

RIT PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING STAFF

Congratulations to the 2019 Nominees!



Megan Bastian '05

Multimedia Designer, Marketing and Communication

Megan believes in giving back to the university and her contributions have promoted the university brand throughout all colleges and divisions. She was an integral part of the RIT rebrand and web design system. Megan lives and breathes RIT!



Stephanie Bauschard '99

Associate Director, University Advising Office

Stephanie continually goes above and beyond in order to help instructors and advisors so they may support students more seamlessly. Stephanie's work with the Starfish software is a perfect match because just like the system she is able to easily bring people together, effectively collaborate with others, build lasting connections, and work to make a positive impact on others.



Jodi Boita

Executive Director, Student Affairs – Assessment, Technology & Communications

In her work and how she works, Jodi creates, models, and maintains a diverse, positive, and supportive campus. This often means that she is asking difficult questions of substance that encourage colleagues and students to think more deeply about how we interact with each other and whether our decisions are creating the culture we want for our RIT community.



Heidi Boland

Events & Promotions Manager, Saunders College of Business—Marketing & Recruitment

Heidi has brought a wealth of hospitality and dining experience to her position as events and promotions manager. She is an all-around treasure for RIT to have in its community and a rising star. Heidi provides exceptional customer service on all fronts and represents Saunders and RIT in the best possible light.



Fran Broderick '19

College Communications Manager, GCCIS – Office of the Dean

Fran's quality that stands above the rest is his dedication to serving the students of our college via coaching, mentoring, encouraging, and an unending passion desire to see them excel. He is an important contributor to the success of the Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences.



Michael Buffalin IV '14

Lab Manager, Simone Center for Student Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Without Mike's guidance, oversight, creativity, and support, it is certain that untold numbers of inspired ideas would not have come to fruition on our campus. Through Mike's propensity of going above and beyond, RIT's Construct: Student Maker Space has prospered and become a recognized national success story.



Matt Casella '16

Coordinator of Admin Lab Operations, COS – Center for Imaging Science

Matt is an incredible asset to the Center for Imaging Science and RIT. He's a forward-thinking problem solver whose tenacity and determination have brought about numerous improvements to our operations and facilities. His efforts have made a real difference in the lives of the colleagues and students he supports.



Clifford Cisco '18

Evening Supervisor, Dining Services

Cliff has built many meaningful relationship with our part-time student staff that are extremely valuable and highlight his student centeredness. Many of our students look to him not only for his leadership, but as someone whom they can talk with during challenging times.



Kate Clark

Associate Director for Awards & Grants Management, Sponsored Research Services

Kate is a key asset to RIT; she is the glue that has held RIT together in her thirty plus years of service. She helped create innumerable policies that extend far beyond the research division. Her depth of knowledge across diverse domains puts her in a category of one. She has been a resource for nearly every part of RIT at one point or another.



Gina Coyne '07

Associate Interpreter, NTID – Access Services

Gina truly has passion for making the classroom more accessible. Before becoming an ASL interpreter, she assisted in the development of the first abbreviation system for real-time captioning used in the classroom. She dedicates herself to her work and the RIT community; she takes students under her wings and helps craft them into young professionals; she never gives up on anybody.



Danielle Dankey '08

Associate Director, Undergraduate Admissions / Enrollment Marketing

Danielle is a consummate professional and is always open to helping others, even when it falls outside of her job responsibilities. She is approachable and is genuinely cares about her colleagues, students that work in the office, parents, prospective and accepted students and their families.



Jill Ehmann '18

Senior Staff Specialist, KGCOE – Mechanical Engineering

Jill is very good at inspiring people and coming up with innovative ways to help make mundane tasks fun and interesting. While she always performs her job responsibilities above and beyond what is required, Jill is also all about giving back to the community and world around her. She is an outstanding asset to the department and brings tremendous value to the team.



Kathrine Ehrlich-Scheffer

Director WE@RIT, KGCOE – Dean's Office

Beyond the many ways that Kathy contributes to diversity through her responsibilities as Director of WE@RIT, she tirelessly pursues professional development and service opportunities centered on diversity. She has participated in a wide variety of workshops and conferences focused on the many dimensions of pluralism, and she actively seeks to learn more about attracting and retaining women in STEM fields of study.



Felicia Fields

Senior Staff Specialist, Center for Campus Life

Felicia is highly knowledgeable and skilled, a strong communicator, a student-centered employee and also kind, passionate, and innovative. She consistently innovates with new and more efficient processes that and her commitment to professional development and understanding of Student Affairs will continue to benefit all of us.



Harold Fields

Director, Residence Life Administration

Harold embodies a commitment to pluralism not just as an idea, but as a core pillar of who he is, both as a professional and as a person. He takes opportunities to participate in programs or initiatives that challenge and grow his own multicultural competence.



Jordan Gates '17

Senior Staff Assistant, Golisano College of Computing & Information Sciences – Computer Science

Jordan is one of those people who is immediately likable. I would feel comfortable putting him with any group of people, in any environment and I know he would fit right in.



Marie Green

Senior Staff Assistant, College of Health Sciences & Technology – Office of the Dean

Marie consistently exceeds expectations in her position and approaches her work from a quality improvement standpoint. Her positive attitude and ability to always look at a challenging project as new opportunity is inspiring.



Pamela Gurbacki

Senior Staff Specialist, College of Engineering Technology – Electrical, Computer and Telecommunication Engineering Technology

Pam spends significant effort ensuring her co-workers, both staff and faculty, are successful. One of her great qualities is her ability to communicate and build consensus even in the midst of challenges. She is exceptional at everything she does.



Stephanie Haynes

Coordinator of Supplemental Instruction, Academic Success Center

Stephanie deeply cares about the students she works with. Her primary focus is on providing them with a great experience as SI leaders while fostering partnerships with faculty and administrators. Her work has an extraordinary impact on students, supporting their academic success and developing life skills essential to their professional success.



Jennifer Hinton

Assistant Director of RIT MAGIC Center, Vice President for Research

Jenn is a thoughtful leader who openly listens and effectively communicates. She is respectful of our students, our colleagues, and our partners. She demonstrates conviction, but is also diplomatic and encouraging of all viewpoints. She seeks to build consensus, but is always open to a diversity of opinion.



Tania Kleynhans '17

Associate Scientist, College of Science - Center for Imaging Science

In addition to performing her own high-quality research, Tania assists several undergraduate and graduate students in achieving their research goals. She has been indispensable in the collaboration between the University of Rochester and RIT in cultural heritage imaging, resulting in the first RIT course in cultural heritage imaging.



David Lake

Facilities & Operations Manager, College of Science – Office of the Dean

Dave is an integral community member of RIT and the College of Science. The caliber of his work and his significant contributions to RIT have had significant impacts on our students and all other stakeholders. Dave comes to work every day hoping to accomplish a goal, create new tasks, look for improvements and make as many people as possible happy or smile.



Miriam Lerner

Interpreter, National Technical Institute for the Deaf – Access Services

Miriam has created a legacy with her technical and practical innovations. She spearheaded and has shepherded the creation and expansion of the ASL Core project. She has been the authentic, modest, and nevertheless brilliant catalyst for positive developments in our ability to educate the diverse RIT DHH community. Her compassion and intelligence radiate throughout the university.



Patricia Maillet

Administrative Specialist, Student Health Center

Pat is the pillar of the Student Health Center and has been a tremendous asset to the success of RIT Ambulance. She has worked well above and beyond her role expectations and is the go to person for just about everything in the office. Without Pat, the health center would not have been successful.



Jenn McKee '04,'10

Director, Facilities Management Services – Administrative Operations

Jenn is the definition of hard work. She does whatever it takes to get the job done in an outstanding manner. She has provided innovative solutions for our appraisal process, cultural development, and wellness programs.



Mariah McLane Giardino

Associate Director, Office of Undergraduate Admissions

Mariah's poise, warmth, sense of humor, knowledge of the field and ability to ease parent anxiety are all her strong suits. She is thoroughly invested in the students for whom she advocates tirelessly and is an outstanding college representative. Mariah has a gift of making everyone around her feel special, valued, respected and appreciated.



Peg Meyers

Coordinator, Staff Council

Peg has been a tireless champion for staff participation in shared governance. As the first and only Staff Council Coordinator at RIT, she has firmly established Staff Council as a permanent fixture through her professionalism, and approachability. People listen to, and more often than not, request her input on any manner of issues. She is a kind, warm-hearted person with a can-do spirit that makes working with her wonderful.



Mindy Mozer

Associate Director of University Communications, Marketing and Communications

Mindy demonstrates RIT's Core Values through each issue of each publication she manages. She is driven, organized, communicative, innovative and creative and is a leader for the department. Mindy encourages collaboration in all that she does to ensure that RIT members of all races, ethnicities, genders, religions, and levels and areas of study are represented.



Susan Northrup

Senior Associate Teacher, Margaret's House

Sue is a passionate and talented teacher who embraces professional development and has changed practices as a result of new research and current trends in early childhood education. She creates a classroom based on the interests of the children while providing an appropriate curriculum and is well-respected by the families of the children in her care. She is the fabric of the Margaret's House community.



Chelsea Petree

Director, Student Affairs – Parent and Family Programs

Chelsea has developed a deep understanding of the RIT community, services and resources as well as the needs and hopes of our parents and families. She has been a model campus partner, embracing opportunities for meaningful collaboration, shared programming, and strategic projects. She wants everyone to have an outstanding experience during their time at RIT and she is dedicated to ensuring it happens.



Elizabeth Polmateer

Senior Staff Assistant, College of Engineering Technology – Office of the Dean

The successes of RIT's ROTC program is a direct reflection of Beth's unmatched competence and relentless commitment to the students she cares for. She passionately and thoughtfully navigates a combination of RIT, Army, and Air Force policies and procedures. Her number one priority is the well-being of the students.



Sue Provenzano '84,'09

Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs

What stands out most about Sue is the very high level of excellence she exhibits. Commencement weekend is the spectacular event that it is today as a result of her oversight, guidance and ability to lead. She also ensures policies are crafted correctly, integrate well together, and move efficiently through the approval process. She has earned the trust of all through her knowledge, good humor, and commitment to teamwork.



Mary Pryor

Web and Social Media Coordinator, College of Science – Office of the Dean

Mary has demonstrated outstanding contributions to the effort of increasing and modernizing the web profile of the COS in addition to significantly enhancing our social media presence. Her excellent work ethic, outstanding organizational skills, collegial working style, and calm demeanor have helped her build great relationships both inside the COS and with our partners on campus.



Gail Quartieri '01

Academic & Administrative Services Coordinator II, College of Engineering Technology – Office of the Dean

Gail personifies all there is to be proud of at RIT. She works diligently to make RIT a better place for our students. She can work with faculty, staff and administrators alike and treat everyone with the same respect regardless of title and role and works diligently to make RIT a better place for our students.



Amy Reed

Head Women's Basketball Coach & Wellness Instructor, Intercollegiate Athletics

As our head coach of women's basketball Amy has helped her student-athletes become better people and stronger community members. This is one reason why they have been so successful. Along with their coach, they have built a strong foundation to become leaders in the global community.



Gina Reeder '13,'14,'16

Senior Staff Specialist, Academic Success Center

RIT benefits from Gina's love of learning, service and celebration. She brings knowledge of the operations of the university and continually seeks to expand that knowledge. Gina's level of organization and preparedness allows ASC colleagues to be successful and to serve our students in the best possible way.



Vicki Rocha

Academic Advisor, University Advising Office / Kate Gleason College of Engineering

Vicki manages to strike an incredible balance of loving guidance, honesty, and respect for her students' decisions. She is a constant and steadfast supporter for her students. She is a strong part of the team; faculty rely on her to provide information that is needed for the department to remain aligned with university expectations.



Peter Rosenthal

Senior Associate Director of Student Services, Saunders College of Business

Peter is an asset not only to the department and Saunders College of Business, but also to RIT. His good work goes well beyond the RIT campus and his passion is evident and is reinforced through his work ethic. He is a leader and role model for students and peers alike.



Patrick Saeva

Executive Director of Advancement Services, Development and Alumni Relations

Patrick has demonstrated his willingness, desire, and ability to promote excellence within his team, and how his team builds trusting relationships within the department and the university. He is a quiet leader with an innate talent for fostering a spirit of teamwork and inclusivity and serves as an example for what we should strive for as members of the RIT community.



Monica Sanford

Assistant Director for Spirituality and Religious Life, Center for Campus Life

Monica has transformed the area of spirituality and religious life. She has developed affiliation processes that allow a wider range of student needs to be served within the center and introduced interfaith initiatives that has put RIT on the map with the Interfaith Youth Corps.



Rachel Scott
Assistant Registrar for Transfer Credit Management, Office of the Registrar

Rachel has been the primary driving force behind the initiative to automate transfer credit articulation. Rachel has effectively collaborated to develop the key components to this more centralized process, which is already bringing dramatically better service to our incoming transfer students as well as to our current students. Rachel is the epitome of collegiality.



Jody Sidlauskas
Associate Archivist, RIT Libraries

Jody has dedicated herself to improving the level of service offered by RIT Archive Collections. She is humble, passionate, kind, and dedicated. Jody is a person with a passion for her work, her students, and the RIT community. Her passion for RIT and the university's history is always apparent.



Ericka Smith-Schubart
Associate Director Technology & Systems, Residence Life Administration

Ericka serves as a vital conduit for Residence Life connections to RIT Housing. She has been a great partner in the assignments processes as well as facilities operations through her ability to critically absorb information and make solid decisions. She has significantly contributed to the success and efficiency of her department.



Mark Stamer
Computer Technician, GCCIS – Computer Science

Mark is one of those hidden gems that everyone depends on, yet does not look for any kudos. His knowledge of computer hardware has been key in providing fixes for dying machines, diagnosing systems, and providing an analysis of the state of our hardware. He does anything that he can to help someone who needs it and is an integral part of the team.



Joanne Staskiewicz
Senior Staff Assistant, College of Liberal Arts – Sociology & Anthropology

Joanne has proven herself to be invaluable to the office, students, program, the faculty and to CLA. Her personality, smarts, knowledge, reliability, and her expertise make her a unique asset to departmental affairs. Joanne is not only efficient, personable, and professional; she also supplies the emotional glue to the department.



Corinne Teravainen '14
Student Support Services Specialist, College of Science – Mathematical Sciences

Corinne is the first person students go to if they have an administrative problem to resolve. Her pleasant demeanor, comprehensive knowledge of SMS courses and policies allow the student to have all the information to proceed. Corinne is also very helpful to faculty with courses, RIT policies, and Institutional Research and is a critical component to making our operations a success.



Rose Thomas
Academic Advisor, Saunders College of Business – Student Services

Character, I always believed, supersedes any individual and holistically creates their reputation. When I moved to the College of Business my sophomore year, I kept hearing that having Rose Thomas as an advisor meant I was in good hands, and that for sure was the truth. Now when I hear about the character and person that Isaac L. Jordan was, I feel like a mirror reflects the image of Rose Thomas.



Evan Thompson
Interim Privacy Officer, Office of Legal Affairs

Evan has a keen ability to explain the law and legal processes with confidence, and in a manner that is easily understood by a layperson. He makes the law less intimidating and relatable and is very effective at educating the university community on key legal issues. He has demonstrated not only his excellent knowledge of labor law, but also his dedication and concern for the success of our employees.



Peggy Tirrell '85
Senior Associate Director of Graduate Business Programs & Admissions, SCB

Peggy is 110% committed to the students she serves, and they stay connected when they leave RIT. Her office is filled with trinkets from around the world, sent or brought back by grateful alumni. She is also committed to RIT and willingly volunteers for committees, panels, and activities that go beyond the requirements for the job.



Bruce Tolleson '12
Senior Microelectronics Clean Room Equipment Technician, KGCOE – Semiconductor & Microsystems Fabrication Lab

Bruce has been an integral part of the lab for 21 years and his knowledge and experience are instrumental in keeping the lab running. He is always innovative, and he excels at negotiations for tools, whether in cost reductions or just getting tools and extra parts for tools donated.



Kitren Van Strander '91,'16
Director of Outreach Education & Training, Office of the Provost

Kitren is a remarkable professional with a deep understanding of the creation and implementation of policies and processes. Her personable and focused approach to every aspect of her work makes her a highly sought-after colleague for a variety of problem solving conversations. She is a wonderful combination of professionalism, reliability, knowledge, curiosity and humor.



Tomicka Wagstaff
Assistant Vice President for Academic Access & Success, Diversity and Inclusion

As an educator, Tomicka has devoted her career to ensuring equitable educational access and success for students, faculty and staff. It has been her mission to utilize her leadership skills to advocate for greater opportunities not only for members in the RIT community, but outside as well.



Rebekah Walker
Digital Humanities/Social Sciences Librarian, RIT Libraries

Rebekah has assisted in the creation, development, and management of two digital projects involving multiple partners and institutions. Her genuine interest and love of sharing her knowledge unselfishly with students, faculty, and co-workers has resulted in great things and inspires others to do great things. Rebekah is a truly outstanding member of the RIT community.



Sean Watson
Assistant Director, Residence Life Apartments

Within a very short time, Sean has found multiple ways to collaborate with other departments, learn about the culture of RIT, and embed himself in meaningful places across campus. He has demonstrated thoughtful leadership, adaptability, and holistic planning within the department, which will transform the way we will work with students.



Ben Willmott
Senior Staff Specialist, College of Liberal Arts – Performing Arts and Visual Culture

Ben is an outstanding team player who works tirelessly and consistently going above and beyond his nominal job responsibilities of handling all performing arts financial, marketing, scheduling and logistical needs. He brings sincerity, compassion, and camaraderie to the department and truly cares about what he does.