

Statement by RIT President Bill Destler at Nov. 9, 2007, news conference about fatal fire in Rochester that claimed the lives of two RIT students:

Obviously, this is not a happy morning for the RIT family. We mourn the loss of two of our students. We have a third student currently in guarded condition at Strong Memorial Hospital. Our hearts go out to the families of these victims of this apparently accidental fire that sprung out in a college student-rented house in downtown Rochester.

This is, frankly, every parent's nightmare. You send your children to college to increase the chances that they'll have a successful life, and you don't expect them to not come home again. So, this is a very difficult time for our community and obviously for the families involved. Our hearts go out to them and, of course, we'll provide whatever support we possibly can. We are, of course, providing some support to the other students—there were apparently a number of other students in the house, also RIT students. We are providing whatever support we can to them as well as to the families of the two students who died and to the student who's currently at Strong Memorial Hospital.

Note: Audio available at:

http://www.thetigerbeat.com/rss/podcasts/destler_statement_11-09-07.m4a

© Rochester Institute of Technology. All Rights Reserved.