

## Introduction

RIT has a host of organizations offering services and support exclusively for women. These organizations include:

- WIT – Women In Technology (<http://www.rit.edu/cast/wit/>)
- WE@RIT – Women in Engineering (<http://www.rit.edu/kgcoe/women/>)
- SWE – Society of Women Engineers (<http://www.rit.edu/kgcoe/swe/ritswe.html>)
- WIC – Women In Computing (<http://www.rit.edu/gccis/women-computing>)
- The Center for Women and Gender  
(<http://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/womenandgender/about-center>)
- WISE – Women In Science from the College of Science (COS)  
(<http://www.rit.edu/cos/WISe/index.html>)
- WGST – Women’s and Gender Studies
- The RIT Leadership Institute & Community Service Center  
([http://campuslife.rit.edu/leadership/women\\_in\\_leadership.php](http://campuslife.rit.edu/leadership/women_in_leadership.php))
- Women’s Council (<https://www.rit.edu/president/womenscouncil/womenscouncil-home>)
- WiSTEE Connect – Connecting Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Entrepreneurship (<http://www.wisteeconnect.org/>)

There are also several women sororities:

- SLU – Sigma Lambda Upsilon sorority (<https://thelink.rit.edu/organization/SLU/about>) and some few sororities for women
- SSS – Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority (<https://thelink.rit.edu/organization/TriSigma/about>)
- AXiD – Alpha Xi Delta (Alpha Xi)  
([http://www.rit.alphaxidelta.org/index.php?page\\_name=start](http://www.rit.alphaxidelta.org/index.php?page_name=start))
- CUS – Chi Upsilon Sigma (<https://thelink.rit.edu/organization/CUS>)

These organizations all have a mission, a set of activities they carry out during the academic year and specific member requirements.

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## WIT – Women in Technology

### Mission

Rochester Institute of Technology’s (RIT) Women In Technology (WIT) is dedicated to increasing the representation of women in the technical fields and programs offered in the College of Applied Science and Technology’s School of Engineering Technology. WIT programming involves outreach designed to inspire young women to explore and consider the possibility of a technical career through hands-on activities and events that peak curiosity, motivate creativity and emphasize the opportunities to enhance and improve the quality of life through world changing technologies. Professional development activities and focused academic support are offered to encourage the intellectual and professional growth of students. These initiatives help increase and retain the number of women enrolled in programs. Social support is

offered through community building activities that connect WIT students with other students, faculty, alumni and professionals in their disciplines to create an environment that fosters academic, professional and personal success.

### **History**

No information was available on the website (<http://www.rit.edu/cast/wit/>).

### **Point of Contact**

WIT Program Coordinator, Elaine Lewis, [wit@rit.edu](mailto:wit@rit.edu), (585) 475-4576  
CoMETs Scholarship Director, Betsy Dell, [emdmet@rit.edu](mailto:emdmet@rit.edu)  
WIT Director, Maureen Valentine, [mvsite@rit.edu](mailto:mvsite@rit.edu)

### **Activities**

WIT organizes the following activities, events and programs:

- Develop professional skills, such as resume writing, interviewing tips and networking workshops.
- Network with companies by inviting speakers and touring local plants and businesses.
- Send students to national conferences to represent WIT and for networking opportunities.
- E3 Fair
- Imagine RIT
- Build community among the students, faculty and industrial professionals through social events and outreach programs. These outreach programs include:
  - High School outreach – Middle School Outreach and K-12 Outreach designed to demonstrate that women can make a positive impact on the world with a career in engineering.

### **Membership Eligibility and Service Terms**

All women students enrolled in the College of Applied Science and Technology (CAST) are encouraged to join WIT.

### **Estimate of Participation**

About 200 undergraduate students participate in WIT workshops and events every year.

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## **WE@RIT – Women in Engineering at RIT**

### **Mission**

The ‘Women in Engineering’ program is a Kate Gleason College of Engineering (KGCOE) program dedicated to expanding the representation of women engineers and preparing women for leadership roles within the engineering profession. The program encourages a supportive

environment and hosts enriching programs that educate and inspire the RIT women engineering student community, Future RIT students AND “Future Engineers” in grades 5-12.

## History

Women in Engineering ([WE@RIT](#)) was founded 2003 by a team of engineering faculty and staff. The program has a two-fold mission: to foster gender equity in the engineering field and prepare women for leadership roles within the engineering profession. WE@RIT has evolved over the past 10 years providing programs and services to inspire, educate and support girls and young women both academically and socially with a focus on engineering professions.

KGCOE is the only engineering college in the nation named in honor of a woman. Kate Gleason demonstrated innovative, entrepreneurial, and technical abilities at a time when women could not even vote! Kate Gleason's legacy and inspiration, together with the college's strong commitment to foster gender equality in the engineering field led to the creation of a women in engineering program called WE@RIT.

## Point of Contact

Director, Jodi Carville, [jlceee@rit.edu](mailto:jlceee@rit.edu), (585) 475-6321  
(<http://www.rit.edu/kgcoe/women/about.php>)

## Activities

WE@RIT has developed enrichment programs that focus on community building and outreach. Programs include:

- “Kate’s Community” programs – organized throughout the academic year to enhance the educational experience of their undergraduate women engineering students, and provide networking and relationship building opportunities.
- For Future KGCOE women students:
  - WE Retreat held in coordination with RIT’s Accepted Student Open House
  - WE’re in Motion pre-orientation program for incoming freshmen women engineering majors.
- Pre-Engineering programs for girls and young women – involving hands-on activity based programs and camps to encourage and inspire girls in grade 5-12 to consider an engineering career. They also create an opportunity for RIT students to volunteer as mentors, gain leadership experience and serve as role models in engineering careers.

WE@RIT has proven success with over 700 elementary to high school girls directly involved to-date in camps and lab experiences. In total, WE@RIT has an impact on over 2,000 individuals each year, including the K-12 students, as well as, undergraduates and graduate students at RIT, parents, and other educators.

## Undergraduate Involvement

Current KGCOE undergrad students serve as mentors and role models for outreach programs and prospective student programs.

**Estimate of Participation:** varies by programs and offerings

### **Membership Eligibility and Service Terms**

WE@RIT is not membership based nor does it have any service requirements. They are a program in the College of Engineering that provides a support environment and creates a sense of community for all involved.

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## **SWE – Society of Women Engineers**

### **Mission**

The Society of Women Engineers is a national organization committed to helping women to achieve their full potential in careers as engineers and leaders. The RIT section of SWE is dedicated to providing an environment for RIT's female engineers to enhance their professional, leadership and social skills.

### **History**

RIT SWE is one of the 50 collegiate sections located in Region E which contains the Mid-Atlantic States. RIT SWE is a student run organization on campus dedicated to organizing activities to promote women in engineering and serving the community.

### **Point of Contact**

Advisor, Dr. Marcia Lam, [mjleme@rit.edu](mailto:mjleme@rit.edu)

### **Activities**

Throughout the year, SWE members participate in attending social, professional and community service events. They also organize one major outreach event every winter called the SWE Overnight, which consists of approximately 50 high school junior girls from around the northeast. SWE introduces them to the RIT campus and demonstrates what it is like being an engineer through a series of labs and activities.

### **Membership Eligibility and Service Terms**

Meetings occur every Wednesday night at 7pm in the Bamboo Room. Students can opt in to an email distribution list by emailing [sweeng@rit.edu](mailto:sweeng@rit.edu).

National SWE membership, [www.swe.org](http://www.swe.org), requires student registration and payment.

Becoming an RIT SWE member provides opportunity to attend regional and annual conferences and other networking events, which can lead to co-ops, and professional experiences and opportunities.

National SWE membership includes:

- Eligibility for SWE Scholarships
- Access to the online SWE Career Center
- Access to the SWE Membership Database
- Free Professional development Webinars
- Discounted Conference Registration
- Discounted Kaplan courses
- 20% off FE & PE tests
- \$50 off GRE, GMAT, LSAT prep classes
- FREE SWE Magazine subscription

**Estimate of Participation:** varies by programs and offerings

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## WIC – Women in Computing

### Mission

Women in Computing, is a group of students faculty and staff committed to the success and advancement of women in computing. This spans all computing disciplines from traditional computer science, to the emerging disciplines of computer gaming and information assurance and security. Their purpose is to support existing and new creative micro-cultures and bring those communities together when opportunities arise. They strive to increase awareness of their disciplines by promoting the field of computing to area school-age girls and boys through their Women in Computing Roadshow.

### Point of Contact

WIC Director, Lana Verschage, [ltvvse@rit.edu](mailto:ltvvse@rit.edu), (585) 475-7155

### History

No information was available on the website (<https://www.rit.edu/gccis/women-computing/about-us>)

### Activities

- Affinity Reception
- Career Closet
- Dress for Success
- Etiquette Luncheon
- Grace Hopper Conference (\$1000 awarded to each elected student to attend conference)
- NY celebration of Women in Computing
- Imagine RIT
- Interviewing Panel Discussion

- Middle School Outreach Roadshow
- Networking Seminar
- Resume Writing Workshop
- Scholarships
- Top Ten Tips Series from Employers

### **Membership Eligibility and Service Terms**

Any female student registered in the College of Computing & Information Sciences is eligible to participate to WIC.

### **Estimate of participation**

Approximately 30 students regularly register or sign-up to attend events and activities.

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## **The Center for Women and Gender**

### **Mission**

The mission of the Center for Women and Gender is to foster an educational environment in which all community members can be personally, academically, and professionally successful without regard to gender, racial/ethnic origins, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic status, or spiritual beliefs.

They believe that equitable situations and equitable relationships for women will in turn improve the lives of all people. When women have opportunities to utilize their talents and interests to their fullest extent, in their careers and in their personal relationships, and when they are recognized and respected for their contributions, all members of the community benefit.

The Center for Women and Gender also provides confidential services for students dealing with pregnancy. These services include crisis intervention, individual support, educational information, resource materials, and referrals to on and off campus resources no matter what the students decide to do.

The Center for Women and Gender help students maintain a balance while dealing with the emotional, spiritual, academic, and health issues during a pregnancy. Each student's needs are different. These needs may include pregnancy testing, information about options to consider, counseling (individually or couple), information about contraception, prenatal care, financial planning, information about child care availability, parenting education and housing options.

### **History**

The Center for Women and Gender began as the RIT Women's Center with a full time Coordinator in 1998-1999. In 1999, the US Department of Justice awarded the Women's Center one of its new Campus Grants to Combat Violent Crimes against Women. Their first location was in the basement of the Student Alumni Union. In 2007, the Center moved down the hall to a larger, newly renovated space, thanks to the generous support of the Davenport Hatch Eko/Clayton

Foundation. In December, 2009, they moved into their current space in the Campus Center. Their name changed from the RIT Women's Center to the Center for Women and Gender in the fall of 2010.

The name change was based on:

- Fostering an educational (and global) environment which is supportive of women as well as working with men. The Center believes they can't look at women's issues without contextualizing them within the broader scope of gender.
- It is a more inclusive name, reflecting more accurately the work they are already doing providing support to men regarding relationship concerns.
- The name change acknowledges that not all victims and survivors are female.
- It reflects their work with and support of the LGBT community.

### **Point Of Contact**

Director, Darci Lane-Williams, [drlwom@rit.edu](mailto:drlwom@rit.edu), (585) 475-2141

Associate Director, Cha Ron Sattler, [Charon.satter@rit.edu](mailto:Charon.satter@rit.edu), (585) 475-6291

### **Activities**

- Lighting The Way – it's a welcoming ceremony for new women students, at the beginning of every academic year
- The Vagina Monologues – it's a global award-winning play featuring RIT students, faculty and staff that focuses on stopping violence against women and girls.
- The Women's Career Achievement Dinner – it's a joint program of the Center for Women and Gender and the Leadership Institute and Community Service Center, that celebrates the accomplishments of RIT women.

### **Services**

- **Individual & Group counseling**
  - The Center for Women and Gender offers short-term, time-limited counseling to members of the RIT community. They offer support and referrals for services here at RIT and in the greater Rochester community. The counseling services offered here is not a substitute for mental health services, but can assist you in obtaining a referral in that case. They also offer group counseling. Depending on the semester, they may offer a Healthy Relationship group, a Recovery from Sexual Assault and Abuse group and others.
- **Information**
  - The Center for Women and Gender offers information about various issues one may be dealing with. They offer assistance in goal setting and putting a plan in motion to achieve your goals.
- **Support and Advocacy**
  - The Center for Women and Gender is one of the identified places to come to discuss harassment and discrimination experiences. They offer advice, counseling, and conflict resolution services to all the members of the RIT

community (faculty, staff, and students). Each incident is discussed confidentially and options are reviewed for the individual to consider.

- **Consultation**
  - The Center for Women and Gender staff members are available to meet with any individual in the University community who is seeking information about resources, options for problem resolution, and use of services offered at their Center.
- **Student Conduct Referrals**
  - Some students are referred to the Center for Women and Gender for an alternative educational sanction resulting from a Student Conduct hearing. They provide educational interventions addressing Consent and Respect, Civility, and Relationships and Boundaries.
- **Scholarship Information**
  - The Women's Council of RIT Endowed Scholarship provides academic scholarships to women students at RIT who exhibit a strong commitment to a high academic average while struggling with an exceptional/difficult personal or family circumstance.
  - Eligible students for this scholarship must be women in any program of study who have maintained a GPA of 3.0 or better. Eligible students must have strong community/campus involvement and have excelled in spite of their difficult circumstances. Eligible students must demonstrate financial need and complete an application. Applications are available at the Center for Women and Gender or by emailing a request to [ritwom@rit.edu](mailto:ritwom@rit.edu).
- **Wellness Classes**
  - Relationship Health
  - Eating, Body Image and Food
- **Get Help**
  - The Center for Women and Gender also offers help for student with:
    - Pregnancy
    - Sexual assault
    - Stalking
    - Harassment
    - Body image/eating concerns
    - Relationship concerns
    - Self-esteem / assertiveness
    - Sexuality concerns
    - GLBT issues

### **Membership Eligibility and Service Terms**

Students can get involved by joining the Student Advisory Board, which is an active part of the Center for Women and Gender, promoting dialogue and events for RIT/NTID students.



## WISe – Women in Science from the College of Science (COS)

### Mission

The WISe program seeks to engage women in the sciences and mathematics by offering information, equity and collaboration opportunities that will break down barriers and will enhance their education and career(s) throughout their journey.

Their goals are:

- To increase the knowledge of possibilities for women in all areas of Science and Mathematical Sciences
- To increase female student enrollments in their Sciences programs through recruitment, retention and alumni efforts.
- To create networking opportunities for women in the College of Science.
- To increase female participation in Science and Mathematical Sciences at all levels
- To increase awareness of issues that impedes female students and faculty to achieve their full potential.

### History

WISe was founded by Dean Sophia Maggelakis in 2010. It began as mostly women faculty meeting every few weeks to discuss important issues for women in science. These women held a few events such as their graduate school boot camp for their students and some events for their faculty. Since November 2010, they have expanded to include men and women faculty and staff in WISe and they hold multiple events each month for their COS faculty and students. They have also held outreach events for girls in science K-12.

### Point of Contact

Chair, Assistant Professor Lea Vacca Michel, [lvmsch@rit.edu](mailto:lvmsch@rit.edu) (585) 475-4273

Vice-Chair, Assistant Professor Kara L. Maki, [kmaki@rit.edu](mailto:kmaki@rit.edu) (585) 475-4273

### Activities

- Grad School boot camp
- Women Career Panel
- Women Graduate Student Panel
- WISe Faculty Lunches
- WISe Holiday Reception
- WISe faculty speakers
- WISe Imagine RIT Exhibit
- Various WISe outreach events
- SMASH Camp for middle school girls

### **Membership Eligibility and Service Term**

There is no membership or service term requirement. All students enrolled in COS are encouraged to participate. COS faculty and staff, are encouraged to become members based on their interest in promoting women in science.

WISe has a small executive committee of 14 members which meets weekly and only active members are allowed to be part of that committee.

### **Estimate of participation**

There are over 40 students on the WISe mailing list some of which participate in WISe activities and outreach events. WISe invites all COS students to their events.

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### **WGST – Women’s Gender Studies**

Additional information requested.

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### **The RIT Leadership Institute & Community Service Center**

#### **Mission**

The RIT Women’s Career Leadership Certificate Program provides an understanding of leadership as it relates to women by helping participants develop confidence when entering the leadership roles or the career field. Participants interact and learn from female role models, leaders and mentors, and participate in a variety of leadership workshops and events to strengthen and hone leadership skills. The program also provides community service opportunities focused on deepening ones’ understanding of women’s issues.

**History:** No information was available on the website.

#### **Point of Contact**

Assistant to the Director, Gwen Van Laeken, [gavccl@rit.edu](mailto:gavccl@rit.edu)

Assistant Director, Phyllis Walker, [ppwccl@rit.edu](mailto:ppwccl@rit.edu)

Advisor, Molly McGowan, [mtmccl@rit.edu](mailto:mtmccl@rit.edu)

#### **Activities**

The RIT Leadership Institute and Community Service Center provides leadership workshops, certificate programs, retreats and community service experiences designed to help provide all students with the tools to succeed and lead on campus and beyond.

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## Membership Eligibility and Service Term

The program is open to all female students at RIT and participants have up to two years to complete the requirements once they begin the program.

Leadership Certificate Requirements include:

1. Registration
2. Attend any three (3) RIT Leadership Institute & Community Service center workshops

Authentic Leadership, Emotional intelligence, Managing oneself, Interpersonal Communication, Leadership Roles & Styles, Inclusive Leadership, Team work & Group Dynamics, Ethical Leadership

Many of the above program competencies are also covered at:

- Quarterly RIT Leadership Institute Retreats and RIT's Annual Connectology Leadership Conference
3. Attendance at any one (1) Women's Leadership Roundtable Luncheon
    - a. Women's Certificate Kick-Off Luncheon – CPC 2610 / 2650
    - b. Women's Roundtable Luncheon – CPC 2610 / 2650
  4. Attendance of Three (3) Workshops or Webinars or Events (mix and match)

Career and Co-op Services Workshop

- Say What You Mean, and Mean What You Say: Effective Personal Communication
- Rise Above the Fray: Dealing with Difficult People in the Workplace
- Connecting for Career Services

Center for Women and Gender Events

- Self-Esteem: the Building Block for All Relationship
  - Assertiveness: Your Protection, Your Right
  - Hip Chick's Tips on Leadership
5. Application Project or Activity  
An application project or activity must be completed along with a paper about the project itself. The student must find a way to apply and practice the competencies they are learning about in one of the following ways:
    - Volunteering at an organization dedicated to women's issues.
    - A hands on leadership project such as a leadership role in a group, a co-op experience, a job experience, etc.
    - A mentoring relation with someone in the students targeted career field.
  6. Submit Final Reflection Paper  
Finally, the student must write a two page reflection paper describing what she has learned from each of the required workshops and the application project. The paper

should describe what the leadership application project was and how it related to the concepts that were learned in the required workshops.

### **Estimate of Participation**

Roughly 260 members are signed up with the Leadership Institute.

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## **Women's Council at RIT**

### **Mission**

The purpose of the Women's Council of RIT is to stimulate interest and promote understanding of the Institute within the community, to provide an educational program about the Institute to its members and to be of service to the Institute. The council is committed to participating in a variety of projects that advance the interest in and support of the Institute.

The Women's Council is the ambassadors for RIT in the larger community. They raise funds to provide scholarships to RIT's women students. These women actively seek to enhance the academic and campus life of RIT.

### **History**

Founded in 1955 to enhance the academic and campus life of RIT women, the Women's Council was the inspiration of Aileen Vanderbilt Webb, RIT's first woman trustee. Through the motivation of Marcia Ellingson, wife of former RIT president Mark Ellingson, the Woman's Council was founded from a small group of friends of the Institute who were eager to volunteer their time and talents to advance RIT.

In 2009-2010, WC awarded scholarships to deserving women, donated to the RIT Ambulance Corps, purchased and donated books to the Wallace Library, held a very successful "Glass Pumpkin Patch" event and had their luncheon programs with guest speakers. The Council also makes annual contributions to the RIT campus childcare center Margaret's House to fund annual scholarships. WC has many more accomplishments since then.

**Point of Contact:** Via website for application; Rosie Sepos, membership dues.

### **Activities**

The Women's Council of RIT meets once a month (with a summer break for June, July and August).

### **Membership Eligibility and Service Terms**

To join WC, students are encouraged to complete the Membership Application and New Member Information Form found in these links:

- Membership Application:  
<https://www.rit.edu/president/womenscouncil/files/application.pdf>

- New Member Information Form:  
<https://www.rit.edu/president/womenscouncil/files/information.pdf>

Annual Dues are \$35 and help support Council Notes and operating expenses, Margaret's House, the Outstanding Female Senior Students Award, and the RIT Ambulance Corps.

**Estimate of Participation:** Varies by program, event and activity.

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## **WiSTEE Connect – Connecting Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Entrepreneurship**

### **Mission**

WiSTEE Connect has a vision to promote women leadership in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Entrepreneurship (STEE), bridge the gap between Science and Business, and provide a forum to learn, connect and lead. They aim to provide concrete support to help women gain regional connections and global impact in STEE fields, while filling these two gaps:

- Focusing on the advancement of junior and mid-career women in STEE, ie, career growth rather than career entry.
- Women Entrepreneurship in Science and Technology.

### **History**

WiSTEE Connect was founded and is currently chaired by Dr. Jie Qiao, Associate Professor of Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science, Rochester Institute of Technology. WiSTEE Connect is a RIT-based regional organization, created to connect women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Entrepreneurship across universities and industries first in the Rochester region, then nationally and internationally.

### **Activities**

- Local and global Connectivity
- Informal mentorship
- Professional development workshops
- Entrepreneurship knowledge and advice

### **Point of contact**

Chair, Jie Qiao, [qiao@cis.rit.edu](mailto:qiao@cis.rit.edu) (585)-475-6221

## **SLU – Sigma Lambda Upsilon sorority**

### **Mission**

SLU highly prides itself as an organization of diverse college-educated (collegiate) and professional women dedicated to uplifting traditionally marginalized groups, especially Latinos and women, by serving as a voice and means for empowerment.

### **History**

Founded in 1987, SLU has since then been an outlet for professional development and personal growth to its members and serving constituents. The Sorority's impact can be seen in the outstanding accomplishments of their Hermanas, the young women they have mentored through the LADYS and PEARLS programs, and through the lives of all the people the Sorority has touched via their many literacy initiatives. Thus, proving to colleges and communities that women of color can make a difference.

### **Activities**

SLU has a passion for leading and developing underprivileged communities through the Sorority's goals of academic excellence, leadership, sisterhood, cultural enrichment, and service to the community and campus.

Throughout the semester SLU carry out activities like:

- 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt
- Polar Plunge
- Hermanas of Psi Chapter – Past and Present
- Sigma Lambda Service Week
- Seniorita Study Hours
- Bowling for books

### **Point of Contact**

Advisor, Stephanie Paredes, [sxpns@rit.edu](mailto:sxpns@rit.edu), (585) 475-6918

### **Membership Eligibility and Service Terms**

No information on their website.

### **Estimate of Participation**

There are five students involved in SLU based on the website information.

## SSS – Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority

### Mission

The women in Sigma Sigma Sigma value building lifelong friendships with one another. They challenge one another to be the best that they can be and promote strong womanly character. All their members have high ethical standards, and value honesty and integrity as personal characteristics in day-to-day living.

Sigma Sigma Sigma is the only sorority on campus to be recognized by the NTID Student Assembly (NSA). All their meetings, rituals and events are in both American Sign Language (ASL) and spoken English.

### Activity

- Sign Idol – it's SSS's philanthropy event (American Idol, only using sign instead of singing).

### Point of Contact

Advisor, Kelly Metz, [kmmsfs@rit.edu](mailto:kmmsfs@rit.edu)  
President, Jenna Stein, [jls2489@rit.edu](mailto:jls2489@rit.edu)  
Public Relations, Kaitlin Keenan

### Estimate of Participation

About **48** people are involved with this sorority.

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## AXiD – Alpha Xi Delta (Alpha Xi)

### Mission

Alpha Xi Delta is one of the nation's oldest women's sorority, dedicated to inspiring its members to realize their fullest potential. Being a sister of Alpha Xi Delta has a lifelong value beginning as collegians and continuing as alumnae after graduation. With service, social and sisterhood events, they get the college experience of lifetime.

### History

The Phi Upsilon Phi Sorority has its beginning in November of 1919, with the permission and cooperation of Dr. Farnum who was at that time President of the Mechanics Institute, now known as Rochester Institute of Technology. The purpose of establishing this sorority was to further the spirit of friendship and unity between the departments of Applied and Household Arts. Phi Upsilon Phi brought together women representatives of the highest ideals and standards at the Mechanics Institute.

On February 24, 1963 Phi Upsilon Phi Sorority was pledged as a colony of the national Alpha Xi Delta Fraternity. It was the first sorority on the RIT campus to take this big and important step toward its further growth and development. After acquiring a thorough understanding of the advantages and responsibilities of being part of an outstanding national organization, the colony was installed as the Delta Lambda chapter of Alpha Xi Delta on October 5, 1963. This affiliation with Alpha Xi Delta is now an essential part of our fraternal life.

### **Point of Contact**

President, Kristen Holden, [kah4207@g.rit.edu](mailto:kah4207@g.rit.edu)  
VP Chapter Life, Sara Platner [slp7023@g.rit.edu](mailto:slp7023@g.rit.edu)  
VP Public Relations, Shannon Frassrand, [smf6277@g.rit.edu](mailto:smf6277@g.rit.edu)

### **Activities**

Sisters of Alpha Xi Delta are encouraged to get involved, not only within the sorority but also within the community. Below is a list of activities, councils, groups, organizations and clubs that their sisters are involved in.

- PanHellenic Council
- Greek Council
- GAMMA (Greeks Advocating for the Mature use of Alcohol)
- Club Field Hockey
- Horseback Riding club
- Study Abroad Program
- Ultimate Frisbee

### **Membership Eligibility and Service Terms**

All organizations are different, but on average the new member is committed to about 3-8 hours a week, whether it is for chapter meetings, community service, or other events.

Dues for Alpha Xi Delta at RIT are approximately \$280 dollars a semester, which differ during the New Member Process.

### **Estimate of Participation**

Alpha Xi Delta has roughly 55 members.

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## **CUS – Chi Upsilon Sigma**

### **Mission**

Eko/Clayton

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Chi Upsilon Sigma is not only a sorority, but also a movement to educate, elevate and empower women of all ethnicities. It's a service and education based organization that provides programming, training, and mentoring for its members and the community.

### **History**

Chi Upsilon Sigma (CUS) or Cussies as they are called is the first Independent Latin Sorority in the nation founded in 1980. They are aware of the prejudices and obstacles facing the minority women in local communities, and dedicate themselves to improving these conditions and working towards the betterment of all women.

The Founders' ideals of open communication and community service, as well as the development of political, educational, cultural and social awareness are the basis of all of their programming and efforts. They devote themselves to this challenge to be achieved through hard work, patience, and the collective effort to educate not only themselves but their campus and surrounding communities living up to their motto: "Wisdom Through Education".

### **Point of Contact**

Advisor, Stephanie Paredes, [sxpnc@rit.edu](mailto:sxpnc@rit.edu)  
President, Beverly Liriano, [bjl6407@rit.edu](mailto:bjl6407@rit.edu)  
Public Relations, Rasha Awwad, [rta2472@rit.edu](mailto:rta2472@rit.edu)

### **Estimate of Participation**

There are currently seven members in this organization