Dear Parents,

Welcome back, Tigers! We are excited to have your students back on campus. While the beginning of a new semester is a fresh start for many students, the cold and dark days can be draining. Encourage your student to take care of themselves and start the semester strong. Be sure to read the Parent Tip for upcoming student events on campus.
News and Deadlines

**Meal Plan Changes**
Any changes to spring semester meal plans must be made by Friday, January 19 at 4:30 p.m. Remind your student to review their new course schedule and think about how dining fits. 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 dining dollars will allow them to grab lunch near their classrooms. Students can change their meal plan through myDining Portal on the my dining website. Please note that all dining funds must be used during spring semester or they will be forfeited at the end of the term. For more information about general dining services information please visit Dining Services Website.

**Graduation Fair**
The RIT Graduation Fair will be held on Wednesday, January 31 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Student Alumni Union (SAU). It marks 100 days until Commencement and offers graduating students the opportunity to "one stop shop" and get answers to their many commencement questions (caps and gowns, class rings, ceremony info, applying for graduation, and more) and to discover post-graduation opportunities (Graduate Assistantships, Career Services and Graduate Enrollment, etc.). GradImages will be on location photographing RIT graduates. Students should come prepared to have their Senior Portrait taken. Cap and gown will be provided.

**Resident Advisor (RA) Positions**
The Center for Residence Life is seeking student leaders for the position of Resident Advisor (RA). RAs live in RIT's Residence Halls to help support and mentor students. Applications are due February 2. For more information and to apply, students should visit the Center for Residence Life website. Interested students can attend the information session on Sunday, January 21 at 5 p.m. in NRH 1250 for additional information.

**Bern’s Closet**
On Monday, February 5, students can attend Bern’s Closet—a career clothing open house—from 2-4 p.m. in Fireside Lounge. The Division of Diversity and Inclusion has collected gently-used clothing that will be available to students in need of professional clothing for the Career Fair. Clothing is free to students on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Spring Career Fair**
The Spring Career Fair will be held on Wednesday, February 7 from 10 a.m. to 4
p.m. in the Gordon Field House. The Career Fair draws over 250 companies, ranging from small tech firms to Fortune 500 companies. Students can swipe in the day of the fair with their RIT ID or pre-register in various locations the week prior to the event (dates and locations for pre-registration are on the Career Fairs website). In preparation for the fair, students can also attend Career Success Workshops, which include resume review sessions.

Program Profile
Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education

RIT’s Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education supports students and alumni in achieving their co-op, career, and employment goals. Key services include personalized job search advisement, career fairs and information sessions, interview preparation, career exploration assistance, and working closely with employers to create co-op opportunities and list job openings for graduate students and alumni. RIT Career Services and Cooperative Education announces three new tools to assist students and alumni in meeting their career
goals: **Handshake**, **Behance**, and **Porfolium**, and encourages use of all three platforms for a well-rounded career search!

- **Handshake** is our new career platform for students and alumni, featuring more than 500,000 full-time, co-op, internship, and student employment positions from 120,000 companies, non-profits, and government organizations. Users are invited to build out their portfolio to become more attractive to employers, upload copies of their resume and cover letters, and browse personalized suggestions for jobs and events based on interest and geographic preferences. Users can also make an appointment with their Career Services Coordinator or Career Counselor, and search for on-campus workshops and company information sessions.

- RIT is now a proud partner of **Behance**, an online gallery that is a community for current students, alumni, and faculty to share and discover creative work. Students can visit [portfolios.rit.edu](http://portfolios.rit.edu) to sign up or log in, and begin filling out the profile. Users can then begin promoting their work and gaining valuable exposure, as well as share work via URL or social media.

- RIT is also now a partner of **Porfolium**, an online portfolio and professional social media platform that gives students and alumni the power to showcase their work, projects, and skills to employers. Students and alumni can highlight anything they are proud of in their portfolios, including projects, coursework, writing samples, demonstrations of specific skills, hobbies, clubs, and extracurricular activities. Users can then promote their work via URL in their resumes, LinkedIn profiles, or in person via tablet or smartphone.

**Did you know?**

Along with the University-Wide Career Fairs, RIT Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education also hosts a variety of industry and major-specific fairs:

- Packaging Career Fair: January 31, 2018
- Civil Engineering Career Fair: February 16, 2018
- Liberal Arts Career Fair: March 7, 2018
- Creative Industry Day: March 29, 2018

**Information and Updates**

**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 2017 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.

Writing Support Resources
The Writing Commons offers one-on-one and group writing consultations with students in all disciplines. Consultants provide support for all stages of the writing process, from drafting to revising and finalizing written work. The Writing Commons is conveniently located on the first floor of The Wallace Center near the Reference Desk, where librarians can assist students with researching, identifying credible sources, and appropriately citing sources.

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 if you have ever traveled internationally. While the specifics of when and how often you have traveled internationally varied, most of you have! Only 5% responded that you have never been to an international destination. Please take a moment to answer our January question.

Parent Tip
Things to do on campus this winter
While it’s true that Rochester winters can be harsh and students may not want to venture too far from the warmth of their dorms/apartments and classrooms, there is no reason to hear your students tell you they are bored while at RIT! Even during the coldest months, campus is busy with student activities. Here are some upcoming events and other things to do that you can recommend to your student when they are getting the winter blues:

Chocolate on Ice: Chocolate on Ice features skating, chocolate treats, music, and more. This event is on Friday, January 26 from 9 p.m.-12 a.m. in the Polisseni Center.

Banff Mountain Film Festival: The Banff Film Festival features short films about mountain culture, sports, and the environment. Films will be shown in Ingle Auditorium on February 9-11; tickets are required.

Freeze Fest: Freeze Fest 2018 is on February 1-4. Among the many events that will take place this weekend includes ice sculptures, Deaf Media Festival, Winter Warrior obstacle course, and the Freeze Fest 5k.

Grocery Bingo: On Friday, February 2, students can go to the Davis Room from 10 p.m.-12 a.m. to play Grocery Bingo for a chance to win baskets of groceries. Grocery Bingo is sponsored by the Center for Residence Life.

Into the ROC: Into the ROC events occur throughout the semester, and give students opportunities to explore the Rochester community by doing community service or enjoying an art/cultural experience.
**Tiger Hockey:** There are many upcoming Men’s and Women’s [Hockey games](#) at the Polisseni Center. Encourage your student to cheer on our Tigers!

**Red Barn:** [The Red Barn](#) is an indoor rock climbing facility on campus available to students at a discounted rate.

**Student Life Center:** Students can warm up by working out in the [Student Life Center](#). Student Wellness even offers Free Fitness classes every Wednesday at noon-12:50 p.m.

Sincerely,

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