

NTID Pluralism Award

May 1, 1997

The NTID Pluralism Award is an annual award presented by the Vice President for NTID to recognize the contributions of an NTID individual or unit whose actions promote pluralism at NTID and the rest of RIT. Pluralism is defined as a state of society in which members of diverse ethnic, racial, religious, or social groups maintain an autonomous participation in and development of their traditional culture or special interest within the confines of a common civilization.

Ms. Frances J. Richardson has been selected, posthumously, by the Pluralism Award selection committee for the 1996-97 Faculty/Staff Pluralism Award. She was killed in a tragic automobile accident on her way to work Thursday morning, March 6, 1997.

Fran taught business occupation courses before becoming a career opportunities advisor with NTID's Center on Employment (NCE). She provided job placement services to NTID students for 14 years. Fran was instrumental in erasing barriers between qualified deaf candidates for employment and their placement with various employers. She provided outreach training to employers, or potential employers, of deaf individuals, assisting them in better understanding deaf culture, communication issues, and work relationships to create a win-win situation for both the employer and the deaf employee.

The Black Awareness Coordinating Committee (BACC) of RIT has been selected by the Pluralism Award selection committee for the 1996-97 Student Pluralism Award.

BACC has brought new and effective leadership to the campus by electing its first deaf president, Tim Albert, for the 1996-97 year. Under Albert's leadership, the organization provided a welcoming atmosphere that promoted diverse students and organizations to work together toward common goals. Albert was the 1994-95 recipient of the NTID Student Pluralism Award.

BACC has supported various speakers both directly and indirectly through other organizations. This organization has been actively modeling positive attitudes that have benefitted the Institute community.

For more information, contact Katie Schmitz, kls4344@rit.edu.