



Year in Review

2018-19

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A Message from the Senior Vice President

The 2018-19 academic year provided unique opportunities for reflection and growth in the Division of Student Affairs at RIT. We engaged in activities that provided both internal and external perspectives focusing on ways to strengthen our robust portfolio of programs and practices.

We remain committed to developing a thriving and inclusive learning environment that empowers students to invent and reinvent their goals, dreams, and aspirations. As such, we launched new programs and advanced our program and service offerings to align with the evolving needs of the RIT community.

As we celebrate our successes, a small sampling of which are displayed in this Year in Review, we continue to be driven by the changing landscape of our world and remain committed to continuous reflection and growth in the coming year.



Sandra S. Johnson
Sandra S. Johnson
Senior Vice President
for Student Affairs

 Access more stories
at rit.edu/studentlife

Impacting the RIT Community



Advancing School Spirit

Success of our Intercollegiate Athletics program contributes to an increasing sense of RIT pride and school spirit. Our students rally around our athletic teams, creating a community of Tiger pride.

640 student-athletes

9 teams

competed in postseason league tournaments

5 teams

competed in the NCAA tournament

19 student-athletes

competed in the national competition for their sport

RIT finished 46th
out of 451 colleges
and universities in the
NCAA Division III Learfield
IMG College Director's Cup.

Developing the Next Generation of Leaders

Our diverse portfolio of program and service offerings provide students with unique opportunities to explore new ideas, develop and enhance their skills, and make meaningful connections. In the Division of Student Affairs, we intentionally create leadership and employment opportunities that allow students to develop 21st-century competencies and skills.

Student Affairs provides opportunities for students to explore, create, build, and lead. We empower our student leaders to find their passion and make an impact. Through leadership, students invest in their personal growth, gaining skills that benefit them well beyond graduation.

1,680
student leaders

2,086
leadership opportunities

Our student employment opportunities support skill development and growth. In addition, many of our student employees participate in formal appraisal processes that focus on meaningful reflection and articulation of the skills learned as an employee.

1,446 student employees

1,830 student employment opportunities

6 Student Affairs departments are leading the way with a comprehensive performance appraisal process, including:



Formal evaluation annually



Individual meeting with student and supervisor



Reflection on competencies



“

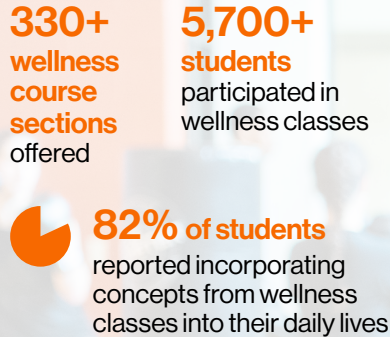
I now know what a great leader looks like. Our Resident Advisor trainings have helped me to see the true importance of teamwork and the value of working with others who come from different backgrounds. I have been put in situations where understanding someone else's perspective is an important part of the experience and those opportunities have pushed me to be a more confident, flexible, and understanding leader.

– Rachel Manhardt

*Fourth-year new media design major,
Resident Advisor*

Promoting a Culture of Well-Being

Well-being is fundamental to student success. In Student Affairs, we promote a holistic approach to student well-being through direct service and support initiatives that connect well-being to students' academic and personal goals.



Our team of caring and committed staff continue to respond to a national trend of increasing demand for mental health support and related services on college campuses. We continue to assess our current practices, identifying opportunities to enhance our programs and services and engage the entire community in developing a culture of care.

In an effort to increase access to mental health services, Counseling and Psychological Services began the process of embedding clinicians in the following areas:

- College of Art and Design
- College of Science
- Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences
- Kate Gleason College of Engineering
- Multicultural Center for Academic Success
- Q Center
- Student Health Center

The Student Health Center enhanced their support for students' mental health needs including screening all patients for depression.

2,800 students participated in depression screenings facilitated by the Student Health Center



Even our tiniest tigers are focusing on well-being!

Margaret's House joined a pilot program led by the Children's Institute and funded by the Greater Rochester Health Foundation, focused on improving whole child health. The program concentrates on the development of healthy habits, healthy relationships, and physical and psychological safety across all settings.

We provide easy access to on-campus health services so that an illness or injury have less of an impact on academic performance.

88% of students feel that having health services on campus helps minimize the impact of an illness or injury on academics

Building Community

Student Affairs leads RIT in building a community where students feel supported, respected, challenged, and empowered to meet their academic and personal goals. Through transformational experiences, students have the opportunity to explore new ideas, develop skills, make meaningful connections, and develop a purposeful trajectory.

314 student organizations
are recognized by Student Affairs

Fraternity and Sorority Life

31
organizations **868**
members

Special Interest Housing

7
special interest houses

320
members in residence

Spirituality and Religious Life

9
recognized spiritual/religious clubs

Intramurals

2,362 **603**
unique participants registered teams

19
different sports/activities

Building a community where students have a sense of belonging is our highest priority.

460+
RIT community members

participated in SafeZone training

2 chaplains + 2 ASL-fluent staff

joined the Spirituality and Religious Life team

Students indicate that their experience living on-campus positively influenced their RIT experience in the following ways:



Communicating with faculty members



Interacting with people who have different backgrounds than my own



Attending on-campus activities



My sense of belonging at RIT

Connecting to the Rochester Community



Facilitating Meaningful Connections

Student Affairs has built programs that encourage students to connect with the Greater Rochester community and beyond. Through these connections and experiences, students are able to visualize how they can combine their passions with meaningful civic engagement.

One Into the ROC trip opened doors to new opportunities for Aida Hajdarpasic, a fourth-year illustration student from Liverpool, NY. The trip to the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra allowed Aida to imagine a career path where she could merge her studies in illustration with her passion for music and gaming. She connected with students involved in the performing arts programs at RIT and with award-winning professionals in the game development industry. Professional advice and guidance has helped Aida determine a path for her career beyond RIT – a path that unites her musical passion, artistic skills, and love for video games.

1,020 students

made meaningful community connections
through the Into the ROC program

Inspiring Community Giving

As a member of the Rochester community, we are committed to providing opportunities for students to make their mark on the Rochester area. Staff in Student Affairs work to build and maintain partnerships with organizations in the Rochester area that enable RIT students to engage in transformational experiences – leveraging the skills gained on campus to make a mark on the local community.

20,082

community service hours reported

\$600,000+

estimated value of volunteer time

RIT's Student Athlete Advisory Committee took part in an adopt-a-family campaign for the 2018 holiday season. All 24 intercollegiate athletics teams volunteered during the campaign, supporting 24 local families in need.



“It means a lot to be a part of this kind of community service opportunity. It is always a humbling experience to be a part of something bigger than myself. To give back to the community is always a special experience, especially as a team. It is like family giving back to families.”

– Olivia De Luca

Fourth-year industrial and systems engineering major,
captain of the RIT Women's Soccer Team



In celebration of RIT's 50th Anniversary, students, faculty, and staff gathered to package boxed meals to donate to Foodlink and the RIT FoodShare.



43,188

meals
donated to
Foodlink

7,500

meals
donated to the
RIT FoodShare

“Package 50,000
meals to support
our local community.”

Challenge accepted.

Making our Mark Beyond the Rochester Area



Making Our Mark

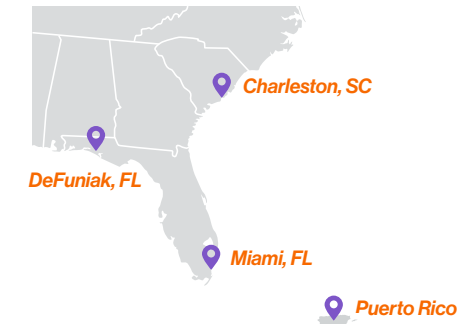
RIT students made their mark in communities from Rochester to Puerto Rico.

Through a crowdfunding campaign for Alternative Break, over \$12,000 was raised to provide scholarship support to participating students. As a result, 21% of Alternative Break attendees paid \$0 out-of-pocket cost to participate in the program.

38 students

participated in the Alternative Break Program

4 locations



Connecting Students and Employers

The staff in Student Affairs support students in their successful transition from college to their career. Our team of dedicated professionals help students to develop the skills necessary to be successful in their career and support processes for a smooth transition.

Our team helps to bridge the gap between graduation and career for international students applying for work visas. This is particularly important for career advancement and helps to ease student loan repayments.

1,000 alumni
engaged in Optional Practical
Training (OPT)

+8% increase
from previous years



The Spectrum Support Program, in collaboration with Career Services, launched the Neurodiverse Hiring Initiative to support students with autism in successfully navigating the job search process and preparing for employment experiences.

Brian, a software engineering student from Freemont, California participated in the Neurodiverse Hiring Initiative, and completed a cooperative education opportunity with Asher Group.

“ I've supervised a whole bunch of cooperative placements over the years, and Brian ranks among the highest. Brian was able to quickly gain understanding of how things work and build on it. He recognized the infrastructure already in place, realized what was needed to improve upon it, and created something robust and useful which made a difference in the lives of our staff and clients.

– Asher Group

Our Team

Our team of incredibly talented and dedicated staff are committed to supporting students in becoming the best that they can be. They are energized and inspired by our students and are the backbone of our organization. While the accomplishments highlighted in this Year in Review are significant, they are only a small portion of the amazing work that was done in the 2018-19 year.



53 new staff members

61 Student Affairs staff shared their expertise through presentations at national conferences.

In addition to our 261 staff, **204 professionals** support the work of Student Affairs by teaching wellness courses, mentoring students, serving as chaplains for religious organizations, and much more.

Giving to Student Affairs

Without question, the work done by the Division of Student Affairs is critical to student success. With the help of its supporters and champions, Student Affairs will be well-positioned to deliver an effective, multi-faceted, comprehensive portfolio of services and programs that span the entire student experience.



The Sheridan Family (Thomas, Susan and Brian Sheridan '16 Finance) made a \$50K gift to support new and innovative technologies for the athletics department.

“

We are passionate about supporting educational opportunities that happen outside of the classroom. The student-athlete experience combined with the co-op program puts RIT grads at the forefront coming out of school. This was a can't-miss opportunity to further extend the classroom to the student-athlete experience, creating an even larger gap between RIT and the rest of the pack.

– *Sheridan Family*

Transforming RIT: The Campaign for Greatness was formally launched in July 2018. The fundraising campaign is comprised of four major pillars: Attract Exceptional Talent, Enhance the Student Experience, Improve the World through Research and Discovery, and Lead Future Special Initiatives.

To learn more, please visit rit.edu/transformingrit

RIT has developed a **Tigers Care Emergency Fund** to support students in need of short-term emergency financial assistance. The fund helps students with needs for transportation to/from local health care facilities, needs for emergency food and clothing, needs for critical medication, and needs for rides to public transportation hubs in times of personal emergency.

Donate to the Tigers Care Emergency Fund today by visiting rit.edu/giving/give-now



Student Alumni Union
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rit.edu/studentlife

RIT Student Life

