



American
Academy of
Technology
Tirana

AATT CHRONICLES

A record of events, partnership and people that shaped AATT's first year

LAUNCH TO SPRING 2026

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THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF TECHNOLOGY TIRANA

The American Academy of Technology Tirana (AATT) is the first institution of higher education in Albania that provides U.S. accredited degrees. AATT is a non-public higher education institution located in Tirana, Albania. It was established in 2024 by the Harry T. Fultz Foundation (HFF) through the “Institute of Technology Tirana Foundation” (ITT). AATT was created to deliver certain RIT degree programs in partnership with RIT Kosovo. These programs are accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education in the U.S. and are subject to accreditation in Albania.

Furthermore, AATT emphasizes accessibility by offering scholarships, in partnership with the American-Albanian Development Foundation (AADF), to its entire student body and utilizing a hands-on and industry-focused learning model to produce high-skilled professionals for the global and Albanian job markets.

AATT's roots trace back to the Harry Fultz Institute, which was founded in 1921 by the American Red Cross Youth Corps as Albania's first vocational school, and which was led for many years by American educator Harry T. Fultz. The Harry Fultz Institute became a leader in engineering and industrial education, providing generations of students with the practical skills necessary for success in a rapidly changing world. It significantly impacted Albanian technical education by combining practical vocational skills with academic learning. Over the years, it has maintained a reputation for excellence in training skilled professionals who have gone on to make significant contributions to Albania's economic and technological development.



AATT's historical roots through 1921-founded Harry Fultz Institute

By combining a long-standing educational tradition with modern resources, AATT's mission is to empower the next generation of professionals and innovators, offering the first and only American university degree in Albania. Through its partnership with RIT Kosovo, it delivers an American-modeled educational experience in Albania, utilizing a curriculum developed in coordination with the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). The institution focuses on professional formation, hands-on learning, and the integration of students into the global job market through rigorous academic training and industry partnerships.

Mission

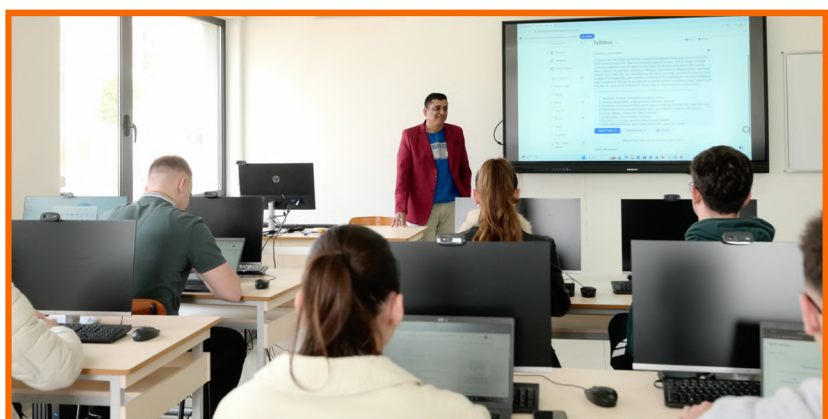
AATT's mission is to cultivate a learning environment that promotes academic excellence, fosters innovation, and encourages personal and professional growth. AATT is dedicated to providing a supportive and inclusive community where students can thrive and reach their full potential. Through our rigorous academic programs, hands-on learning experiences, and strong industry partnerships, AATT aims to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to succeed in their careers and contribute positively to society.

AATT is committed to fostering a culture of continuous improvement and innovation, ensuring that our programs remain relevant and responsive to the changing needs of the global workforce. By embracing diversity and promoting ethical leadership, AATT aspires to create a positive impact on both the local and global communities. AATT's mission is not only to educate but also to inspire and empower students to become responsible and impactful leaders in their respective fields.

Vision

AATT will offer world-class American education, excellent opportunities, social responsibility, and a globally minded environment, aiming to prepare not only leaders but critical thinkers who will contribute to both the Albanian and global communities. AATT aims to inspire and empower the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and problem-solvers by providing them with a comprehensive education that emphasizes hands-on experience, cutting-edge research, and a global perspective.

By embracing diversity and promoting ethical leadership, AATT aspires to shape a brighter, more connected world. AATT envisions a future where AATT is recognized as a leading institution for higher education in Albania, known for its commitment to academic excellence, research, innovation, and social responsibility. AATT's goal is to provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world, while also fostering a sense of community and shared purpose.



KEY MILESTONES

– April 9th, 2024 –

Agreement for Course Delivery Work

"Agreement for Course Delivery Work" signed in April 2024 between RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) College, the Harry T. Fultz Foundation, and ITT.

– November 13th, 2024 –

Council of Ministers Approves Opening of AATT

Council of Ministers Decision (VKM) No. 704 officially approves the opening of the non-public higher education institution, the "American Academy of Technology Tirana" (AATT), on behalf of the Albanian-American Foundation "Harry T. Fultz".

– January 29th, 2025 –

Inaugural Ceremony and Formal Kick-Off

The goal is to provide Albanian students with the opportunity to receive a world-class education right here in Albania and, in the end, earn a diploma that is 100% equivalent to the diploma awarded by the institution abroad (in this case, the Rochester Institute of Technology), but with lessons and practical training conducted here in Tirana. On January 29, 2025 we held the inaugural ceremony and formal kick-off event at our premises. To support the launch we were honored by the presence of Edi Rama - Prime Minister of Albania, and James Myers - Associate Provost for Global Programs at RIT among more than 200 guests.



– July 22th, 2025 –

Ministry of Education and Sports Authorizes Programs

Ministry of Education and Sports officially authorizes AATT to deliver, in partnership with RIT Kosovo, RIT's bachelor study programs in "Computing and Information Technologies" and "Electrical Engineering and Technology".

– October 13th, 2025 –

The very first Orientation Day

The very first Orientation Day on October 13, 2025, marked the official launch of AATT's unique mission to fuse the American spirit of higher education with the Albanian context. As the first institution in Albania to provide U.S. accredited degrees, the day formally welcomed students into an American educational experience, setting the tone for rigorous academics, hands-on learning, and an industry-focused approach to producing high-skilled professionals. The event underscored the institution's commitment to developing a campus that reflects RIT's spirit of technological innovation.



– April 5th, 2026 –

The first AATT student to take part at Imagine RIT

AATT student Klajdi Spahiu made history as the first student from the Tirana campus to participate in the renowned Imagine RIT: Creativity and Innovation Festival in Rochester, New York. This significant milestone allowed Klajdi to experience the hands-on RIT education system in its foundations. Recognized as one of the top students in the first cohort, his participation underscored the global opportunities available to AATT students.



In Between the Launch and the First Day of Classes

– August 30th 2025 and January 23rd 2026 –

US Embassy official visits to campus



– August 30th 2025 and January 23rd 2026 –

RIT New York student completes an Exchange Program at AATT



– July 4th, 2025 –

RIT Alumni celebrate 4th of July at the location in Tirana



Admissions initiatives in both years
CHRONICLE OF ADMISSIONS MILESTONES
(2025 - 2026)

– July 4th, 2025 –

The First Spark: Inaugural Info Session

AATT held its very first public information session, in collaboration with the Albanian-American Development Foundation (AADF). Students and parents gathered for an afternoon of discovery, learning about academic programs, admissions, and scholarship opportunities: the first sign of what was to come.



– September 19th, 2025 –

Reaching Out: Info Session for Harry Fultz High School Seniors

AATT held a dedicated information session for seniors at the Harry Fultz High School, introducing them to the Electrical Engineering Technology program and exciting fields like drone technology, cybersecurity, and software development.



– October 8th, 2025 –

University-Level Courses for High Schoolers: Meeting with Prof. Magliocco

Prospective students from Harry Fultz met with Dean Dr. Robert Muharremi and Professor D. Joe Magliocco to learn about the Foundations of Engineering course, which offers high schoolers the opportunity to earn official university credits before graduation.



– September 19th, 2025 –

A Historic Day: AATT Welcomes Its First Generation of Students

Orientation Day marked the most significant milestone in AATT's young history: the official start of classes for Albania's first cohort of students earning an accredited American degree without leaving their country. Board Chairman Edmond Leka called them 'the first ambassadors of this initiative.'



– November 26th, 2025 –

The Value of an American Degree: Roundtable with Michael Hess

Future students and their families attended an intimate roundtable with Michael Hess, Executive Director of RIT Kosovo and former USAID official, alongside AATT faculty, exploring the long-term value of an American-accredited education.



– December 16th, 2025 –

Cross-Campus Synergy: Students Visit Prishtina for Google Tech Festival

AATT students traveled to RIT Kosovo, where Student Governments met face-to-face and students engaged in cross-campus assignments. The visit coincided with the Google Developers Festival, drawing 500 participants from across the region.





– February 16th, 2026 –

Inspiring the Next Generation: Qemal Stafa High School Visits AATT

AATT welcomed students from Qemal Stafa High School to campus for a hands-on introduction to American-style higher education. Visitors learned about admissions procedures, AADF scholarship opportunities, and experienced a live mock class, giving them a tangible preview of life as an AATT student.



– March 18th, 2026 –

Present at the Fair: AATT at the Work and Study Fair

AATT's Admissions Team participated in the Work and Study Fair at Pallati i Kongreseve in Tirana, engaging directly with prospective students and their families. The fair provided a platform to showcase AATT's academic programs, scholarship opportunities, and the broader value of an RIT-accredited degree.



– March 25th, 2025 –

Community Outreach: Info Session at the Pyramid

AATT hosted a major public information session at the iconic Pyramid of Tirana. The event drew students and parents from across the city and featured participation from RIT New York and RIT Kosovo students, as well as Dr. James Myers — Associate Provost for International Education and Global Programs at RIT New York — who spoke about the American education system, AADF and Harry Fultz scholarships, and the global value of an RIT diploma.



– April 23rd, 2025 –

Women in STEAM: Girls in AI Panel Launches New Series

AATT hosted the first event in its Women in STEAM series: a 'Girls in AI' panel discussion featuring Sharon Mason (Director of iSchool at RIT New York), Donjeta Sahatçiu (Director of 42 Tirana), and

Besarta Hoxha (Lead Engineer at Ritech). Panelists explored career pathways in technology, the role of leadership and people skills in tech, and the realities of building a career in the field, opening a space for honest conversation and future collaboration around women in technology across the region.



– April 24th, 2025 –

Inspiring Future Engineers: Harry Fultz Institute Visits AATT

Students from the Harry Fultz Institute visited AATT's campus for an inspiring day of exploration, hands-on technology demonstrations, and conversations about the future of engineering education. The visit continued AATT's tradition of engaging with one of Albania's most prestigious technical high schools and building a pipeline of future students.



Student life

– November 4th, 2025 –

The first-ever Student Body Government



Irsa Doci, SG Chief of Staff; Rinor Kapllani, SG President; Dario Laze, SG Vice President.



Student Senators: Joniand Kaci (EET '30), Bjornis Kaso (EET '30), Elen Shupuli (CIT '29), Jon Celoaliaj (CIT '29) and Iden Muka (EET '29)

– October 11th 2025 –

AATT CIT Freshmen Student Daniel Hoxha publishes a book chapter

Daniel's work, titled "AI for Complex Computational Solutions w.r.t. C Programming," has been published as a book chapter, marking a significant contribution to the field of Artificial Intelligence and computational logic. For a freshman to reach this level of academic recognition so early in their university career is unprecedented and serves as a testament to the caliber of students choosing AATT.



– November 2025 –

Student Demonstrations at Aleksandër Moisiu University in Durres

Open Talk hosted at Universiteti "Aleksandër Moisiu" served as a vibrant platform for innovation, featuring an impactful presentation and engaging technical demonstrations led by CIT students Irsa Doci (AATT) and Drit Dula (RIT Kosovo).



Irsa Doci - CIT student at AATT



Drit Dula - CIT student at RIT Kosovo

– November 2025 –

Students Visit National Cyber Security Authority in Albania for Live Attack Simulation



– December 2025 –

RIT Kosovo Students Visit the AATT campus and kick-off the intercampus student cooperation



AATT busy bees at work:



– December 2025 –

AATT and RIT Students Connect in Prishtina for Academic Collaboration and Google Tech Festival

Students from the AATT recently completed a productive visit to the RIT Kosovo (A.U.K.) campus, marking a significant moment for cross-campus synergy within the Rochester Institute of Technology global network. The visit served as a platform for the Student Government bodies of both institutions to meet face-to-face. Leaders from the Tirana and Prishtina campuses exchanged ideas and discussed future avenues for joint initiatives, while students from various departments worked together on integrated academic assignments.



– Fall 2025 –

Academic Excellence Meets Community Commitment with AATT students

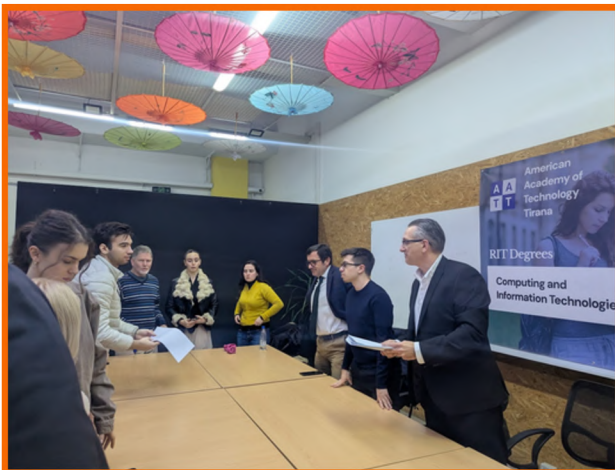
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– January, 2026 –

The overall student body recognized on Dean's List for the Fall 2025

The academic excellence at AATT has been nothing short of extraordinary since its inception. In the very first semester of classes, nearly the entire student body was recognized on the Dean's List, reflecting the exceptional dedication, academic ability, and commitment of our inaugural cohort. Furthermore, academic performance reached even greater heights, with more than half of the students completing their studies with a perfect GPA of 4.00 out of 4.00, setting a formidable standard for academic excellence at AATT.



– February, 2026 –

4 AATT students competed at the International Cybersecurity Defense Challenge 2026 at RIT Kosovo



– February, 2026 –

AATT Cyber Security Research Team of Students and Faculty Takes the Stage at International Summit in Skopje, North Macedonia



– April 2026 –

Cross-Campus Student Collaboration in Prishtina

On April 3, the AATT and RIT Kosovo communities strengthened their ties during a visit by the AATT Rector to Prishtina. A highlight of the day was the donation of artwork from the RIT Kosovo Art Club to AATT students. Additionally, the student governments and various student clubs from both institutions held a productive lunch meeting to discuss exciting future joint initiatives and regional collaboration.



– May 2026 –

Erli Nuraj (EET '30) Leads Student-Organized Hackathon

The first Hackathon at AATT was an extraordinary success, owed primarily to the remarkable student-led initiative of Erli Nuraj. Demonstrating the expected values and skills of an outstanding RIT student, Erli single-handedly drove the project: he developed the idea, secured funding, organized fellow students, and led the event from start to finish, coordinating with the AATT administration only for support. His leadership set a high bar for future student club activities. The event showcased ten dedicated teams from AATT and other universities, offering excellent solutions, and culminating in an AATT student team winning a prize.



A SERIES OF SPEAKERS

Fall 2025:

- Donald Leka, Founder and CEO of Jumptuit
- Adrian Rodriguez, U.S. expert in AI and its applications in public procurement



Donald Leka



Adrian Rodriguez

Spring 2026

- Ledio Cakaj, International affairs specialist, conflict analyst, former diplomat, and writer
- Warren Yu, Fullbright Specialist on Innovation, Digital Transformation and Modernization
- Thomas Young, International Economist and Expert on Defence Economics

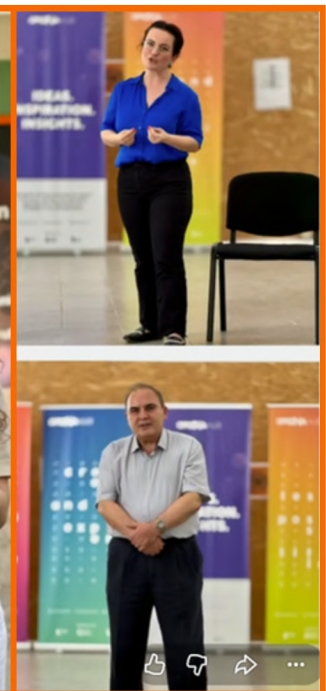


Warren Yu



Thomas Young





FACULTY

AATT faculty members are experts in their disciplines and dedicated to providing high-quality education and mentorship to our students. All faculty members at AATT, whether full- or part-time, are vetted and approved by RIT to ensure that they have the required academic credentials to teach RIT programs. In partnership with RIT Kosovo, AATT ensures that RIT's rigorous academic standards are maintained throughout all RIT programs delivered at AATT.

Research

Dr. Steftcho Dokov published an article entitled "A Second-order Upper Bound for the Expected Value of a Convex Function: Revisited with a New Geometric Proof" in the World Journal of Applied Mathematics and Statistics.

Dr. Maaruf Ali published two articles. One was entitled "Review and Utilisation of AI in Signal Processing" and appeared in Annals of Emerging Technologies in Computing (AETiC), while the other, "Designing an Integrated System For SQL Injection Detection and Prevention Using a Machine Learning Based Web Exploration Application," appeared in the International Journal of Information Technology & Decision Making.

Conferences

Dr. Erik Benson made a presentation entitled "Not So Novel, Not So Scary: Hybrid Warfare, Blitzkrieg, and Finding Lessons from the Past for Current Challenges" at the 2025 International Symposium of Military Academies conference in Prishtina, Kosovo. RIT Kosovo was a partner in the event. He is also scheduled to make a presentation entitled "Most Neglected: Economic and Business History in the Western Balkans" at the 2026 conference of the Economic and Business History Society, which will be held in Washington, DC.

Dr. Maaruf Ali made a presentation entitled "An Exploration of Transhumanism" at the 6th International Conference on Medical and Biological Engineering in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Events

In November 2025, AATT hosted the 6th International Symposium on Signal and Image Processing (ISSIP) Conference. Dr. Debabrata Samanta convened the conference, and organized many AATT faculty, staff and students to facilitate the event. The conference attracted participants from throughout the region and around the world.

In March 2026, AATT hosted the inaugural event of the Google Developers Group in Tirana. The event had over 60 guests, and involved AATT faculty, staff, and students.

In April 2026, AATT sponsored and hosted a discussion panel, "Girls in AI." This was the first of a series of planned events focused on women in STEAM fields. The three panelists came from a wide range of backgrounds, with one being an RIT New York faculty, another an RIT Kosovo alumni, and the third a local industry leader in engineering.

ACADEMICS

Academics governance structure

AATT's governance is designed to comply with both Albanian higher education laws and U.S. academic best practices.

The highest administrative body is the Board of Administration (Bordi i Administrimit), which guarantees the fulfillment of the institution's financial and administrative missions.

The highest collegiate academic body is the Academic Senate, which directs and controls teaching and research. Key academic authorities include the Rector (Rektori), the Dean (Dekani), and the Heads of individual departments.



Dr. Orion Zavalani - Rector



Dr. Robert Muharremi - Dean of Faculty



Dr. Erik Benson - Vice Dean

To maintain RIT program standards, an "ITT/RIT Kosovo Committee" serves as an advisory board to RIT Kosovo on matters like faculty hiring, evaluation, and the creation of new programs. Furthermore, RIT Kosovo appoints a resident RIT Kosovo-HFF Program Director who is responsible for the day-to-day management and implementation of the academic programs at AATT and the Head of the RIT Kosovo Academic Services at AATT. At present, the RIT Kosovo-HFF Program Director serves also as the AATT Dean of Faculty.



The AATT Administration is directed by the Administrator, who manages the day-to-day operations of the campus and the administration.





Academic programs

Degrees

Bachelor of Science in Computing and Information Technologies

AATT's Computing and Information Technologies degree trains you to oversee and improve advanced computing systems, preparing you for a successful career in the tech field.

Industries:

- Commercial Banking
- Internet and Software
- Manufacturing
- Healthcare

Interesting fact: 80% of RIT Alumni in CIT report promotions after graduation



Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technologies

AATT's BS in Electrical Engineering Technology is designed to meet industry's ever-increasing need for engineers with an in-depth understanding of electrical and electronics theory.

Industries:

- Aerospace
- Computer Networking
- Automotive
- Construction
- Medical Devices

Interesting fact: Electrical Engineering is considered the 4th best engineering job.

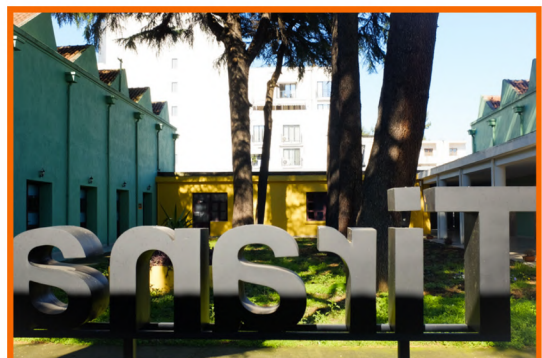


EVOLUTION OF CAMPUS FACILITIES

Since its start in January 2025, the AATT campus has undergone a thorough transformation to reflect an American campus and to offer students the experience of being at a campus that echoes RIT's spirit of technological innovation at the intersection of technology and humanity.

Before and after pictures:







INSTITUTION DEVELOPMENT

Partners:

- RIT Kosovo
- Harry Fultz Institution
- American Albanian Development Fund
- Fundo Family
- American Chamber of Commerce - first university membership
- Union Bank
- MoU with two international universities

Donors

- American Albanian Development Fund
- Foundos Family
- Union Bank
- Fuente Dynamics
- Madcom
- ICT Academy

Visits:

- US Embassy
- Croatian Embassy
- AADF board
- American Chamber of Commerce Tirana
- National Agency of Scientific Research and Innovation

Projects:

- Special Competitive Studies Project in cooperation with RIT Kosovo
- Applied for 4 Erasmus+ CBHE grants





A final note :
We're not tigers yet!
Almost!





American
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Technology
Tirana

AATT CHRONICLES

A record of events, partnership and people that shaped AATT's first year