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RIT Receives \$100,000 from Parsons Foundation

September 14, 2007

Industrial Science Technology laboratories at Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf will receive an upgrade, thanks to a \$100,000 grant from the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation.

The foundation, which has an 18-year partnership with RIT/NTID totaling more than \$690,000 in grants to benefit areas such as 'smart' classroom technology and automated speech recognition technology, will now fund the Industrial Science Technologies (IST) laboratories. The IST laboratories will be outfitted with state-of-the-art computer controlled equipment, 3D computer display systems, 3D printer and prototyping plotter and 3D laser scanner and software.

"Hands-on training on state-of-the-art equipment is the key to meeting the nation's demand for highly skilled professionals in the mechanical, manufacturing and industrial science sectors," said Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz, RIT vice president for NTID and CEO and dean of NTID. "Thanks to the continued generosity of the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, deaf and hard-of-hearing students at RIT/NTID will take their place among the country's highly skilled technicians."

About The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation was established in 1961 as a modest gift-giving organization by the late Ralph M. Parsons, founder of the worldwide engineering and construction firm that bears his name. Subsequent to Mr. Parsons' death in 1974, the foundation received the residue of his estate. Since that time, the foundation has been governed by an independent Board of Directors and administrative staff and is no longer affiliated with the Parsons Corporation.

The foundation's areas of interest include: higher education, particularly in the fields of engineering, science and technology; social impact and health services programs, particularly for disadvantaged youth, women and children, and the elderly; and civic and cultural projects.

The foundation's net assets in 2006 were \$413 million and grants totaled \$18.8 million.

Rochester Institute of Technology

National Technical Institute for the Deaf

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