



April 8, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

As many of you know, for the past two years we have offered incoming first year students the opportunity to take a credit-bearing course during the summer at no additional cost. This First Class Academy (FCA) program ([www.rit.edu/firstclassacademy](http://www.rit.edu/firstclassacademy)) was enthusiastically and capably led by Dr. Sandi Connelly, Principal Lecturer, Gosnell School of Life Sciences, College of Science.

Over the past few months, as we reviewed our budget circumstances and the time required to successfully make some structural program changes (including but not limited to faculty salary changes, implementing a small course fee for students, and a shift in focus to primarily 1- and 2-credit courses), we concluded that the best course of action was to take an intentional “pause” and suspend the program for this summer.

We hope to reboot the redesign in January 2023, with marketing and outreach to faculty and incoming students starting very early, giving everyone time to determine if FCA is a "good fit" for them.

I want to especially thank the faculty and college leadership who helped RIT and Sandi launch this program in 2020 and/or 2021—many of whom taught courses and helped students with the transition from high school.

We wish you the best as this semester concludes and hope we can count on your help as we re-envision this program moving forward.

*Chris*

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