



> State of Service

2019-20

RIT

Division of Student Affairs

Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement

Contents

Annual Data and Trends	2
Top Events	
Service Events	4
Philanthropic Events	5
Top RIT Groups	
Service Hours	6
Philanthropic Giving	7
Top Non-Profit Organizations	
Philanthropic Impact	8
RIT Student Volunteers	9
Post Grad Service Highlights	10
Morgan Barron	11
Alternative Break	12
Hunger Project	14
COVID Response	
Ryan Brown	15
Report your Service Hours	16
Contact Info	17

Pursuing the greater good



Annual Data and Trends



2,149
volunteers



20,598
hours of service



\$128,745
of philanthropic giving



\$621,089
economic impact



Top Events



Service

Goodbye, Goodbuy!

Every year, RIT students throw out over 100 tons of goods during move-out, which are collected during the end of spring semester. The following fall, incoming students purchase the same items at this yearly sale, preventing usable items from sitting in landfills.

330 volunteers **1,863** service hours **\$56,225** economic impact


Philanthropic

Relay for Life

Relay for Life is a overnight, team-based walk-a-thon that raises money for the American Cancer Society.

330 participants **\$65,949** donated

Last year's Relay for Life at RIT raised **\$107,300** for the American Cancer Society.

 [Read the full story](#)

 [Watch the video](#)

Top RIT Groups

Service Hours

4,577	Pi Kappa Phi
1,759	Phi Kappa Psi
1,520	RIT Habitat for Humanity
1,251	Alpha Sigma Alpha
1,097	Tau Kappa Epsilon



Philanthropic Giving

\$65,949	Colleges Against Cancer
\$13,800	Phi Kappa Psi
\$6,871	Phi Sigma Kappa
\$5,678	Lambda Sigma Upsilon
\$5,091	Delta Phi Epsilon

RIT's community members contributed more than \$300,000 to the United Way Campaign – Mission 2020 – this year through individual donations, campus auctions, and events.

More than half of the event funds were generated by student-run events, such as Phi Kappa Psi's annual Mud Tug event, which raised over \$10,000 this year.



[Read the full story](#)

Top Nonprofit Organizations

Philanthropic Impact

\$65,949

American Cancer Society

\$10,000

Hillside Family of Agencies

\$5,743

St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital

\$4,618

Veterans Outreach Center

\$4,001

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

\$128,745

Total Donations



RIT Student Volunteers

4,342

The Ability Experience

1,728

Habitat for Humanity

1,055

Special Olympics

990

St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital

644

American Red Cross

20,580

Total Hours of Services

Post Grad Service Highlights

This year, the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement became the principal investigator on a grant proposal to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS selected eight colleges and universities for their new AmeriCorps VISTA partnership to encourage college students to participate in national service opportunities.

The \$20,000 grant has allowed the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement to scale up its post-graduate service offerings in support of this initiative, hire an AmeriCorps VISTA campus recruiter, and begin the longer process of educating the campus community about post-graduate service opportunities including AmeriCorps and PeaceCorps.



[Learn more about the RIT Vista Grant](#)



Morgan Barron

As a Rochester, New York native, Morgan Barron thought she knew about everything the city had to offer. But two weeks after graduating from Monroe Community College with her associate's degree, she was thrust into a new world of opportunities courtesy of AmeriCorps.

Barron, a now-undergraduate student at Rochester Institute of Technology, was recently recognized by the City of Rochester and Mayor Lovely Warren as an exceptional woman. Her relationship with the municipality began in 2016 when she was hired as an intern with the Communications Bureau.

A year later, she returned as an AmeriCorps VISTA supporting the Mayor's Offices of Innovation and Strategic Initiatives and the Mayor's Office of Constituent Services.

"The main goal was to focus on how to decrease poverty levels in Rochester but you had to start with admitting that there was a poverty issue, and from there figure out different initiatives that would help," Barron explained. "We truly worked to meet the needs of the people of Rochester. To me, honestly, that was the greatest thing I could've done because I grew up here in Rochester but I never realized how much happened here on a regular basis."

Alternative Break

Forty students traveled to four different locations this past March to volunteer and learn alongside community agencies. This year, Alternative Break students completed over 1,800 hours of service equating a \$54,000 economic impact in the communities they served.



[Read more about Alternative Break](#)



Preservation of Protected Lands St. Marks, FL

Students worked to maintain trails at the [St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge](#) and [The American Hiking Society](#) while learning about federal policy around our protected lands.



Housing Rehabilitation and Social Justice Selma, AL

Students worked alongside the Blackbelt and Central Alabama Housing Authority in support of their goal to construct 25 houses per year while learning about this historic city's past and future.



Sustainable Communities and Wetland Conservation New Orleans, LA

Alongside [Common Ground Relief](#), students got their hands dirty on the Louisiana coast (which comprises 40% of our nation's wetlands) while gaining the knowledge, passion, and commitment to sustain robust wetlands in the Gulf Coast and beyond.



Food Justice in the Rustbelt Wheeling, WV

Students worked alongside [Grow Ohio Valley](#) in their mission to fashion a new economic landscape that offers increased prosperity, improved health, and a better environment.



Alternative Break piloted a new internal collaboration with the Division of Diversity and Inclusion's Women of Color, Honor, and Ambition (WOCHA).

Through this partnership – and for the first time in FY20 – Women of Color, Honor, and Ambition participated in the Alternative Break Program at no direct cost to the students. Additionally, a member of the WOCHA advisory team (Pamela Christopher, Interim Director of NTID Diversity and Inclusion) served as a trip advisor in New Orleans, LA.



[Read more about Alternative Break's collaboration with Women of Color, Honor, and Ambition](#)



Hunger Project

For the third year, the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement partnered with Feeding Children Everywhere to celebrate Giving Tuesday's Hunger Project. The collaboration brought 200 RIT Tigers together to package over 20,000 meals for RIT Foodshare and Rochester's FoodLink. To date, this partnership has resulted in the creation of over 91,000 meals for the Rochester community. Additionally, for the first time, the Hunger Project served as a hands-on experience for first-year students in four RIT 365 course sections. The partnership with Year One Programs, will continue next year.

 [Read the full story](#)



COVID Response

Ryan Brown

When the pandemic hit in mid-March, Ryan Brown, a third-year mechanical engineering student, found creative ways to utilize his talents to help St. Luke's, a local hospital network in the Lehigh Valley. After receiving a call from Filament Innovations, where he works as a Senior R&D Technician, Ryan quickly began his work on designing masks specifically for high-flow 3D printers.

Within 48 hours of being home, Ryan in collaboration with Mike Gorski, CEO of Filament Innovations (FI) and Megan Augustene, representative of St. Luke's, had developed a working model that could be printed in about an hours' time.

Over time, the group received feedback on how to improve the masks, resulting in the creation of multiple sizes and multiple depths to fit different face sizes.

"In the end, with all of the masks that we were able to provide for St. Lukes, their level of concern for protecting their incredible medical staff was greatly reduced knowing they had enough masks on hand. It was an incredible group effort on many fronts, and it was truly amazing to be able to be a part of the team of people using our unique skill sets to combat this virus."

Report Your Service Hours

The Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement tracks and reports on community service hours and philanthropic giving for a variety of purposes:

- To measure RIT's impact on the local community;
- To provide departments, students organizations, and individual students with an opportunity to quantify their volunteering and philanthropic accomplishments; and,
- To report overall involvement trends to students, administrators, alumni, and the public.

If you would like to set up a reporting process for your department, student organization, or club please contact Kathryn Cilano at kehrli@rit.edu.

You are on to something amazing.

Contact Us and Get Involved



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