

# RIT PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING STAFF

## *Congratulations to the 2018 Nominees:*

**Eli Abrams**

Senior Custodian, Facilities Management Services

*Eli is a positive and proud member of the Facilities Management Services family here at RIT. He has had to step into a leadership role for his area because his supervisor has been out on disability. His team looks to him for stability in an ever-changing work environment, and depends on his leadership and guidance.*

**James Battles**

Building Services Supervisor, Facilities Management Services

*James is so supportive and encouraging to his staff. He has instilled in his staff the value of hard work. He helps cultivate an environment that is supportive to the students that they serve. He has a positive work ethic and sets a very high standard for himself. He has always assumed the responsibility for success in his work area and accountability to get the job done.*

**Julie Blowers '02**

Senior Director of Constituent Relations, University Development and Engagement

*Julie graciously accepted the role of Presidential Inauguration Director last summer. Her efforts as the administrator of the transition were outstanding. She coordinated endless details and provided great communication to all the members of the transition team over the course of many months, always with a smile and a spirit of cooperation and collaboration.*

**Neeven Botros**

Career Custodian, Facilities Management Services

*Neeven is a very dedicated employee who supports many, many events on campus by working hours of overtime. She is always eager to help her co-workers, the students, their parents at move in and move out times, and the faculty and staff. Neveen even willingly went to work on another crew when that team was very short staffed. Neveen is kind and friendly to everyone she interacts with.*

**JoAnne Buschang**

Senior Staff Specialist, KGCOE Dean's Office

*JoAnne takes tasks and runs with them. When she is in charge of an event, she goes the extra mile to think outside the box and make it special while respecting budgets. She finds ways to make sure visitors to our office have their needs met – if she can't help them, she reaches out to others to find resolution.*

**Cynthia Collward '85**

Coordinator RIT Programs and Services, NTID Access Services

*If you talk to anyone in the multiple areas that Cynthia serves, they will mention her good nature, her availability, promptness, her professionalism and her dedication to doing everything she can to serve consumers. A look at her email and texts will show messages sent and received at all hours of the day and night.*

**Lisa Dammeyer '88,'95**

Senior Staff Assistant, Golisano Institute for Sustainability

*Lisa is the jack of all trades for our department from helping with student travel to ordering new items for our labs to helping with scheduling classes. If a student has a problem, she drops what she is doing to help solve it as soon as possible. She is kind, generous, intelligent, and a bright light in a very grey Rochester!*

**Teri Edom '11**

Senior HR Manager, Human Resources

*Teri has quickly made a positive impact on and multiple contributions to the organizations she supports. She thrives on improving processes and policies and moving an organization forward. She is very approachable, thinks through situations and offers multiple solutions, is innovative and resourceful, and ultimately committed to what's best for employees and RIT.*

**Financial Wellness Team**

Stephanie Bauschard '99, Jeffrey Butler, Kathleen Cole '96, Tarra DeFelice, Rachel Flaherty, Sharon Kompalla-Porter, Mary Beth Nally '94, Stacy Nation-Knapper, Kellie Swartwout

*Members volunteer their time on this team, and have made raising the awareness of the importance of financial literacy their mission. One of their many offerings, a Financial Wellness Conference, was described by one student attendee as, "incredibly valuable. Seriously, one of the most helpful and beneficial events I've attended at RIT in my time as a student."*

**GCCIS Advising - Professional Development Committee**

Megan Fritts '08,'18, Amanda Thau, Cindy Wolfer

*I feel exceptionally fortunate that this team is so willing to think outside the box and work outside of their job descriptions to bring professional development experiences to us. They have created an excellent example of a best practice and provided colleagues across the University with an opportunity to improve our skills so that we, ultimately, can have a greater impact on student success.*

**Rebecca Fletcher-Roberts**

Assistant Dean, College of Health Sciences and Technology

*Rebecca has been an absolutely critical participant in the establishment and success of RIT's ninth college. I have been consistently impressed by her knowledge, commitment to students, work ethic, professionalism, tact, and ease communicating with colleagues—no matter how challenging the situation or project!*

**Kim Grant**

Senior Staff Assistant, Saunders College of Business- Student Services

*Kim's focus is on the student and family experience. She is one of the most cooperative colleagues I have engaged with in my years in higher education. She keeps detailed notes on every event in order to improve them every year to make the student, family and Saunders staff and faculty experiences the best they can be.*

**Paul Gregorius**

Lab Technician, KGCOE Chemical Engineering

*Paul does much more than support our labs. He collaborated with various faculty members to develop most of the modules in our teaching labs. He is also an amazing co-instructor for two lab courses. The success of our students, especially in their first co-ops which occur just after one of these courses, is in large part due to the hands-on preparation they receive under Paul's instruction.*

**Jake Griffin '18**

Shift Supervisor, Public Safety

*Jake is the type of employee every supervisor wants. He is a leader amongst his peers, works with little supervision, makes decisions, and most of all is trustworthy and honest. He is always willing to go the "extra mile" when tasked with additional responsibilities including his phenomenal work with social media management and crime prevention efforts across campus.*





**Christopher Helming '06**  
Senior PC Systems Admin, ITS Enterprise Support

*Christopher's professionalism has enhanced the instructional experiences for many students. He has a great work ethic, and has formed strong relationships with his managers, co-workers, and customers. He is extremely capable in solving difficult technical issues under time pressure. His contributions have led to several improvements benefiting ITS and the colleges we serve.*



**Kerry Hughes '03**  
Project and Events Manager, Office of the Provost/SVP Academic Affairs

*Kerry does so much more than complete a task – she thinks deeply about what she is doing, how it fits into the bigger picture, how it will impact the end user, and how we can make it better. She is a systems thinker and very logical, but she is also warm, friendly, and approachable.*



**Harvey Jones**  
Senior Custodian, Facilities Management Services

*Harvey has gone out of his way to treat others with the utmost respect and consideration. He has consistently worked very hard to build a constructive and effective relationship with all those around him.*



**Neil Kromer '80**  
Operations Manager, Golisano Institute for Sustainability & Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies

*Neil manages the planning, logistics, and execution of events critical to the continued recognition of RIT as a leader in research, technology, outreach, and education. He exhibits an extraordinary ability to identify challenges, coordinate resources, and communicate with each group that plays a role to harvest the full potential of each stakeholder to provide solutions.*



**Bill Landers**  
Chief Engineer, CAD Facilities

*Bill has an absolute command of his job. He not only keeps current on what equipment the faculty need in order to do their best but he understands that the students may not know what they need, or want, and makes continual strides to assess these needs. He is looking out for everyone and supporting faculty and students alike.*



**Lucy LaRocca**  
Career Custodian, Facilities Management Svcs.

*Lucy is a great asset to our team, department, and the RIT community. When our team is short staffed she regularly comes into work early and stays late to help out with the reassigned work. She consistently volunteers to help out wherever she can with a positive attitude. Lucy's efforts have made a significant contribution to the efficiency of our department.*



**Sherry Lupo**  
Senior Procurement Specialist, Procurement Services

*Sherry is '1-800-Procurement' She is the go-to person for everything from questions about Oracle, to training new employees, to inquiries about university processes or even who to contact about anything across campus. She tackles each day with energy, enthusiasm, and an outstanding attitude.*



**Stephanie Mackowski '15**  
Public Safety Officer I, Public Safety

*Stephanie Mackowski is a rare gem. She doesn't excel at RIT because of awards and recognition, she excels because she cares about people, service, and safety – before self. Service – connecting with students (while being cheerful), will always win the day in any college public safety organization. Stephanie is a terrific role model and the epitome of superior community service.*



**Renee Milliken '17**  
Senior Staff Specialist, KGCOE Biomedical Engineering

*Renee is a team player, not to mention she is deftly skilled at multitasking and is quick to predict and solve unforeseen obstacles. Renée also thrives when tasked with a new initiative. Often times, she is the driver behind new projects within the department. She is always looking to grow and develop new skills.*



**Nancy Moore**  
Building Services Supervisor, Facilities Management Services

*Nancy exemplifies what all RIT employees should strive to be: kind, considerate, friendly and helpful. She is very organized and efficient. She is always looking for ways to improve processes. She is forward thinking and helps make RIT Events more successful. Her staff knows they can count on her for leadership and support.*



**Rob Mostyn**  
MAGIC Hub Coordinator, Office of the VP for Research

*Rob demonstrated notable leadership as the administrator of the New York State Game Dev Challenge. Rob built it from scratch, including criteria, rules, an advisory board, submission process, marketing and more. I can't imagine a bigger, or more high profile task for someone in their first weeks on the job, but he did it, truly making RIT shine in the process!*



**Alyshia O'Connor**  
Associate Director, Center for Campus Life

*Alyshia serves as a supervisor, mentor, and role model in everything she does. In addition to her work with student events, Alyshia oversees more than 300 clubs and organizations and has worked diligently to streamline processes related to their operations. Her guidance has been crucial to growing a flourishing club program.*



**Neurodiverse Hiring Initiative Team**  
Laurie Ackles, Janine Rowe

*Preparing students with Autism Spectrum Disorder for the job search and preparing employers to recruit, hire and manage neurodiverse co-op students and full-time job seekers is the work of the future and Janine and Laurie are leading the way, not just here at RIT, but nationally and internationally.*



**Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships - Front Desk Staff**  
Matthew Reynell, Lori Rios

*I have had the experience of working at four colleges and universities in my career, all in offices that administer financial aid. Matt and Lori are by far the front desk team that demonstrates the highest level of passion for the students they encounter while also having the breadth of knowledge required to be effective.*



**Office of Part-Time & Grad Enrollment Services - International Recruiters**  
Katherine Beczak, Keith Davis, David Wivell '16

*Our international partnerships are a covenant with our international colleagues. We are saying, "We understand you are entrusting RIT with the well-being and education of your children." Making this commitment is easy and can be done with confidence when you have people like Katie, Keith, and David working to ensure the success of our international students—we can confidently say to their parents and families that they are in good and trusted hands.*





**Adam Platzer '01,'02**  
Senior Director Development/KGCOE,  
University Development and Engagement

*Adam built a relationship with Austin McChord over many years that inspired trust and commitment to university excellence and donor-centricity, servicing Austin's needs at every stage of his growing business. Adam's humble approach to his work and focus on teamwork and persistence have become a best practice model for staff at RIT and other universities alike.*



**Donna Podeszek '11**  
Senior Staff Assistant, GIS Architecture

*Donna was instrumental in the recent accreditation of our M.ARCH program. She was so crucial that the visiting NAAB team made sure to mention her by name in their accreditation report; and of all the people the team met, which included department chairs, faculty, provost and president of RIT, Donna was the only one to be mentioned by name in the 140+ page document.*



**Lori Poole-Clement '04**  
Lab Technician, NTID Science and Mathematics

*Lori serves as an example to our students of how a lab technician can be successful and professional; she has organized external co-op experiences for our students; and she takes on the training and oversight of in-house co-op students. In typical Lori-fashion, she sees students in need and wants to help them.*



**Megan Tornow '17**  
Senior Staff Assistant, Multicultural Center for Academic Success

*Megan is the heart of the Multicultural Center for Academic Success; she is important to MCAS's success; she is a strong reason students feel close to the center. When they return from the summer or as alumni she is on their short list to visit. Her passion and love for students is visible and greatly appreciated.*



**Teaching & Learning Services - Computing Security Online Course Development Team**  
Graham Anthony '05,'15, Katie Bush '15, Joe Butler, Steve Czompo, Marty Golia, Chris Hodge, Joe Janasiewicz, Jeremiah Parry-Hill '02, Clara Riedlinger, Colleen Spitz, Michael Starenko, Ian Webber '96,'11, Joe Zelazny

*This team lives and breathes the mission of the ILI to offer an exceptional experience for the students taking online courses and the faculty delivering them. They deliver truly spectacular service, which has led to an unprecedented level of awareness of our offerings. To date, over 670,000 learners have accessed our collective edX offerings — a first in the history of RIT, due largely to the excellence of this team.*



**Teaching & Learning Services - Online Course Training Support Team**  
Marty Golia, Rebecca Johnson, Ken Kindler, Jeremiah Parry-Hill '02, Michael Starenko, Joe Zelazny

*The collegiality and professionalism of all members make this team exemplary. Each team member embodies the desire to help RIT attain new levels of quality in online courses and programs. They each dedicate their professional lives to the research and dissemination of best practices, which culminate in the overall success of online training.*



**University Exploration Staff**  
Pradip Ananda, Marty Burris '96, Dewey Lawrence, Susan Lindsay '10

*The University Exploration Team has truly gone above and beyond in providing a personalized experience and high-level service. The high number of ex-students that go on to become ambassadors of the program speaks volumes about this extremely student-centered approach to advising and fostering student-advisor relationships.*



**Chuck VanMaldeghem**  
Building Services Supervisor, Facilities Management Services

*Chuck is constantly looking for ways to better serve the university. He is constantly researching more efficient and economical ways to support the school while maintaining the environmentally friendly awareness we all desire. Ultimately, Chuck has helped make not only the custodial department, but all of RIT, a better place for everyone to learn, work and grow.*



**Anne Wahl**  
Assistant Provost for Assessment and Accreditation, Office of the Provost/SVP Academic Affairs

*The accreditation project was a mighty undertaking, spanning several years and involving hundreds of people across the university. Anne provided expert leadership from day one. She helped create a structure and process that was both inclusive and efficient. The Board of Trustees was extremely impressed with the final report, and the External Evaluation Team referred to it as exemplary.*



**Tammara Wickson**  
Academic Advisor, CLA-Dean's Office

*Tammi's level of dedication to our students is extraordinary. She facilitates a tremendous amount of communication between students, faculty, department chairs, and program directors so that the web of support that is available to our students is coherent, consistent, and welcoming. She knows every aspect of the curriculum and is able to easily describe its intricacies to both students and faculty.*