We’re off to a busy academic year. The NTID Job Fair was a great success, and the potential for positive outcomes continues. The job fair is a wonderful opportunity for your student to make contacts for future co-op and job needs. Even now, students are connecting with employers they met in October to secure summer co-ops. Last year, nearly 50 students got co-ops or permanent jobs as a result of connections made with more than 40 employers from across the country who attended the job fair.

Student organizations are flourishing. From Applefest to Latin American Awareness Week to the anniversary celebration for the CSD Student Development Center, it’s been a lively year so far.

Our campus continues to grow as construction progresses on Rosica Hall, an innovation center for deaf and hard-of-hearing students and their hearing peers. Construction is beginning on the Gene Polisseni Center, a new ice rink to house our Tiger hockey team and fans. The Golisano Center for Sustainability is nearly complete and even offers a rooftop garden.

Lydia Callis, an alumna of our American Sign Language-English Interpretation Program, has been recognized nationally for her excellence in interpreting for New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, helping him to make emergency directions and announcements accessible to the deaf community during Hurricane Sandy.

Last, but not least, we are proud of our faculty members who are receiving national and regional awards for their teaching and scholarship.

We are looking forward to more growth, excitement and celebration in 2013. Happy New Year from the RIT/NTID Community!

**Applefest** kicks off the academic school year by providing students with information about clubs and organizations they might want to join, and apples in all forms—pie, cookies, beignets, fritters and delicious upstate New York apples.

**Corey Burton**, NTID Student Congress president, RIT/NTID alumna **Evan Winegard**, CSD’s chief financial officer and RIT/NTID Alumnus and **Linda Bryant**, interim associate dean for Student and Academic Services, were featured speakers at the anniversary celebration of the CSD Student Development Center. The SDC houses Ellie’s Place for campus community meetings, general meeting rooms and student organization offices, The Grind coffee shop and comfortable seating and standing areas.

**Alumnus Carlos Mendez** returned to campus during Latin American Awareness Week to talk about the importance of leadership experiences in preparing for a professional career, as well as giving back and encouraging recent graduates to serve as role models and mentors.

**NTID’s Dr. Todd Pagano Named U.S. Professor of the Year**

Dr. Todd Pagano, an associate professor and director of NTID’s Laboratory Science Technology program accepted the award for 2012 U.S. Professor of the Year at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. The award, made possible by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation, is the only national initiative specifically designed to recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring.

Pagano credits his success to blending two elements: his joy of teaching deaf and hard-of-hearing students and his passion for chemistry. “It’s wonderful that we can provide the technical knowledge that students need to use on their jobs,” says Pagano. “I’m fortunate to work at a truly unique place, where deaf and hard-of-hearing students are taught applied knowledge, the roots of their trade, self-advocacy and lifelong learning skills.” For more about this prestigious award and Dr. Pagano, visit the NTID Newsroom at www.ntid.rit.edu/news.
Semesters Are Coming! Oh My!

Interim Assoc. Dean for Student & Academic Services
Dr. Linda M. Bryant

The "buzz" word this year is "conversion" because RIT will be converting from the quarter system to a semester system in fall 2013. How will this conversion to semesters affect your student? To make conversion easier for you and your student, we have developed a Student Guide to Semester Conversion website that will answer most of your questions. Visit www.rit.edu/NTID/semester-conversion-guide.

All students who are converting to semesters will develop an Individual Advisement Plan (IAP) with their college academic adviser. (Note: Students graduating before fall 2013 will not need an IAP.)

RIT President Dr. Bill Destler has made a pledge to all students converting to semesters:

- no loss of progress toward your degree
- no loss of time to your graduation

As you can imagine, a lot of work already has taken place to prepare for this transition. The curricula for all of the programs have been rewritten. Some courses remain almost the same, just longer. Some courses have been eliminated. Some courses have been merged with others. All of these changes will be explained by your student's academic adviser during the IAP process.

A few more facts about the new semester system:

- Most classes will carry three credits, not four as it was under quarters.
- Most students will take five courses per semester.
- There will be a number of new general education courses available.
- Grade-point averages will be the same in semesters as in quarters.

The current Student Information System (SIS) has been replaced by a new system, still called SIS. Encourage your student to contact his/her academic adviser with any questions.

If you have questions, you're welcome to email lmbnca@rit.edu, call 585-475-6597 (voice) or 585-286-4540 (videophone).

Job Fair

Hot Jobs and Cool Summer Co-ops
Check the Hot Jobs and Cool Summer Co-ops website to see what some of our students have done and are doing in the workplace! www.ntid.rit.edu/summer-jobs

Professional attire, resumes and questions for employers were the order of the day at the 12th annual NTID Job Fair in October. More than 300 students met with representatives from nearly 40 employers from around the country, some of whom are RIT/NTID alumni, like Luke Faxon-St. Georges, an account executive for Disney and ESPN. At the fair, St. Georges met a number of students he would recommend for co-ops.

NTID's Center on Employment, organizers of the fair in collaboration with the New York State Department of Labor, honored three employers with the Outstanding Partners Awards given to employers who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to hiring RIT/NTID students for co-ops or permanent jobs. The recipients were Bender Consulting Services, from Pittsburgh, Pa.; Sorenson Communications, Salt Lake City, Utah; and the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, Calif.

"The relationship we have with these employers, and with all of our employers, is critical to the employment success of our students," says John Macko, director of NTID's Center on Employment. "It's a win-win. Employers get highly trained, motivated employees, and students get co-ops that give them real-world work experience, and jobs that lead to successful lives."
W hew! You’ve successfully launched your child into the wonderful world of college life. But wait! You probably wonder how he or she is doing at college. When you ask, you may get a response like, “I’m doing fine, passing everything, this is easy. Having a blast! Can you please put more money in my checking account? Another shipment of cookies would be nice, too!”

But how do you really know that things are okay? How do you find out what really is going on? Who at that school has the real scoop?

College personnel must respect the privacy of their students and cannot easily answer questions from parents. So, are you stuck? No, you’re not.

Many of you already know this, but I would still like to remind you, it’s time for a new way to look at your child. When they were in high school, you gave them structure. You monitored their academic progress, and made sure they had the appropriate level of personal support—when to get up, do homework and study, do house chores, etc. The idea behind parental structure is that if you show them the structure, they will, hopefully, one day adopt it as their own.

Now that they are in college and testing the skills you’ve taught, there may be some missteps. The challenge is not to criticize them for an error in judgment, but instead to support them and provide the confidence that they need to get back on track. Ask what they learned from the experience. Tell them about some of the mistakes you’ve made and how you benefited and learned from them.

Tell them you believe in them. Tell them you love them, trust them and know they will do the right thing. This is a pivotal time for students to learn from their actions and experiences. It’s also a time to recognize that you have done a good job and realize you are entering a new phase of their life and development; a chance for them to show you what they have been learning all these years.

If you have questions, email mjrnvc@rit.edu, call 585-475-6288 (voice) or 585-286-4651 (videophone).

The Next Big Idea 2013—Fall Kickoff

Students Can Win up to $5,000 for The Next Big Idea

The second annual “The Next Big Idea” competition is underway. Sponsored by ZVRS, the competition attracts multidisciplinary teams of deaf and hard-of-hearing student innovators, who have an idea to create a product, technology or business that will be useful to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. The contest involves cash prizes of $5,000, $3,000 and $2,000 for the top three teams.

Students pitch their idea to judges who select finalists to proceed with their idea according to a timeline set up for final presentation and judging of winners.

Last year’s winners included first-place team V-Sports, who developed a device to facilitate communication via vibration notification for deaf and hard-of-hearing athletes; second-place team Get Dancin’, which will open a dance studio for deaf and hard-of-hearing people in Rochester in fall 2013, and third-place team WaterSocket, which intends to create a waterproof cover to protect the receiver portion of cochlear implants. V-Sports team members Tyler Swob, Jeremiah Thompson and Shane Qualls recently won first prize in RIT’s “Shark Tank” competition with a different innovative idea—an underwater communication system for SCUBA divers.

“All the teams did an outstanding job,” said Chris Wagner, an RIT/NTID alumnus and senior vice president of Business Operations and Marketing for ZVRS. “Seeing the dreams and aspirations of the students has made me even more proud to be an alumnus. At RIT, it’s all about the opportunity to grow. ZVRS is sponsoring The Next Big Idea again this year, and I can’t wait for the 2013 competition!”
Financial Aid: VR Support

If your student receives support from Vocational Rehabilitation in your state, remind him or her to give the VR counselor copies of grades and registration schedules at the end of each quarter so that VR payment authorizations are not delayed for the following quarter. Your student can give both you and VR access to this information online. To view your student’s billing statement, schedule or grades; set up a payment plan; or make online payments, your student must grant you access to his or her account. Due to our new billing system, your student will need to grant this request again, even if you had access in the past. Once access is granted, you will receive an email from RIT to set up an account for this purpose. This access to student grades, schedules and bills is a great resource for VR counselors as they consider support for your student.

VR support is reassessed each quarter. To make sure VR funding goes smoothly, remind your student to contact his or her VR counselor regarding funding requirements for the rest of the 2012-2013 academic year. Your student is expected to maintain good academic standing and is required to keep his or her VR counselor up to date with all transcripts, changes in courses or curricula, financial status or problems encountered. Please make sure that you discuss VR support and any changes in graduation date with your student. If you have questions about VR, contact me at 585-475-6863 (voice), by videophone at 585-286-5516, by email at nsasaid@rit.edu, or visit NTID’s VR website at www.rit.edu/NTID/VR.

Organizational Communication Class Meets the Minnesota Hot Dish! A large pan of Minnesota’s Famous Hot Dish, a casserole that requires meat, potatoes, vegetables and canned soup baked and served all in one dish, was a money maker for students in Linda Gottermeier’s Organizational Communication and the Deaf Employee class last quarter. The course requires students to become familiar with the business environments of large and small companies, and then develop a business with a workable—and successful—business plan. Ryan Labone and Kaytlyn Johnson (shown above) teamed up to create a business that would raise money for Feed My Starving Children, a nonprofit organization based in Coons Rapids, Minn. Their business involved creating a Minnesota Hot Dish and selling it to their fellow classmates. It’s a dish that is culturally relevant to the Midwest, where they both are from. They used Facebook and Twitter in their marketing plan and created a flyer to distribute.

“Ryan and I worked hard on our business project,” says Johnson, “and the end result was that our project was successful.”