

Renew Rensselaer welcomes you to Reunion & Homecoming 2019!

Renew Rensselaer is comprised of alumni from many generations, each grateful to have the solid foundation of an RPI education, yet all who share a deep concern about the Institute's future. We promote discussion about difficult issues relating to the financial status, academic performance, governance, and leadership of our alma mater that affect all members of the RPI community and seek to resolve these issues with positive changes, as outlined in our Platform.

More than 1,200 RPI alumni have signed our Platform in support of the adoption of policies to stimulate increased alumni support and involvement, and we would like you to join us. We encourage you to read *The Untold Story* then sign the Platform on our website, share what you have learned with fellow alumni, and consider contributing to the Renew Rensselaer Legal Fund. The latter supports ongoing efforts to bring the Rensselaer Alumni Association (RAA) Bylaws into compliance with its own Charter, as well as New York State Not-For-Profit Corporation Law, and aims to restore the governance rights of all RPI alumni. The following topics provide a sampling of concerning issues and events that have taken place at our alma mater in recent years:

1. Rather than hold free and fair elections, as is the intent of its charter, the RAA instead holds elections in name only. One candidate is selected by the current RAA Board to fill each vacancy, and no write-in candidates or floor nominations are allowed.
2. RPI boasts of a transformation since the implementation of the *Rensselaer Plan*. However, by the Plan's own metrics, there has been little improvement. The undergraduate student-to-faculty ratio has remained unchanged, the number of tenure and tenure track faculty members remains virtually unchanged from 1999 to 2017, and alumni participation is at an all-time low.
3. RPI has dropped from 39th place on *US News & World Report's* 2017 list of best colleges to 50th place in the most recent rankings. Similarly, RPI fell from 77th place on the *Wall Street Journal's* 2016 list to 104th place in 2019.
4. While RPI's ratings have declined in nearly every aspect, there is, however, one list our alma mater managed to top recently, and for two consecutive years: The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education's "10 Worst Colleges for Free Speech".
5. The Rensselaer Union was the last entirely student-run union at a private university in the United States—until 2017, when the RPI administration seized control with approval from the Board of Trustees. Despite massive opposition from countless students, faculty, and alumni, the beloved Union remains no longer student-run, and 127 years of successful, rich tradition and history has effectively been undone.
6. The Institute has struggled with a debt greater than its endowment for some time, though RPI recently reached what they termed the "crossover", claiming they now "only owe" as much as they have in the endowment. RPI also received a financial grade of "C" from Forbes, the lowest score of any of the 25 most similarly-sized schools ranked between 11 and 100 by *US News & World Report*.
7. Greek Life at RPI has been adversely affected following an administrative push that has impacted recruitment, housing, social calendars, and more within the Greek system.
8. The Arch restructures the academic calendar by requiring students to attend summer classes and engage in a "semester away." This program is highly-criticized by current students and past participants due to the stress of compressing an entire course into six weeks, difficulty obtaining a limited number of internship opportunities, and apparent financial motivation of the program.
9. Alumni classes that once had a class treasury no longer have one. Without asking or giving any notice, RPI combined all class accounts into one—and uses the funds as it sees fit.

Renew Rensselaer Platform

1. Embrace and implement policies for governance, financial transparency, and campus climate, as espoused by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB).
2. Encourage and facilitate regularly scheduled, open, unfiltered dialogue by the Board with faculty, staff, students, and alumni.
3. Enable periodic nominations for, and elections of, at least two Board members by means of an open process conducted by the Rensselaer Alumni Association (RAA).
4. Provide ample space within *Rensselaer Magazine* for content solely developed by the RAA and its president; for example, an editorial column.
5. Affirm the tradition and unique independence of the Rensselaer Union, as managed and run by students, within broad guidelines that can only be overturned by a majority of the Board.
6. Focus on debt reduction to boost RPI's credit ratings.
7. Grow RPI's endowment to \$2 billion by its 200th anniversary.
8. Renew RPI's traditional focus on undergraduate academic programs and emphasize improvements to its physical facilities, such as the lecture halls, classrooms, and laboratories.
9. Develop and implement periodic, unique marketing and promotional campaigns to reposition RPI as a world-class technological institution based on its own trademarked brand of "Why Not Change the World?"
10. Initiate a search, at the appropriate time, for a new president whose term would commence upon the completion of the current president's existing contract term.

If the Board of Trustees approves this platform, the alumni members of Renew Rensselaer will commit to offering significant time and financial resources to assist the president and staff of the Institute with its implementation.

More than 1,200 RPI alumni have pledged support.

Have you? Add your name at renewrensselaer.org/platform

Information Forum

Please join us at the Sigma Chi Fraternity House for a forum to discuss topics important to RPI alumni!

**58 Pinewoods Ave.
Troy, NY 12180
10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Please connect with us using the following links:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RenewRensselaerAdmin>

Twitter: @renewrensselaer

Instagram: @renewrensselaer

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8696756/>

Renew Rensselaer Legal Fund: renewrensselaer.org/donate

Learn more at renewrensselaer.org