

2023 Colors of Success DEI Leadership Award Keynote Speaker



Dr. Keith B. Jenkins

Vice President & Associate Provost
for Diversity & Inclusion,
Professor of Communication

Whatever the arena—professionally, in family, in ministry or in community—Keith's desire, first and foremost, is to serve. Dr. Keith B. Jenkins, Professor of Communication in the School of Communication, is the Vice President & Associate Provost for Diversity & Inclusion at Rochester Institute of Technology. Keith, a native of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, received his B.A. in Communication from the University of Arkansas and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Communication from the Florida State University.

Since joining RIT in 1992 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication, Dr. Jenkins has also served as RIT Faculty-in-Residence (1993 – 1995), RIT's first Assistant Provost for Diversity (1999 – 2002), Director of Undergraduate Degree Programs in the School of Communication (2011 – 2016), and Interim Vice President and Associate Provost, Division for Diversity & Inclusion (2016 – 2017). He was also privileged to establish RIT's Multicultural Center for Academic Success, the School of Communication's Journalism Degree program, and serve as the principal author of the RIT Action Plan for Race and Ethnicity.

Jenkins is the recipient of many awards, including the inaugural Greater Rochester Chamber Colors of Success DEI Leadership Award. Among the RIT awards are the 2010 Eisenhart Award for Outstanding Teaching, the 2005 Isaac L. Jordan Pluralism Award, the 2004 RIT Diversity Trailblazer Award, the 1993-94 Provost's Excellence in Teaching Award, the 1996 and 1997 Higher Education Opportunity Program "Community Professor" awards which recognize a professor who has made a difference in the lives of HEOP students at RIT, and NTID's (National Technical Institute for the Deaf) 1995 Pluralism Award.

Jenkins' scholarly publications and presentations center around studies in intercultural communication, political and visual rhetoric, and the rhetoric of gospel song.