By now you’re aware that a national search is underway for a new NTID president and that I am acting as interim president until the end of the year. The term “interim,” however, doesn’t mean that we’re just marking time until a new leader is selected. When I stepped in, NTID was in the middle of a visioning process that would result in a strategic plan for the next 10 years. We have since, with much work, discussion and involvement at all levels, finished the plan, Strategic Decisions 2020, and are starting to make it happen.

In some organizations, planning is a top down event. Administrators get together and make decisions that filter down to the masses. Not at RIT/NTID. Administrators, faculty, staff—and your students—came together to think about what the future will look like at this college.

For all of us, student involvement is key because we are focused on student achievement and student success and believe that students should have the opportunity to help shape the future of their college.

It’s an exciting time, and I look forward to seeing where your students’ ideas and participation help us go in the next decade.
From Quarter to Semester

by Laurie Brewer, Ph.D.
Vice Dean and Interim
Associate Vice President

There has been much discussion on campus about the advantages and disadvantages of the current quarter system vs. a semester system. After careful consideration, RIT has announced that it is converting to a semester system and is planning to implement the change in 2013. The decision to convert to semesters was made to improve the educational experience for students. For example, a 15-week semester provides more time to complete projects and papers, and more time to recover if students have difficulty in a course. Also, most colleges and universities already are on semester systems, and RIT’s move to semesters will make transfer to RIT and arranging for study abroad experiences much easier.

How does this affect your student? First of all, you should know that we pledge the following to you and your student:

• No student will lose progress toward their degree during the transition.
• No student’s graduation will be delayed as a result of this change.
• No student will incur additional costs related to this change.

Second, since NTID is at the beginning of a 10-year strategic plan that involves some changes in academic program offerings and other related topics, this is a perfect time for this conversion to take place. Watch for more about the NTID conversion process and the review and planning for new program development that will fall in line with our Strategic Decisions 2020 plans and goals for career education and student success. If you have questions related to this exciting change, please feel free to contact me at lcbnla@rit.edu or at 585-475-6692 (voice/TTY).

Enjoy RIT/NTID Student Success Stories at www.rit.edu/NTID/SuccessStories

Roots and Wings

by Mark J. Rosica
Interim Chair,
NTID Department of Counseling and Academic Services

“Good parents give their children roots and wings.”
Jonas Salk

Many of you have spent 18 years providing a home, a safe place where your child can grow and feel that he or she belongs. You’ve given your children roots by sharing your values, beliefs and family history. More recently, you’ve helped them find and select a college so they can leave home and prepare for adulthood. Now you’ve given them wings.

But still, the college years can be some of the most important and challenging for families. Part of the dynamic is that, for the first time, your child realizes his or her independence, and that means that you are no longer the center of the universe. This is a healthy realization and can prepare their wings for a successful flight. However, you might not respond enthusiastically to your student’s new attitude, new friends and new pastimes. Change is hard, but you’ll have an easier time if you use some strategies to help manage this change.

Here are a few ideas that might help you adapt:

• Keep the lines of communication open. It doesn’t matter what you talk about, just keep talking.
• Stay calm. You’ll probably agree that our best thinking generally doesn’t happen when we’re overly emotional.
• Give a little. If your student used to text you four times a day, and after arriving at college doesn’t text even once a week, let him or her know your expectations. You still can be sensitive to his or her new environment, maybe negotiate a certain number of contacts each week.
• Think about when you left home and try to understand your student’s perspective. What were your struggles and challenges, and what were your blessings when you stepped out the door? Society might be different now, but the developmental task of leaving home really is not different. Insisting that your student leave home the way you did, or in a way completely opposite of your experience, does not acknowledge your student’s uniqueness as a person.

Above all, congratulate yourself. You’ve worked for 18 years to launch this person, and you’ve given him or her wings. Now you need to give your son or daughter permission to fly.

If you have questions or concerns about your student and his or her college experience, I welcome your contact at mjrnvc@rit.edu or 585-475-6288 (voice/TTY).
Co-op and Your Student

by John Macko
Director,
NTID Center on Employment (NCE)

Almost every major at RIT/NTID requires students to complete at least one cooperative work experience before graduation. In this economy, your student may find that securing a co-op may require not only extra effort, but also assistance from people they know—and that could be you.

After students take their job search class, they will start working one-on-one with their NCE employment advisor to prepare their resume, send it out and make follow-up calls to get an interview. Here is where networking becomes important and where you might be able to help. Here are some recent examples of parents and friends successfully putting students in touch with a potential employment opportunity.

- An Applied Computer Technology student had been looking for a co-op for a few months and thought about his neighbor in New York City who worked for the stock market. The student gave his neighbor a resume, which the neighbor gave to his boss, and the student was hired.

- A Business major asked her father to contact the business office of a large mall where he worked to help her get an interview. He did, and after the interview, she was hired for a summer co-op in her home state of Pennsylvania.

- A Canadian student majoring in Accounting Technology asked her mother to help her network for an opportunity to work with the City of Ottawa, and she got the job.

While it’s important for students to do their own networking, you and other parents may be willing and able to identify a co-op opportunity where you work, and follow up to benefit your student. Also, think about engaging someone in your neighborhood, at your church or in a social organization to which you belong. If you think back, we all needed a little help starting out.

For information about co-ops, visit www.rit.edu/NTID/co-ops/jobs, or to contact your student’s employment advisor, visit www.rit.edu/NTID/NCEadvisor.

Transitions

by Robb Adams, Ph.D.
Interim Associate Dean,
Student and Academic Services

Change is difficult under any circumstance, but especially when it involves the passing of a much-loved family member, advisor, friend and colleague. This is what Ellie Rosenfield was to all of us, and to your students, before she passed away after a heroic battle with cancer.

Now, with me acting as interim associate dean, it is, and must be, business as usual. We’ll continue to plan events to engage your students. We’ll continue to encourage and be mentors for student clubs and organizations. We’ll meet with and advise students struggling in their roles as college students or soon-to-be-graduates. We’ll find ways to fund educational opportunities like conferences, so your students can develop leadership and other critical life skills.

But for all of us, faculty, staff and students, Ellie’s loss has taken a psychological and emotional toll. At the same time, it has brought us all closer. We’ve been reaching out to each other in a number of ways, but if you feel your student needs to talk to someone about Ellie, or anything else, or you have something you need to address, remember, it’s business as usual. I would welcome your contact at reanse@rit.edu; 585-475-6597; or VP: 866-948-6871.

This issue is dedicated to Ellie Rosenfield, Ed.D., associate dean of student and academic services, colleague, advisor, friend, and a compassionate advocate for students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

In Memoriam

Visit the NTID interim president’s new feature Every Student has a Story at www.rit.edu/NTID/StudentStory
Financial Aid: Reminders

by Denise Hampton
Coordinator,
Student Financial Services

applying for financial aid...If you haven't already reapplied, this is something you should think about right now. You must reapply for financial aid each year. The applications are usually available starting in mid-to-late December. After a student’s first year at RIT, we require that students reapply for financial aid by completing both an RIT Undergraduate Financial Aid Form and a FAFSA. Reminders to reapply have been sent to students who are currently enrolled and who are receiving financial aid.

Scholarships...For returning students, the NTID Office of Student and Academic Services awards merit scholarships based on a student’s cumulative GPA and nominations from faculty in the student’s department. Students receiving a merit scholarship will be notified over the summer.

Vocational Rehabilitation...Remind your student to contact his or her VR counselor about funding requirements for the 2010-2011 academic year. Your student should bring $300-$500 for books each quarter in the event that there is a delay in VR book authorizations.

The RIT Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is notifying continuing students of their 2010-2011 awards through e-mail. The e-mail directs students to www.my.rit.edu where they can view and print the award letter. It also will indicate if there is any paperwork missing.

Questions? Contact me, 585-475-6863 (voice/TTY), or dchnod@rit.edu.

Who to contact

These resources are available to help answer questions you and your student may have to assure a successful college experience at RIT.

Office of the NTID President
585-475-6317 (v/TTY); 585-475-5978 (FAX)
www.rit.edu/NTID

NTID ParentNews is a publication of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, a college of Rochester Institute of Technology.

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RIT

Rochester Institute of Technology

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