Elevating Our Game — Athletics at Rensselaer

Undoubtedly a cornerstone of the student experience, athletics at Rensselaer currently engages over 70% of our undergraduate students in an array of intramurals, club sports and varsity team sports — and since 1883, Rensselaer has built a legacy of achievement in athletics as well as academics, led by student-athletes who excel both on and off the field.

Acknowledged as an undeniable force on college campuses across the nation and around the world, athletics play an integral role in campus life by promoting teamwork and collaborative learning, providing connections among students and the university, as well as fostering pride, camaraderie, community, loyalty, and legacy.

On a personal level, individual participation in athletics offers students new outlets for leadership, teamwork, and individual performance. In short, athletics is a way of developing fitness for a lifetime of leadership and a commitment to excellence in mind, body, and spirit.

**LET’S GO RED!** — RPI’s rallying cry — creates pride in our student body, fosters discipline and a “winning” attitude, and promotes teamwork and healthy competition — all of which help our students excel not only on the field, but also in the classroom, in the laboratory, and later in life in their chosen professions. At Rensselaer, we are committed to expanding athletic opportunities for all students.

**WHERE WE ARE TODAY**

Students entering RPI today come from a new world of fitness and have experienced as well as participated in a variety of sports programs. Just as we are providing a more advanced technological learning and teaching environment that mirrors the world of technology our new undergraduates take for granted, so we are committed to elevating our game across campus.

Athletics programs at RPI are robust, and ever more interwoven into the very fabric of the student experience on the Troy campus. Nearly 5,000 undergraduate and 1,200 graduate students benefit from the full range of athletic activities at RPI.

Since the implementation of The Rensselaer Plan, our varsity teams have established a remarkable track record on the field and in the classroom, including:

- 18 Team championships;
- 46 NCAA tournaments/meets, (including an individual national championship);
- 71 All-Americans;
- 40 Academic All-Americans; and
- over 1,000 Liberty League All-Academic Selections.

**WHERE WE ARE HEADING — THE FUTURE**

Our vision for athletics at Rensselaer is twofold: (1) to become competitive not only in our varsity conferences, but on a national level in all sports; and (2) to raise the bar on an array of intramurals, club sports, and recreational activities.

The first step toward achieving our vision for athletics is to develop the facilities needed to sustain and grow athletics at RPI. Through your support of Renaissance at Rensselaer: The Campaign for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, we are spearheading several new initiatives to invigorate the student experience, including a major facilities development project: the East Campus Athletic Village.

**EAST CAMPUS ATHLETIC VILLAGE**

As envisioned in The Rensselaer Plan, the expanded facilities will meet the expectations of our current students; help us attract high-caliber student athletes as well as non-athletes; and allow us to host many regional and national high school tournaments in several sports, which, in turn, will increase RPI’s visibility and attractiveness, enabling us to increase applications and enrollment. The East Campus...
Athletic Village will breathe life into the campus as a whole, as it will free up existing facilities such as the Alumni Sports and Recreation Center for all types of programs, including casual recreation.

**Phase 1**

Phase 1 of the East Campus Athletic Village will include:

**Houston Field House**

The ice hockey arena will receive renovations to accommodate Division I ice hockey by providing upgraded facilities for athletes and coaches. The upgraded space will also feature a Harkness Room with a commemorative display in honor of Ned Harkness and Championship Ice Hockey Teams.

**Multi-Purpose Stadium**

The new multi-purpose stadium for varsity football, soccer, and lacrosse, and outdoor intramurals and club sports will include seating for 4,800 spectators, a lighted synthetic turf field, concessions, press box, and VIP suite named for the Rensselaer Alumni Association. During the second phase, seating capacity will be increased to 7,500.

Facilities for athletes, coaches and officials will include men’s football, soccer and lacrosse locker rooms; women’s soccer, lacrosse and field hockey locker rooms; coaches and officials locker rooms for men and women; visiting team locker rooms for men and women; and shared men’s and women’s locker rooms for tennis, baseball, track and softball.

The stadium will enable us to host a variety of championships, including high school and youth championships, such as Pop Warner football, and conduct sports camps and clinics. We also will attract exhibitions of professional and national teams in soccer and lacrosse, for example, offering new opportunities to bring the entire Rensselaer community and our alumni together. As a major venue on campus, the stadium also will be used for concerts, convocations, Commencement, and marching band competitions.

**Basketball Arena**

The new basketball arena will feature a performance court with bleacher seating for 1,200 spectators, a practice court, a basketball-coaching suite, locker rooms, and an athletic training center including an exam room, x-ray room, taping area, hydrotherapy room, and treatment rooms for athletes in all sports. An administrative center with offices for staff and coaches, plus a meeting room, storage room, and a football-coaching suite and recruiting room also will be located in the new arena. Public spaces will include a VIP lounge and team rooms, one of which includes a commemorative display in honor of Ned Harkness and Rensselaer’s lacrosse legacy, a café, pro shops and a Wall of Fame. In addition, the basketball arena will accommodate convocations, campus speakers, concerts, recognition events, career fairs, science fairs, and alumni events.

The flexibility of the East Campus Athletic Village will increase Rensselaer’s visibility and our value to the regional community and organizations throughout New York state and nationally. It also will create a new platform for Rensselaer to reach out globally and attract international events of all types.

**Phase 2**

In Phase 2, we plan to build a new natatorium, new indoor track with indoor tennis courts, outdoor tennis courts, and an additional artificial turf field.

During both phases, the new East Campus Athletic Village will be invaluable to the entire university as we strive to become an active year-round institution, attracting regional, national, and international groups to Rensselaer.

It will be at the core of our plan to increase undergraduate applications and enrollments in the coming years.

It will enable Rensselaer to be a leader in not only defining the “quiet crisis” our nation faces in filling the pipeline of scientists and engineers, but also in solving it by offering an environment for learning and living that attracts today’s new generation of leaders in science and technology.

Join us on this remarkable journey as we build the facilities that will enable our varsity teams to excel at the national level and the entire student body to experience an environment for learning and living that will foster their desire to become the leaders, innovators, and pioneers of their generation.

The East Campus Athletic Village is an essential ingredient in realizing these goals.

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**Future Leaders**

More than ever, the world needs leaders who know how to communicate, to seek answers beyond traditional academic boundaries, and to understand the social and ethical consequences of their work. Rensselaer rises to this challenge by providing a breadth of experiences that encompasses everything from attractive housing to a rich mix of extracurricular and athletic opportunities.

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**EXPANDING HORIZONS**

**EXPERIMENTAL MEDIA AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**