

RIT THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION on PLURALISM and INCLUSION

An Invitation to the RIT Community

2008-2009 Nominations

The President's Commission on Pluralism and Inclusion, a university wide committee under the auspices of the Chief Diversity Officer is seeking nomination to fill open seats on the Commission. The group acts as advisors and advocates for diversity efforts on campus.

They organize both formal and informal programs and dialogues about some of the multi-faceted aspects surrounding diversity - from celebrating cultural richness to developing interpersonal skills to interact better within the global village. The Commission is recognized by the university as a professional development opportunity and qualifies as service to the institute.

The Commission is open to all members of the RIT community. Terms are for a period of two academic years (September - June) – renewable for one additional two-year term.

What is Pluralism?

The plurality of cultures has come to characterize every part of the world today. Pluralism is active seeking of understanding across lines of difference; holding our deepest differences in relationship to one another. Pluralism is the celebration of individual characteristics and the coming together of individuals to work toward a common interest. The language of pluralism is that of dialogue – speaking and listening, discovering understanding. Pluralism is the engagement that creates a common society from all the diversity.

What is a Commissioner?

Members of The President's Commission on Pluralism and Inclusion must possess a personal commitment and a demonstrated interest in issues related to inclusiveness, justice and equity. Included among a person's characteristics that are critical to a successful membership are:

- An appreciation and respect for human differences that include, but are not limited to: race,
- A passion for action, that is, an interest in tangible and meaningful results for all members of the RIT community.
- A desire to speak out against inequities wherever they may be found within the RIT community
- An ability to assist the Commission in thoughtfully processing information and issues that are brought to the Commission.
- An ability and willingness to collaborate with groups towards common goals set by the Commission in response to issues within the RIT community,

- A commitment to ensure that RIT is a place that is supportive of diverse groups and where all community members feel welcome and appreciated.

Responsibilities of a Commission Member

- A willingness to participate in the Commission's efforts to monitor institutional behavior and activities that impact diversity.
- An ability to attend the monthly Commission meetings and events sponsored by the Commission.
- To actively participate on one of the sub-committees of the Commission.

Have questions?

Questions can be directed to the Commission chairperson – **Michelle Cometa** at (585) 475-7155 or via email: macits@rit.edu or **Sandra Whitmore** - Assistant to the Chief Diversity Officer - Office of the President at (585) 475-5453 or via email: swwpro@rit.edu

How do I nominate someone or myself to be a member of the Commission?

Nominations are being accepted through September 2, 2008. Interested persons should complete the form on the website at: www.diversity.rit.edu and return to Michelle Cometa, Bldg. 99, Room 1288.