

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR RIT · DEAN OF NTID

R-I-T



**National Technical
Institute for the Deaf**

Opening Day Welcome Address

“Ensuring Student Success”

**T. Alan Hurwitz
Vice President for RIT
Dean of NTID**

August 31, 2006



Welcome everyone. Welcome back for another year!

While you walked in, you were watching a videotape used with potential employers. It was produced by the NTID Center on Employment. It shows our graduates' success. It's a wonderful indication of the work every one of you does everyday.

Everyone who worked on or supported creating that video has our thanks.

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National Technical Institute for the Deaf

Welcoming remarks by:

- Sarah Gordon
President, NTID Student Congress
- Larry Quinsland
Chair, NTID Faculty Congress
- Erin Esposito
Member, Staff Council
- T. Alan Hurwitz
Vice President for RIT and Dean of NTID

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Now I want to introduce Sarah Gordon, President of the NSC. She will offer welcoming comments from the NSC. Sarah is a fourth year student in Photojournalism. Is Kamau Buchanan here? He is the Vice-president of NSC, and a graduate student in Film and Animation.

{Sarah speaks}

Next Larry Quinsland, Chair of the NTID Faculty Congress, will share greetings from our Faculty Council. Dr. Quinsland is Professor of Science at NTID.

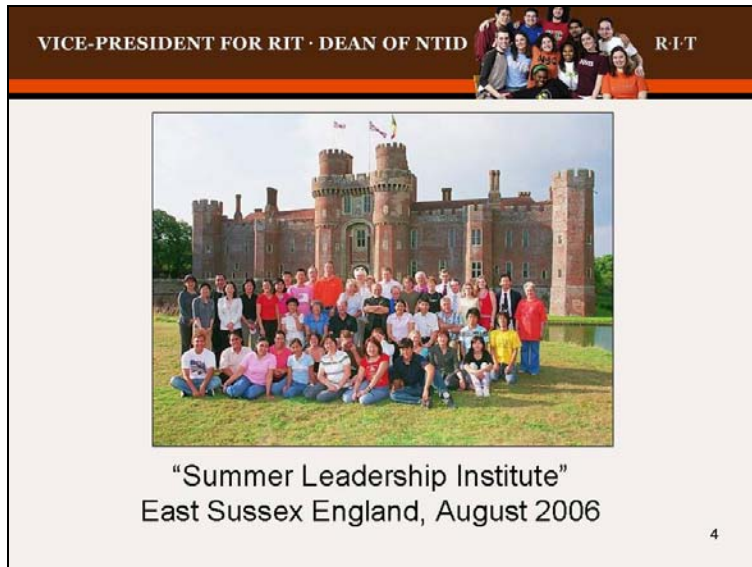
{Larry speaks}

Erin Esposito, a member of our Staff Council, brings a welcome from that group. Erin recently assumed new responsibilities on the Student Life Team for the new Student Development Center.

{Erin speaks}

Finally, it is my turn to welcome you!

In August PEN International sponsored a student leadership conference. Fifty-four individuals attended from China, Japan, Russia, the Philippines, and the United States.



We have about 190 countries in the world. Of all 190 countries, Jim DeCaro, the director of PEN International chose Herstmonceux Castle in England. Two days before our return, the British broke up the plot to destroy airliners leaving Heathrow.

We worried, but we finished the conference undeterred.

- Everyone made it home safely.
- Everyone had stories to tell.
- But most importantly, everyone left with new leadership skills.

Today I welcome every one of you “home,” too.

- I say a warm welcome back.
- I say we start again.
- I say gather your energies.
- I say make a difference.
- And, I say to every one of you – thank you for your work.

I applaud you ... I applaud you all.

I used the words “every one of you.” Individually and collectively you are NTID.

I was recently given the book “The Man Who Planted Trees.” It’s short ... and small ... and a wonderful story. It’s based loosely on Johnny Appleseed. It tells how one person changes the world. In the early 1900’s in France, one man planted 100 trees everyday throughout his life. You can imagine the results of this simple act. I will use the lessons from that book in my talk today.

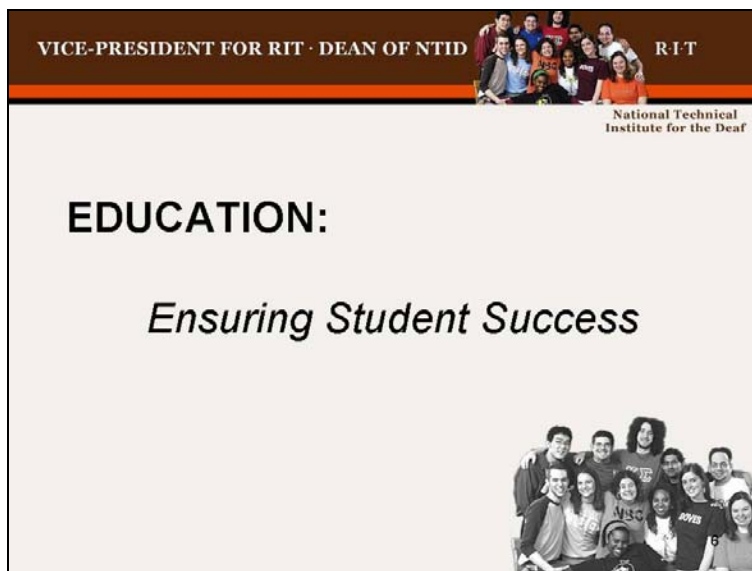


Five words chiseled into marble framed my State of the Institute speech in February.

Education
Change
Communication
Respect
Magic

I used “Tolerance” then, but indulge me. I’ve changed “Tolerance” to “Respect.”

Those words will outline my remarks today.




Education ... ensures ... student ... success.

Our Strategic Vision 2010 focuses on “education.” It draws a path to a future centered on curriculum change. We want students graduating at the highest degree level possible.

We ... are ... on ... our ... way. We are changing curriculum to foster the future foreseen in the Strategic Vision.

Several slides summarize that work. I will stop and let you read these three slides.

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National Technical
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Completed Curriculum Work

Industrial and Science Technologies

- New Engineering Core for AOT, AT, CADT and CIMT
- New Transfer Associate Degree in Applied Mechanical Technology with CAST
- CIMT AOS modified from 9 to 7 quarters

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Completed Curriculum Work

Business Studies

- Proposal for Associate Transfer degree in Hospitality and Service Management with CAST


Laboratory Science Technology

- Transfer option (LST+2) with CAST

Communication Studies and Services

- Outcomes/assessment infused into three courses for career focused students

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Curriculum Work in Progress

- Community College Partnership
- English bridging program for students leading to a two-year transfer program
- Revised English courses in career focused programs
- New BS proposal in ASL – English Interpretation

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Everyone who worked on or supported curriculum revisions during the last year has our thanks. Your work ensures student success. Each of you plants the seeds from which a forest of successful graduates springs.

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CHANGE:

*Prepare daily
for the
volume and velocity of change*

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We ... are ... changing!

Our Strategic Vision also planned for Outreach to pre-college students. We are helping them prepare for college. What have we done?



Young scientists in grades 6 to 11 competed in a National Science Fair weekend. Winners examined:

- 1) The heart rates of video game users
- 2) The rate of decay of plastics.



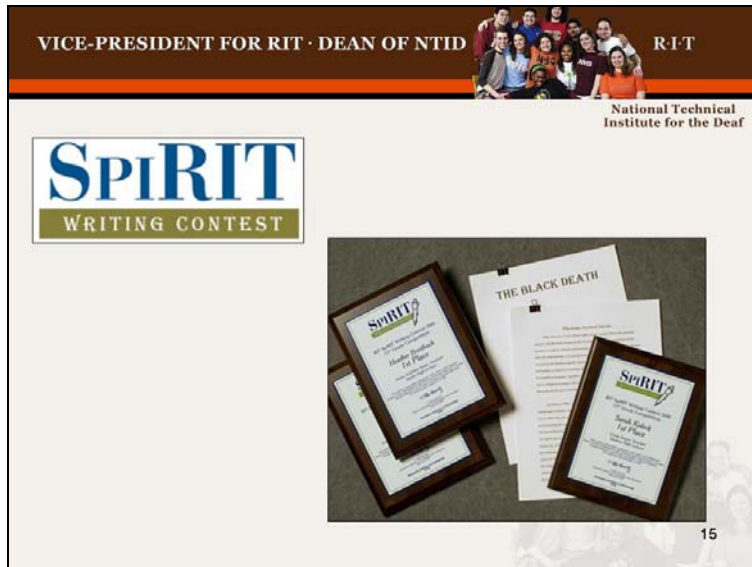
Sophomores, juniors, and seniors attended our five-week Saturday prep program for the ACT exam. We partnered with a training company. We captioned and then used their on-line test-preparation materials.



A Tech GirlZ week-long summer camp was offered to seventh grade girls. Campers built computers, studied roller coasters, and commanded a mission to Mars. (The mission was simulated of course, we want them at NTID in a few years). We fostered interest in science, technology, engineering, and math. Those STEM areas are traditionally avoided by girls.



We offered Steps-To-Success. It was a weekend camp for African American, Latino American, and Native American (AALANA) students entering grades 7-9. Campers explored careers through hands-on experience with computers, robots, and other lab equipment.



We offered a SpiRIT Writing Contest for 10-11 grade writers. Topics included 1) “Physician-assisted Suicide” and 2) “Should the NBA Have a Dress Code?”



This fall we will offer a National Digital Arts Contest. It too will be an exciting outreach offering.



We continue to offer our exciting Explore Your Future and Summer Vestibule Programs. They have simply been outstanding career activities for future and current students.

Everyone associated with all of these outreach activities has our thanks. The speed in which you created the new activities was a model of working together.

We are planning an outreach center to offer activities, like these pilots, annually. As a part of that effort, Explore Your Future will be placed under outreach.

In the coming year you will notice construction projects. Some are large and some are small, and all will improve our facilities.



The biggest is the CSD Student Development Center (SDC). Our SDC reflects our desire to ensure student success.


Ben Soukup, our dear friend and father of Nikki who graduated from RIT/NTID, shared our vision. Through him, CSD provided the major gift. We are also grateful for support from the Department of Education and from Congress. They provided federal money for the SDC. We will move into the building soon, and have the official opening in November.

In spring we dedicate the quadrangle in honor of D. Robert Frisina. We'll have much more to say then to thank our founder, our leader, our inspiration, and our friend.

Our thanks to everyone involved with the SDC, the Frisina Quad, or any other construction project. We all benefit from your hard work in creating realities from visions.

NTID raised \$26.9 million for the RIT Capital campaign. We exceeded our target by \$400,000. My thanks to all of you who contributed or worked on this campaign! I am committed to continue fund-raising.

Many new hires will change the Institute this year. Long ago, we asked new people to parade across the stage and introduce themselves. But fortunately for the newcomers, those days are history. Instead we will show slides with the names of new employees. Please stand when you see your name so we can recognize and thank you.




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New Faculty

- Leslie Bowers (Liberal Studies)
- Marla Broetz (ASLIE)
- Carla Deibel (Science/Engineering Support)
- Paula Doane (Industrial & Science Technologies)
- Tao Eng (Information & Computing Studies)
- Karen Finch (ASLIE)
- Kathleen Garlinghouse (Business Studies)
- Trisha Gard (Industrial & Science Technologies)₁₉

Thank you. Next slide please.

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New Faculty (Cont.)

- Peter Hauser (Research & Teacher Education)
- Michael Kane (Business Studies)
- Lilia Nunez (Science & Mathematics)
- Deborah Poe (Information & Computing Studies)
- Edward Schwenzer (Industrial & Science Tech.)
- Michael Slifka (Science/Engineering Support)
- Brian Trager (Information & Computing Studies)

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Thank you. Next slide please.

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New Staff: Interpreters

• Kathryn Austin	• Jacqueline Friedrich
• Lydia Barker	• Jacqueline Hudson
• Melissa Beattie	• Stephen Jones
• Kim Billyard	• Julie Kramer
• Sarah Cannon	• Andrew Paoella
• Brian Cerney	• Lisette Silver
• Debra Cooper	• Christine Spencer
• Gina Coyne	• Jennifer Thomas-Moore
• Kara Everson	• Susanne Weatherly
• Kerrie Folckemer	

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Thank you. Next slide please.


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New Staff: C-Print

- Carla Betlem
- Sharon Bournival
- Barbara Chandler-Fagenbaum
- Deborah Davis
- Donna De La Cruz
- Carrie Deglans
- Olivia Dorsey
- Sarah Franklin
- Michelle Graves
- Kimberly Griffith
- Sheryl Kruse
- Kathleen Larson
- Georgiann Musso
- Pamela Nagel
- Barbara Paine
- Colleen Painting
- Robin Whittington
- Ann Williams

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Thank you. Next slide please.

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Other New Staff

- Ilene Avallone (Marketing & Communications)
- Kevin Carpenter (Access Services)
- Mary D'Souza (ICHSR)
- Karen Dobkowski (Comm. Studies & Services)
- Karin Harriman (Office of the VP/Dean)
- Elizabeth Hickman (ICHSR)
- Heather Emerson Jeremy (Enrollment Management)
- Janet MacLeod (Office of the VP/Dean)
- Francis Mapes (ICHSR)

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Thank you. Next slide please.

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Other New Staff (Cont.)

- Erin Thomas (Cultural & Creative Studies)
- Sarah Remelt (DIIT)
- Shyrl Scalice (NCE)
- Olga Vasilyeva (ICHSR)
- Xiao Xia Zhu (ICHSR)
- Martha Zettel (ICHSR)
- Susan Zohar-Noam (Communication Studies & Services)

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You all have our thanks for helping us meet our mission. I also thank all of those who participated in hiring process for these new faculty and staff members. Hiring one person is no simple task. But multiply that by over 50. You have all performed admirably.

When talking about change I must mention Albert Simone. He is in his last year as RIT President. He repeatedly said that NTID was one of the reasons he and his wife Carolie were attracted to RIT. He has continually demonstrated his commitment to the NTID community. I will say more about Dr. Simone as the year proceeds.

Yes, NTID is changing. Every one of us works passionately to ensure student success.

Like the man who planted trees, your individual actions are critical to changing our world.

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COMMUNICATION

All access, all the time

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All access, all the time.

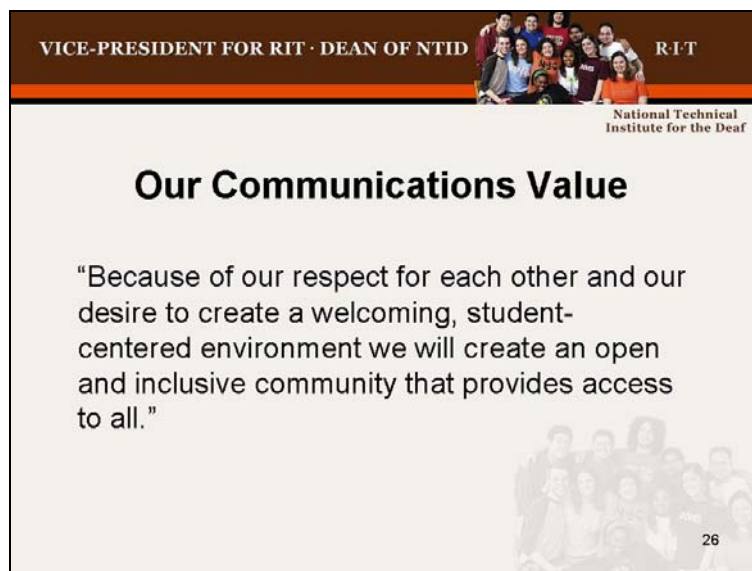
Our Strategic Vision specified increased access services. Well, the number of interpreter positions has increased by 12 to 122. C-Print captionist positions have increased by 25 to 55. And C-print policies have expanded so that they now allow services to a broader group of students. Our commitment to access drives this growth. It also ensures student success and increases resources for faculty/staff needs. When we include the support and management staff, we now have 192 positions allocated to communications access.

The Institute has also recently conducted an extended discussion on Communication. We have benefited from:

- A report from the Steering Committee on Communications.
- Strong student feedback.
- Open forums.
- A Deaf Professional Group document.
- A National Advisory Group discussion.
- A June retreat of all NTID department heads.

The passion behind these commentaries and feedback made a lasting impression on me.

I've reduced those discussions to one sentence.



Following this process, my decisions regarding communications are:

- We *will* have signing in public places. Use whatever skills you have, but become comfortable signing in open spaces.
- We *will* have deaf culture workshops for faculty and staff.
- We *will* share, and post, our values ... rather than posting behavioral rules.
- We *will* use all managers to lead-by-example and to guide communications actions.
- We *will* continue quarterly forums on communications issues.

All of you who contributed or supported this discussion on communications have our thanks.



The one-sentence summary on communications had a key word: “respect.”

NTID begins with basic respect for students.

- We respect their abilities to learn.
- We respect their interest in learning.
- We respect their enthusiasm for learning.
- And we respect them as people.

Respect for students is fundamental to ensuring student success.

We expand respect for students to a broader respect for each other. Many, many of you participated in the communications discussion. It reflects on NTID shared governance and decision-making. We respect and cherish others’ opinions.

Respect of others is a central focus of how students, faculty, and staff are bound to each other.

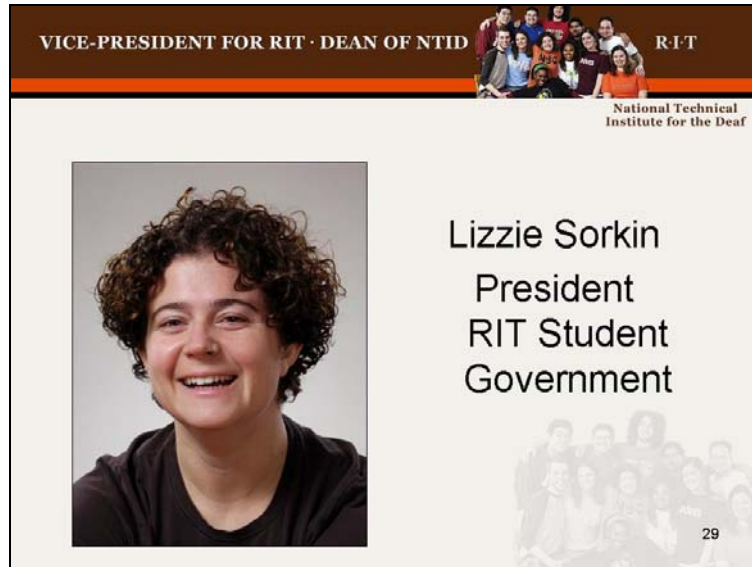


I admit it. I don't know what our magic is, but I know we have it.

I know we have it when I talk with:

- Students.
- Faculty and staff.
- Parents.
- Employers.

I know that we have magic when NTID student Lizzie Sorkin became the first ever Deaf President of the RIT Student Government! Lizzie – congratulations!



I know that we have magic when I visit Congressional offices in Washington DC. On a recent visit I was told "NTID is one of few programs that all congresspeople can agree on." Political party – Democrats, Republicans, Independents – it does not matter. Differences don't matter. In Washington we have total agreement on what is right about NTID.


When we place *education* as our highest value and use it to enhance student success, that's magic.

When we chase, adopt, and embrace *change*, that's magic.

When we have dangerous discussions on *communication* and come to a shared resolution, that's magic.

When we face challenges together and deal with each other with such *respect*, that's magic.

Every one of you is a magician. We are all grateful that you are here. Our students are grateful that you are here.

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From “The Man Who Planted Trees”

“... one man ... was able to cause this land of [promise] to spring from the wasteland.”

“... the transformation took place so gradually that it became part of the pattern without causing any astonishment.”

“He’s discovered a wonderful way to be happy.”

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One man who planted trees changed the landscape. Not only did trees spring from the earth, but wind scattered the seeds that fell from existing trees. Water filled dry river beds. The air was changed. Gardens, flowers, farms, and new villages followed.

Your simple actions make a profound difference, often without you knowing it.

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Summary

Themes

- Every one of us
- Ensure student success
- Act passionately

Action Areas (Strategic Vision 2010)

- Curriculum Revisions
- Outreach
- Access Services
- Communications

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I end with a summary of my main themes:

Every one of us is critical!
 Every one of us acts to ensure student success!
 Every one of us acts passionately!

Those themes are reflected in our curriculum revisions, new outreach activities, increased access services, and new communications activities. Our Strategic Vision guides our future which we pursue with passion.



Now I'll give you all a bit of exercise, and build your appetite. I invite you all to stand and to thank each other, and then join me for lunch in the NTID Street.