

# NOMINEES

## **Joseph Steimer**

Envr Health & Fire Safety Technician, Global Risk Management Services -  
Environmental Health and Safety, Finance and Administration

## **Jessica Swallow**

Manager, Access Services  
National Technical Institute for the Deaf

## **Peggy Tirrell**

Senior Assoc Director Grad Business Prog and Admissions  
Student Services, Saunders College of Business

## **Laura Watts**

Senior Assoc Director, Admissions Operations and Enrollment Analytics  
Enrollment Management

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

# 2025 Presidential Awards for Outstanding Staff

## **Welcome**

Dr. William H. Sanders  
RIT President

## **National Anthem & Alma Mater**

RIT Philharmonic Orchestra  
RIT Singers

## **Introduction of Nominees**

Gene Vogler, Staff Council Chair

## **Rising Star Award**

Gene Vogler

## **Excellence Awards**

Jeremy Zehr, Staff Council Vice Chair  
Lisa Crittenden, Staff Council Coordinator  
Awards Selection Committee Co-Chairs

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

Sandra Whitmore, Executive Director for Marketing and Operations  
Access, Engagement, and Success  
Award Selection Committee Chair

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

Karen Braun, Staff Council Representative & Selection Committee

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

Gene Vogler

## **Closing Remarks**

Dr. William H. Sanders

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## **Academic Success Team**

Neeraj Buch, Sammy DiSalvo, Michelle Ernsthausen, Justyna Oldziej, Chelsea Phelps, Kathy Rochette, Cha Ron Sattler-Lablanc, Karen Scheske, Mary Beth Spinelli, Christopher Marcoux

## **Kathryn Cilano**

Director, Student Engagement and Community Life  
Student Affairs

## **Courseleaf Catalog Implementation Team**

Deja Campbell, Laura Cummings, Christine Licata, Joe Loffredo, Jared Lyon, Rebecca Montante, Michelle Mullen, Julie Nemer, Marla Roberts, Stephanie Romanet, Brenda Thornton, Max Xiong, Ning Zhang

## **Cecilia Creel Gomez**

Senior Staff Assistant, Dept of Mechanical & Mechatronics Engineering Technology  
College of Engineering Technology

## **Brandy Cunningham**

Senior Staff Assistant, Dean's Office  
College of Liberal Arts

## **Merrill DiPonzio**

HR Assistant, Talent Development  
Finance and Administration

## **GCCIS FirstByte Committee Team**

Micah Audycki, Fran Broderick, Heidi Davis, Tyler Monica, Olivia Nuccitelli, Gina Shevchuk, Lauren Shields, Denise Stade, Shelby Trudeau, Lana Verschage, Lynn Wildman, Mellissa Woodhams

## **Kara Grace**

Office Manager, Office of the Provost and Senior VP for Academic Affairs  
Academic Affairs

## **Monique Harris**

Manager, Access Services,  
National Technical Institute for the Deaf

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## **Stephanie Hart**

Research Program Administrator, Department of Chemical Engineering  
Kate Gleason College of Engineering

## **Morna B. Hilderbrand**

Interlibrary Loan Librarian  
Wallace Library

## **Liz Martin**

Academic Advisor, Department of Cybersecurity  
GCCIS

## **Natural & Environmental Response Team**

Jessica Bowen, Jennifer Bronakoski, Kathryn Cilano, Megan Kless, Carl Langsenkamp

## **Holly Neill**

ERP Finance Functional Lead, Controllers Office  
Finance and Administration

## **Makenna Payton**

Associate Director, Student Transitions and Success  
Center for Campus Life, Student Affairs

## **Lori Poole-Clement**

Lab Technician, Science and Mathematics Department  
National Technical Institute for the Deaf

## **Heather Roth**

Assistant Director of Recruitment and Retention Outreach  
Dean's Office, College of Liberal Arts

## **SHED Makerspace Team**

Michael Buffalin IV, Jim Heaney, Chris Vorndran

## **Taj Smith**

Executive Director for Community and Education  
Division of Access, Engagement, and Success