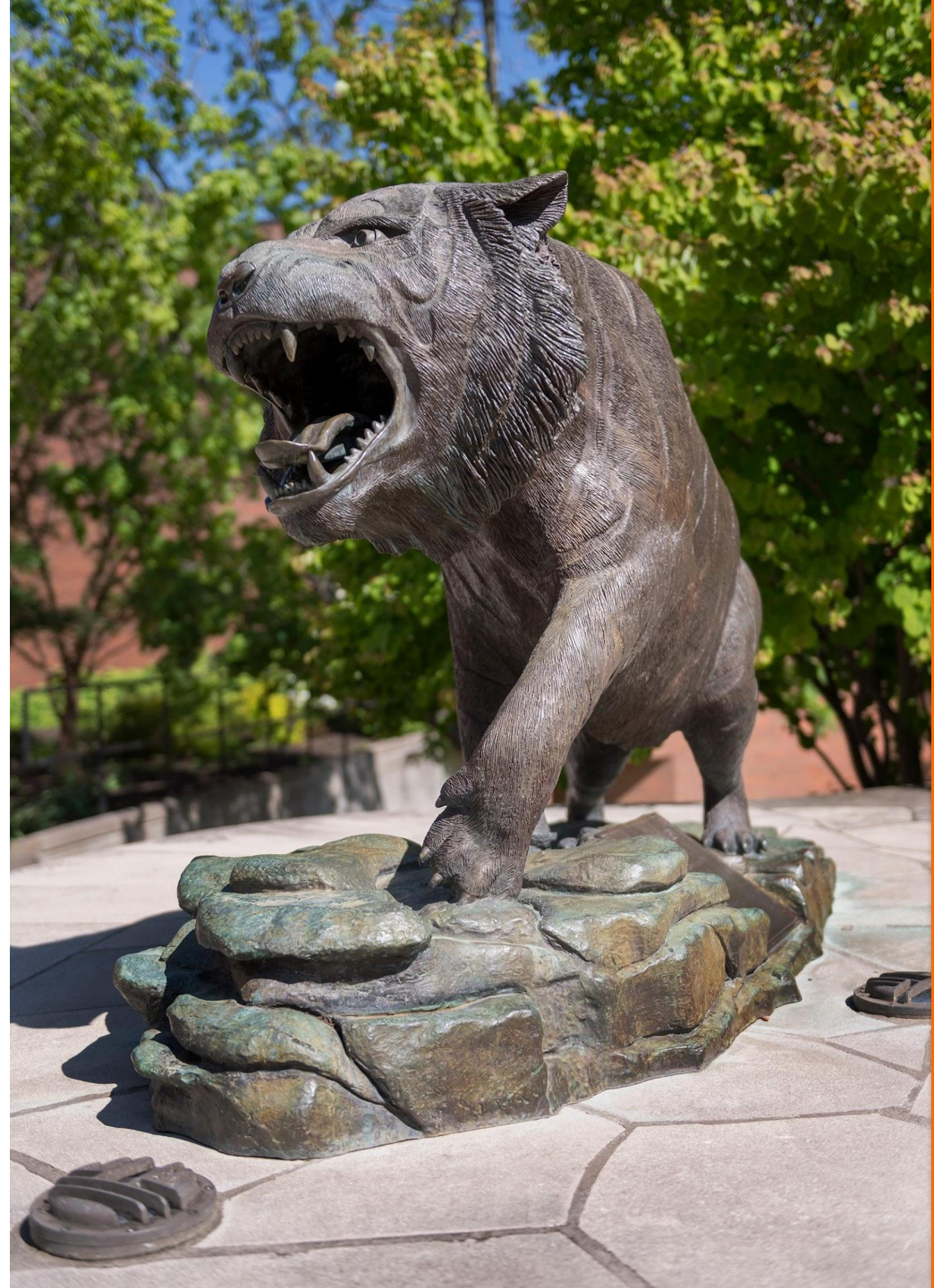# Individualized Major Approach to Supporting Unique Student Populations

Rochester Institute of Technology

IMP Conference March 2023

RIT

Introductions

- **Abby Cantwell, Director, Academic Services**
- **Michelle Firnstein, Sr. Academic Advisor**
- **Sydney Wyse, Assistant Director, Non-Traditional Student Services**

SOIS Degree Background

- **Degree-granting unit at RIT (16,000+ undergraduates total)**
- **SOIS population: 323 undergraduates spring 2023**
  - Freshman: 10%
  - Reframers: 60%
    - National Technical Institute for the Deaf
  - Completers: 30%
    - 4/5th year, Pre-professional
    - Roar to the Finish

Reframers: NTID Associate Students

- Who: National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) students completing their Associate degrees

- Why Unique?

- Benefits/Challenges
  - Maximize Earned Credits
  - VR & Marketability
  - Admissions requirements

Completers: Traditional Seniors

- Who: Entry into SOIS in 4th/5th year
  - Mid to High GPA, but no longer interested in major
  - Low GPA, hit class(es) road block they cannot pass (referred)
  - Not able to secure required co-op
- Benefits/Challenges of Late Entry
  - Service to Students and Institute
  - How do we create interdisciplinary meaning?

Completers: Pre-Professional Credentials

- ## Pre-professional

  - Echocardiography (Cardiac Ultrasound) Certificate
    - 42 semester hours over two years (includes clinical)
    - Requires some college-level science pre-reqs
  - No joint BS degree for this specific certificate

- ## SOIS Degree Benefit:

  - Individual curriculum allows full transfer of certificate into BS pathway

Completers: Roar to the Finish

- What: Degree completion program that outreaches to former RIT students who left RIT without completing their bachelors degree

- Why: Decline in traditional age students enrolling in higher education, meet workforce needs, national college debt crisis

- When: Started 6 years ago and are approaching the end of the first round of outreach

Completers: Roar to the Finish

- Who: Outreach to students who completed a minimum of 75 semester hours, in good academic standing and had no financial holds

- How: Students complete through a variety of time and cost effective options including competency based education

Completers: Roar to the Finish

Cumulative Data on CERTIFIED Students					
Degree	# of Students	RIT Credit Hours	RIT Credit by Experience	CommColl/Other University (After returning to RIT to complete)	Alternative Credit
BS-SOIS	66	240	99	220	119
AAS-SOIS	11	13	0	3	15
BS-CAD	2	0	9	0	0
BS-GCCIS	3	0	0	3	0
BS-COLA	3	31	0	3	0
BS-CET	1	0	0	3	0
BS-NTID	1	0	0	0	0
BS-COE	2	0	0	6	0
Totals	89	284	108	238	134

Completers: **Roar to the Finish**

- Future: Doing research now on # of students with financial holds and looking to see how we could help/support these individuals in their return to higher education

Conclusion