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James DeCaro Supports NTID

“When I joined RIT as a faculty member in 1971, I had no idea I would fall in love with education of people who are deaf,” says Jim DeCaro, former dean of the National Institute for the Deaf. “What started as a job became a career and life’s work.”

Currently, Jim is on assignment in the Office of the Vice President for NTID where he is the director and principal of the Post-secondary Education Network International (PEN-International). The program is a first-of-a-kind collaborative effort aimed at establishing a worldwide education network among technological universities serving deaf and hard-of-hearing people. The program has been funded to date by $2 million in grants from The Nippon Foundation of Japan.

Upon Jim’s retirement as dean, the College’s National Advisory Group established the James J. DeCaro Endowed Scholarship at NTID in 1988 to support deaf and hard-of-hearing students in their pursuit of a quality education. Jim and his wife Patricia continue to contribute to this RIT endowed fund today. Parenthetically, Patricia’s parents and several other members of her family are deaf. Jim’s dedication to and accomplishments in improving educational and career opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing people has truly been both a professional and personal journey that has benefited many.