

RIT Presidential Medallion

May 1, 1997

Dr. Ralph Hoag was presented the Presidential Medallion by Dr. Albert Simone, president of RIT, May 8 for his long association with NTID, his service as staff director of the original National Advisory Board that oversaw the establishment of NTID, and his authorship of a book on NTID's history.

Hoag, now retired and the son of deaf parents, served as superintendent of the Rochester School for the Deaf in the 1960s after stepping down from his position in the U.S. Department of Education, where he oversaw the implementation of the law enabling NTID, which had been signed by President Lyndon Baines Johnson in 1965. At RSD, he educated Hettie Shumway, a board member, about the NTID legislation, motivating her to discuss with her husband, F. Ritter Shumway, who served on RIT's board of trustees, the possibility of establishing NTID on the RIT campus. This was the seed of the subsequent proposal submitted by RIT to host NTID, which was submitted and accepted by the U.S. Department of Education in 1966. The first class of deaf students entered NTID in September 1968.

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