

RIT announces strategic research initiatives



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(Photo: photo provided)

Rochester Institute of Technology has designated four areas of research as strategic to the college's future, with each area awarded up to \$1 million in investments from RIT over five years.

The RIT teams awarded these grants had to show how the research would build on existing faculty strengths and resources, advance RIT's reputation and reflect a growing significance in society.

"The goal: to show how this work would enable RIT to make unique and high-impact contributions," says the statement RIT issued Monday announcing the strategic investments.

The four proposals receiving strategic investments are:

- **Cybersecurity.** The team that submitted this proposal consists of 25 faculty members from five RIT colleges. The goal of the team is to look at cybersecurity from a more proactive position by studying how such factors as human behavior, economic incentives and social influences on design of systems and software interact with technology and can develop better protections.
- **Personalized health care technology.** This team will look for ways to enhance personalized care and access through through mobile and wearable technologies, which integrate new media design and leverage data, behavioral and social sciences. The goal is to promote health in the population and provide evidence that technologies can enhance health and prevent diseases.
- **The future photon initiative.** A team of 15 RIT researchers from different disciplines will develop advanced photonics applications and use them to solve some of the most pressing problems in science, national security, advanced manufacturing, communications information technology, energy, health care and medicine.
- **Remote sensing with unmanned aerial vehicles.** An interdisciplinary team will work on challenges facing this industry from integrating unmanned aerial vehicles into national airspace to make better use of high-quality visual data collected in a variety of disciplines.

The four initiatives, selected from 26 proposals, are funded by RIT over five years, on the condition that each team meets annual review goals.

Ryne Raffaele, vice president for research and associate provost at RIT, said in the announcement of this funding that these initiatives reinforce an important "difference maker," set forth in RIT's 2015-2025 strategic plan, "Greatness Through Difference."

Research has become increasingly important for RIT, which received a record \$62 million in sponsored research in 2015.

One of the criteria the proposals were judged on was their potential to receive sponsored research funding and attract philanthropic giving and corporate and government investment.

The projects are also expected to receive funding through matching commitments made by deans, department heads, center directors and team members.

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