, jewelry, glass, and ceramics—symbolizes the creativity and technology for which RIT is known.



Presidential Collar of Authority

The sterling silver collar of authority, representing the office of the president, was created in 1983 by the late Hans Christensen. Each link represents a helping hand, symbolizing all the people who have worked to benefit the university since its founding. The collar is inscribed with RIT's motto, "The making of a living and the living of a life." Dr. William H. Sanders becomes the fifth president to wear the presidential collar of authority.

Processional

The academic procession is an integral part of the collegiate inauguration ceremony. We are pleased that numerous college and university presidents or their delegates are participating in this inauguration. They march in the order of the founding year of their institutions. These span more that 285 years—the oldest being University of Pennsylvania, founded in 1740. Also included in the processional are RIT administrators, faculty, staff, and trustees.

RIT Academic Banners

The college banners were designed to give a consistent and unified look to the entities that comprise RIT. With an identical set of elements that serve as the foundation for the university, the banners showcase the school's colors—orange and white. The chevron shape is a presence of honor underneath a strong positioning of the RIT logo. With an individual graphic symbol, each college banner has its own personality, while visually remaining identified with RIT as a whole. The symbols represent the extraordinary aspects of each college. Each banner is carried by a current member of RIT's Student Government.

RIT

College of

Art and Design



College of Art and Design

With light as the key component for all things visual, this symbol represents the College of Art and Design with radiating rays of light. It is a combination of concentric circles and angled forms that allude to two- and three-dimensional design, a camera lens, a printing cylinder, and the human eye.

Saunders College of Business

Arrows pointing in many directions signify the diverse activities of Saunders College of Business. The arrows, a common symbol in business, reflect the financial, marketing, and entrepreneurial directions of business. The multiple directions in which they point imitate two-way transaction and constant exchange in the global marketplace.





Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences

With a grid of repeating circles, this symbol signifies the basic computer vocabulary of zeros and ones, conveying knowledge, information, and technology. Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences is represented by a symbol that suggests computer pixel construction and the organization, movement, and transmission of information.

Kate Gleason College of Engineering

This strong mechanical symbol represents the many facets of Kate Gleason College of Engineering. Its configuration suggests a structured, cohesive system with connectivity, interaction, and movement. The circular terminals at the ends of the intersecting stems suggest a balance of humanistic-social subjects, physical sciences, and professional studies.



RI

College of Engineering Technology



College of Engineering Technology

Concentric circles around a nucleus exemplifies the interrelationship among different programs within the College of Engineering Technology. Each pathway flowing around the center is linked, showing bridges that allow for many different career paths. The mechanical nature and precision of the pathways suggest science, technology, engineering, and service.

College of Health Sciences and Technology

With a stylized DNA molecule encircling the EKG pattern, this icon symbolizes the link between the types of programs offered in the College of Health Sciences and Technology: the science and research programs and the medically oriented clinical programs.





The School of Individualized Study embodies a holistic ideology in the rapidly evolving world we inhabit. The inner circle, with lines sliced through the center, represents the constant change of a world always in motion, and the unique paths individuals choose to navigate that world. The outer circles represent the many opportunities surrounding innovative studies within the local and global community.



College of Liberal Arts

The College of Liberal Arts is signified by a fleuron with a crown-like shape that suggests high honor or nobility. With programs based in the humanities and the social sciences, this college is represented by a symbol connecting the past with the present in an organic, reflective manner.





National Technical Institute for the Deaf

National Technical Institute for the Deaf

Emanating rays of light personify deaf and hard-of-hearing students. Each an individual, yet preparing together for technological careers and ready to go in all directions in a global society, all represented by the circular shape. The allusion to an eye conveys the importance of visual communication, and the center represents the beacon that is the National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

College of Science

The classic symbol of the atom as the fundamental building block of matter represents the College of Science. The symbol signifies an inner core with outer rings that orbit the central nucleus, conveying the perfect harmony through which physics, biology, chemistry, mathematics, and statistics coexist.



Golisano Institute for Sustainability



Golisano Institute for Sustainability

An image representing water, wind, and the Earth, this insignia symbolizes the energy of the sun which powers clean energy, healthy environments, and pollution prevention. The inner gear, surrounded by leaves, reinforces the central ideas of sustainability: remanufacturing, diverse and productive ecosystems, nanopower, government and society, and the management of human consumption.

RIT Croatia

As four appendages revolve around a central managing hub, this symbol represents the reciprocating partnership of business and technology at RIT Croatia.



RIT

Dubai



RIT Dubai

With a sun representing the dynamic energy of the institution and wavy lines signifying the fertile environment for developing globally savvy students, this symbol signifies RIT Dubai's commitment to the highest standards of career-focused higher education.

RIT Kosovo

An organic symbol with individual entities representing parts of a well-organized system embodies the entrepreneurial leadership at the core of RIT Kosovo. The six tapered points reach out to the business community. The circular configuration shows motion, activity, and unity.



RIT

Alumni

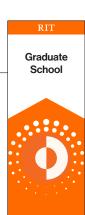


Alumni

Whether recent or long graduated, alumni fill a forever role with their alma mater. A lifelong relationship with RIT begins from day one; students becoming alumni while forging bonds with each other and the university each step along their individual journeys. Year after year, our RIT family grows with each alumni member further bolstered by the opportunities and connections gained both at and outside RIT.

Graduate School

The center abstract represents the duality of logic and analytical thinking with creativity, spatial awareness, and innovation. A circular ring radiating around the center signifies the expansion of RIT's global research and artistic endeavors.



Institutions Represented in the Procession of Delegates

University of Pennsylvania

Founded 1740

University of Pittsburgh

Founded 1787

Hartwick College

Founded 1797

University of Michigan

Founded 1817

The George Washington University

Founded 1821

Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Founded 1822

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Founded 1824

SUNY Brockport

Founded 1835

Fordham University

Founded 1841

University at Albany

Founded 1844

University of Rochester

Founded 1850

University of Florida

Founded 1853

Elmira College

Founded 1855

Michigan State University

Founded 1855

St. Bonaventure University

Founded 1858

The University of Kansas

Founded 1864

Cornell University

Founded 1865

Worcester Polytechnic

Institute

Founded 1865

Roberts Wesleyan University

Founded 1866

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Founded 1867

Purdue University

Founded 1869

Syracuse University

Founded 1870

SUNY Geneseo

Founded 1871

SUNY Oneonta

Founded 1889

Keuka College

Founded 1890

Clarkson University

Founded 1896

St. Joseph's College of

Nursing

Founded 1898

Carnegie Mellon University

Founded 1900

Nazareth University

Founded 1924

Binghamton University

Founded 1946

Brandeis University

Founded 1948

St. John Fisher University

Founded 1948

Commission on Independent Colleges

and Universities in

New York
Founded 1956

rounaea 1930

Stony Brook University

Founded 1957

Monroe Community
College

Donege

Founded 1961

Onondaga Community

College

Founded 1961

Genesee Community
College

Founded 1966

Olin College of Engineering

Founded 1997

Nazarbayev University

Founded 2010

NEOM University

Founded 2022



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President, RIT Dubai

Irena Guszak

President and Dean, RIT Croatia

Michael Hess

Chief Executive Officer, RIT Kosovo



Alma Mater

Hail, RIT! Together stand
Creating good with mind and hand;
Inspired to learn 'til life is done
As teachers, learners, all are one
With pride in our diversity
A spirit of community,
We are the ones, the people of
The future, here, at RIT!
From RIT, our course is set;
We celebrate a promise kept:
A life, a living you have taught;
Let new horizons now be sought!

RIT

1 Lomb Memorial Drive Rochester, NY 14623 **rit.edu**

