

January 21, 2016

# R·I·T Parent & Family Programs

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Greetings!

It's the beginning of a new semester at RIT and a time of fresh starts and new endeavors—not just for our students, but for you, our parents, as well. In December, we sent you a message to announce new resources available to the parents and families of RIT students. I am excited to be writing again with the newest parent communication, the Parent and Family E-Newsletter. This newsletter was developed to deliver the most current information to you on a regular basis. Sent every few weeks, this email will contain messages about campus news and deadlines, RIT programs, offices, and resources, special notices, and campus emergency information. Each message will contain a menu and clear headers, so you will be able to glance through the messages and choose what applies to or interests you and skip the rest.

This list will be used *only* by the Parent and Family Programs office; email addresses included in this list will not be shared with other campus departments or offices. Information about how to change your email preferences or unsubscribe from this

## ***News and Deadlines***

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### **First Week of Classes**

Campus is much less fun when the students are gone, and we are excited to see many returning this week. The first day of classes for spring semester is on January 25. During the first week, students should familiarize themselves with course syllabi, make note of assignment and project due dates, and begin to plan ahead for the semester. The last day for students to add or drop a class is Monday, February 1.

### **Meal Plan Changes**

Any changes to meal plans must be made by Friday, January 29 at 4:30 p.m. Remind your student to review his/her new course schedule and think about how dining fits into it. For example, if your student has a block of classes and will not be able to make it to Gracie's for lunch most days, a plan with higher food debit will allow your student to grab lunch near his/her classrooms. Students can change their meal plan through myDining Portal on the [Dining Services website](#).

### **Housing Assignments**

All first-year students who applied for RIT housing for the 2016-2017 academic year received a letter last week indicating if they have been assigned to RIT housing. If your student was assigned housing at this time, housing assignment and roommate information will be released on February 4. Students should go to [myhousing.rit.edu](http://myhousing.rit.edu) to find and confirm their housing assignments. The space available in RIT housing for next year is currently full; Housing Operations will continue to work hard over the next several months and assign students as spaces open up throughout the spring and summer. When students are assigned, they will receive an email letting them know to go to the housing portal to confirm the housing assignment and roommate information. If students have any questions about housing or their assignments, they should contact Housing Operations at [housing@rit.edu](mailto:housing@rit.edu) or 585-475-2572.

### **Graduation Fair**

The Graduation Fair will be held on Wednesday, February 10 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Fireside Lounge. At the fair, graduating students can meet with representatives from their college, other RIT departments, and vendors relevant to commencement activities. It's a one-stop shopping experience and great place to get questions about graduation answered. More information is available on the [Graduation Fair website](#).

### **Career Fair Clothing Drive**

In collaboration with I'm First and the Center for Residence Life, Parent and Family Programs is collecting gently-used professional clothing for the Career Clothing Open House. The Open House, held on Monday, February 29, allows students to pick out professional clothing in preparation for the Career Fair on March 2. Donated clothing items are free to students on a first come, first served basis. If you have any items to donate, please consider sending them back to RIT with your student. There are three clothing drop-off locations in the residence hall area: Ellingson Hall (North Area Office); Nathaniel Rochester Hall (South Area Office); Kate Gleason Hall (Residence Life Service Center).

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### **New Parent and Family Resources**

RIT recognizes the important role that parents and families play in our students' lives. Family support is an essential factor for helping students achieve their academic and career goals. We believe that parents can assist RIT in providing the information, resources, and support students need to be successful at RIT and beyond. The Parent and Family Programs office is here to help parents understand the student experience, support student learning, and empower students to take personal responsibility for their social and academic choices.

Through this newsletter, as well as the parent resources below, the Parent and Family Programs office will provide information to families about the student experience and about the resources available at RIT. Throughout the year, we will discuss the unique challenges and opportunities facing today's college students, including academic and non-academic expectations. In our parent communications, we provide information about student support services and ways students can access services. Our hope is that parents will use this information to encourage students to identify and seek support from RIT when needed.

Since it was established in July, the Parent and Family Programs office has developed new communications for parents, including:

- [Parent and Family Programs website](#): This website is here to help you navigate RIT resources and to offer advice on how to support your student in a variety of areas, including health and safety, academics, careers, and campus life. As you browse the website, please be sure to check out the [Timely Issues](#) page, which provides seasonal tips about your student's experiences.
- [Parent and Family Programs Facebook page](#): Our Facebook page has now reached over 1,700 members! This Facebook page is here to help families feel connected to RIT through photos of campus and students, information about what's happening at RIT, and interactions between parents. If you haven't already, please like our page.
- Contact the Parent and Family Programs office: Parents can always contact the Parent and Family Programs office with any questions at [parents@rit.edu](mailto:parents@rit.edu) or (585) 475-4198.

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## *Information and Updates*

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### **1098-T Tax Information**

1098-T tax statements will be sent to eligible students' permanent addresses by the end of January. The 1098-T statement reports the amount of qualified tuition and related expenses that were billed during the 2015 calendar year. If you have questions about the 1098-T and educational tax benefits, contact information can be found on the [Student Financial Services page](#).

### **Financial Aid**

Remember that students must reapply for financial aid each year by completing the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA). Students and families will have to file their state and federal taxes to ensure that you have the information needed to complete the FAFSA. Reminders to reapply will be sent to students currently enrolled and receiving financial aid.

## **Parent Poll**

Each month, we ask parents to respond to our Parent Poll and provide feedback on a topic related to RIT, your student, and you. In December, we asked RIT parents how often they communicate with their student. We learned that almost all of you (90%) are in touch with your student at least once a week, while 22% are in touch once a day or more. Please take a moment to answer our [January question](#).

## **Parent Tip of the Week**

### ***Ask your students how classes are going; encourage them to seek help early***

Many students come to RIT having never struggled in the classroom previously. Some make it through a semester or two before taking a course that challenges them. Often times in these situations, students don't know how to seek help, or are embarrassed to do so. The fact is that many students face a time during their college years where they need academic support, and should feel comfortable asking for help. RIT has many support resources available for students, but students need to ask for it.

Students may start off the semester a little lax on their coursework, feeling like they have plenty of time left in the semester. But it is easier to stay on track than to play catch up later on. Ask your student how classes are going. If your student seems to be struggling, help him or her name the specific concerns. Is the subject matter difficult? Are they having a hard time managing their time? Do they need help understanding effective study skills? Encourage your student to seek assistance. The Parent and Family Programs website lists many of RIT's [Academic Support Services](#). Your student's advisor can also help him or her talk through concerns and find the appropriate resource.

## **Listserv Preferences**

If you would like to change your email preferences for this list or unsubscribe from the Parent and Family E-Newsletter, you can do so on [this site](#). *Please note that updating or removing your email address from this list does not change or remove your information from the official RIT parent database.*

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Sincerely,  
Chelsea Petree

### **Chelsea A. Petree, Ph.D.**

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Thank you.