

# Dean of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf to step down in 1998

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After twelve years as dean of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), a college of Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), James J. DeCaro, Ph.D., announced today that he will leave the deanship on June 30, 1998.

DeCaro told NTID's assembled faculty and staff during a general meeting that the college is in excellent shape and that he is satisfied that together they have achieved the agenda set for the college during his deanship. He expressed mixed emotions but said he has accomplished what he set out to do and that there is no better time to step down, given the excellent leadership being provided by RIT's new Vice President for NTID, Dr. Robert Davila. DeCaro, who is recovering from carpal tunnel surgery, indicated that he also plans to leave the post in order to avoid further complications from upper extremity cumulative trauma disorder, which he suffers in both arms.

"Dean DeCaro's service to NTID and the greater university has been truly outstanding," said RIT Provost Stanley McKenzie. "His academic and administrative leadership will be missed when he steps down as dean of NTID. I have especially valued his friendship and collegiality as part of the Deans Council."

RIT President Albert J. Simone expressed great appreciation for DeCaro's inspired leadership of NTID during challenging times, for his leadership during RIT's defining strategic planning process, for guiding the President's education on deaf culture and language, and for his counsel on many matters.

As NTID's dean since 1985, DeCaro provided stewardship during the development and implementation of the college's strategic plan. He also served as a vice chair of the university's strategic planning effort. As NTID's interim director during 1995 and 1996, DeCaro led the college through difficult negotiations with the U.S. Congress and was successful in preserving NTID's federal funding base. In 1996, DeCaro received the Special Service Award from the American Society for Deaf Children and the Dan Cloud Award for outstanding service to the field from the National Center on Deafness.

DeCaro made his intentions to step down known in order to provide ample time for a systematic and comprehensive search to fill the deanship. RIT Provost McKenzie and Vice President for NTID Davila announced that they will be working closely with the faculty and staff of NTID to define the parameters for a national search which will commence in September of this year.

"The deanship of this college is a very important position at RIT and in the field of deafness," said Davila. "Therefore, Dr. McKenzie and I are committed to finding the very best candidate to succeed Dean DeCaro."

At the end of the 1997-1998 academic year, DeCaro will be granted a professional and administrative leave. DeCaro holds a faculty appointment at NTID as a research professor, a position to which he intends to return after his leave.

NTID is the world's first and largest technological college for deaf students. NTID represents the first concerted effort to educate large numbers of deaf students within a college campus planned principally for hearing students. Among RIT's 12,000 full- and part-time students are nearly 1,100 deaf students from the United States and other countries.

In addition to the academic programs based within NTID, students also benefit from nearly 200 technical and professional courses of study offered through RIT's colleges of Applied Science and Technology, Business, Engineering, Imaging Arts and Sciences, Liberal Arts, and Science.