

2021

# Presidential Awards for Outstanding Staff



## **Welcome**

Dr. David C. Munson, Jr.  
RIT President

## **National Anthem & Alma Mater**

RIT String Quartet  
RIT Singers

## **Introduction of Nominees**

Gina Reeder '13, '14, '16  
Staff Council Chair

## **Presentation of Awards**

### **Rising Star Award**

Denise Acton  
Awards Selection Committee Co-Chair

### **Excellence Awards**

Gina Reeder

### **Isaac L. Jordan, Sr. Staff Pluralism Award**

Sandra Whitmore '09, '12  
Diversity & Inclusion  
Isaac L. Jordan, Sr. Staff Pluralism Award Selection Committee Chair

### **Dancy Duffus Award for Outstanding Citizenship**

Denise Acton

### **Albert J. Simone Legacy Award**

Gina Reeder

### **Closing Remarks**

Dr. David C. Munson, Jr.

# NOMINEES

## **Luke Auburn '09, '15**

Senior Communications Specialist, Marketing and Communications

## **David Ballard '00, '04**

Director of Technical Services, Saunders College of Business

## **Marcia Beattie '97, '02**

Senior Academic Advisor, Office of Student Services, College of Liberal Arts

## **CAPS/MCAS Advocates**

Odessa Despot and Isabel Chandler

## **Isabel Chandler**

Mental Health Therapist, Counseling and Psychological Services

## **Tina Chapman DaCosta '05 '14**

Director of Diversity Theatre, Diversity and Inclusion

## **Content Production Team**

Aaron Gorelick; Nancy Kikendall; Julie Lindsay '96; Jonathan Roman '17, '22; Jennifer Riccardi '15; Jennaca Saeva; Carol Sirkovich; Christy Smith; Melissa Van Hall

## **COVID Sign Language Video Translation Team**

Tim Albert '98; Joshua Bloodworth; Cynthia Collward '85; Bill DeGroote '88, '98; Donald Feigel; Bob Finnerty '07; Sean Flanagan '16; Rachel Green '15, '22; Brian Haak '12; Catherine Kiwitt; Carolyn Kropp; Carl Langsenkamp; Vicki Liggera; Gayle Macias '06; Mary Karol Matchett '88; Susan Murad '01; Keven Poore; Sarah Schneckenburger '01; Jenna Stein '13, '15

## **Odessa Despot**

Staff Psychologist, Counseling and Psychological Services

## **Kathryn Faulring '19**

Project & Development Coordinator, Wegmans School of Health and Nutrition

## **Dan Gabber '17, '19**

Digital Fabrication Specialist, College of Art and Design

## **Pamela Gurbacki**

Senior Staff Specialist, College of Engineering Technology

## **Emily Heyman**

Associate Director, University Arenas

## **Firoza Kavanagh '87**

Senior Staff Specialist, NTID Academic Affairs

# NOMINEES

**Robert Lewis**

Manager RIT Tech Crew, Center for Campus Life

**Vicki Liggera**

Director, NTID Counseling & Academic Advising Services

**Christie Lutzer**

Senior Staff Specialist, College of Science Dean's Office

**Kit Mayberry**

Senior Advisor for Student Diversity Outreach, Enrollment and Retention,  
Diversity and Inclusion

**Cassandra Nickels**

Marketing Director, College of Science

**Elizabeth Polmateer**

Senior Staff Assistant, Air Force & Army ROTC

**Randleman Program for Interpreters of Color Team**

Emilio Hernandez; Denise Herrera '04, '07, '08; Amberlee Jones '21, '24;  
Kristi Love '17

**Dawn Rizzo**

Senior Financial Assistant, Center for Campus Life

**Fabiano Sarra '13, '19**

Instructional Support Specialist Fabrication Processes, College of Art and Design  
Operations

**Kim Shearer**

Director of Operations, Golisano College of Computer and Information Sciences

**Alison Thompson**

Senior Staff Assistant, School of Communications, College of Liberal Arts

**Peggy Tirrell '95**

Senior Associate Director Graduate Programs & Admissions, Saunders College  
of Business

**Andrea Tuttle**

Career Services Coordinator, Office of Co-op Education & Career Services

**Gregory Vieira**

Supervisor of Special Projects, Housing Facilities

**thank  
you**

**RIT** | **Staff  
Council**