

2017-K1406

Assembly Resolution No. 1406

BY: M. of A. Bronson

COMMENDING Rochester Institute of Technology's
National Technical Institute for the Deaf upon the
occasion of celebrating its 50th Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those institutions of true purpose and high achievement whose exemplary programs and accomplishments clearly demonstrate an enduring pursuit of excellence in the education of deaf youth in the Empire State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) upon the occasion of celebrating its 50th Anniversary which coincides with Rochester Institute of Technology's (RIT) move to the Henrietta, New York, campus; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion will be celebrated with a myriad of events throughout the year culminating with a special reunion weekend from June 28-July 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS, The world's first and largest technological college for deaf and hard-of-hearing students will celebrate its 50-year history, beginning with an alumni golf tournament at Mill Creek Golf Club on Thursday, June 28, with an opening ceremony that evening, hosted by

alumnus and actor CJ Jones; and

WHEREAS, Other events and activities during the reunion weekend include a barbeque dinner, mini-reunions for current and former members of numerous clubs and organizations, including fraternities and sororities, and entertainment by popular alumni such as hip-hop artist Sean Forbes and actors Amber Zion, Kris Pumphrey and Daniel Durant; and

WHEREAS, In addition to alumni from the college's pioneer class and founding faculty, four of RIT/NTID's past leaders will be in attendance: founding director D. Robert Frisina; Robert Davila, the college's first deaf leader; James J. DeCaro; and T. Alan Hurwitz; and the college's current leader, Gerard Buckley, who is the first alumnus to lead the institution, which boasts more than 8,000 graduates; and

WHEREAS, The college's Dyer Arts Center will host an exhibition "50 Artists, 50 Years" featuring works by 50 RIT/NTID alumni artists; the center will also host the unveiling of a three-paneled mural, known as a triptych, entitled Together created by deaf artist Susan Dupor and commissioned for the 50th anniversary; Together portrays the flourishing life and history of the National Technical Institute of the Deaf over 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, RIT/NTID Performing Arts and MSM Productions, Ltd. will reprise the popular The Wonderful World of Oz in the college's Panara Theatre for four special performances with proceeds to benefit the theater program; and

WHEREAS, RIT, founded in 1829, competed against eight other colleges for NTID to become part of the university; NTID began operations in 1968, to provide deaf and hard-of-hearing students with outstanding technical and professional education programs, complemented by a strong

liberal arts and sciences curriculum, which prepares them to live and work in the mainstream of a rapidly changing global community and enhances their lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, At the end of NTID's first year, 54 students graduated from this inaugural program; today, the RIT campus proudly educates 17,000 students, 1,250 of which are deaf and hard of hearing students; these students are enrolled in programs that are unmatched by any university in the world; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its 50-year history, NTID has played a significant role in educating numerous people, both nationally and internationally, so that they may live full and honest lives with dignity, equality, and respect; since its founding, alumni have gone on to work and hold leadership positions in all areas of business, industry, government and non-profit sectors; and

WHEREAS, The NTID has continually demonstrated an impressive dedication, an unparalleled devotion and an unremitting enthusiasm for the quality of educational programs and opportunities offered for the benefit of its faculty and students as well as for the entire community; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed educational institution has been an integral part of the history of its community, representing a dynamic, responsive and positive force within the educational system of New York State; and

WHEREAS, The NTID is proudly aware of its distinguished past, eager to fulfill its present commitment to parents, students and the community, and planning with vision and purpose for the ebb and swell of growth and change it will encounter in the years to come; and

WHEREAS, Under the visionary guidance of President Dr. Gerard Buckley, NTID stands proud and prominent, always looking to the future and the needs of those it serves; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf upon the occasion of celebrating its 50th Anniversary, noting the propriety of its goals, the constancy of its commitment and the significance of its accomplishments in preparing the youth of today and leaders of tomorrow; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Gerard Buckley, President, Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf.