Nazareth, RIT announces collaboration

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Nazareth College president Daan Braveman and RIT president William Destler approved an articulation agreement that enables qualified undergraduate students at RIT to simultaneously pursue graduate-level coursework at Nazareth College leading toward a master of science in education.

Under the arrangement, qualified students in their final year of undergraduate studies at RIT in academic disciplines related to science or engineering have the option to enroll in one of Nazareth College’s programs. Upon graduation from RIT, students continue their studies at Nazareth College with expectations of earning initial teacher certification in inclusive early childhood, childhood or adolescence education.

“This agreement represents a creative way for the two schools to address the national and regional need for well prepared math and science teachers at the primary and secondary levels,” Braveman said. “We have designed a program that meets the quality standards of both institutions and at the same time enables participating students to complete two degrees in a shorter period of time.”

The collaboration was first proposed by the Rochester Area Colleges Center for Excellence in Math and Science. Charles Brown, the center’s executive director, said the agreement is a critical step toward developing and delivering programs that increase the quality and quantity of the student talent pool pursuing curricula in math, science and related technical fields.

The program also will help encourage students to consider education as a career choice, Destler said.

“Our nation risks losing its global advantage if we don’t do a better job of inspiring children to excel in math and science,” Destler said. “This agreement allows our best and brightest college students to strongly consider careers in education, ultimately providing the
mentorship that will undoubtedly inspire a new generation to tap into their unlimited potential."

The agreement takes effect during the 2009-2010 academic year.

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