



592 Hangar Rd. STE 200 Rome, NY 13441
griffissinstitute.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Griffiss Institute President & CEO Heather Hage Honored with City & State's Above and Beyond Award

Rome, NY- March 27, 2025, Griffiss Institute (GI) proudly announces its President & CEO, Heather Hage, as an honoree of City & State's Above & Beyond Award for 2025. This prestigious honor recognizes outstanding leaders who are making a significant impact in their industries and communities.

Hage exemplifies transformative leadership and unwavering dedication to fostering innovation, talent, and community growth. In 2024, her strategic vision propelled GI to new heights, significantly expanding STEM education opportunities, strengthening national security through innovation, and positioning the Mohawk Valley as a hub for cutting-edge technology.

Under Heather's leadership since 2021:

- STEM education programs reached over 1 million students nationwide, doubling local participation to 723 students in the Mohawk Valley.
- Through GI's partnership with the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), over 1,300 college students participated in summer internships and academies.
- Nearly 40% of AFRL's new hires in Rome, NY, over the past two years came from GI's internship programs, a testament to her commitment to building a pipeline of next-generation innovators.
- GI's HUSTLE Defense Accelerator welcomed 20 new startups and three Innovare residents: all focused on advancing mission-critical technologies.
- Strategic partnerships expanded with academic institutions and defense organizations to ensure alignment with Department of Defense priorities, reinforcing Griffiss Institute's role as a trusted convener for innovation, talent development, and technology transition.

From STEM to Startup – *You belong here!*



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Hage's leadership emphasizes not just growth but also the well-being of people. Her dedication to nurturing talent, especially in response to the increasing demand for a skilled STEM workforce, changes lives and shapes the next generation of innovators. She acts as an inspirational force, linking individuals, organizations, and opportunities to drive significant change.

"Heather's impact on STEM education, innovation, and economic development is extraordinary. Her leadership at Griffiss Institute is shaping the future of our region and beyond. "We are incredibly proud to celebrate this well-earned recognition," said Patricia Baskinger, Chairwoman of the Board, Griffiss Institute

On March 27th, Heather was honored alongside other trailblazing women leaders at the City & State Above & Beyond: Women Awards Gala at The Prince George Ballroom in New York City. A special edition of *City & State* magazine highlights her achievements and those of the other distinguished honorees.

For more information about Griffiss Institute and its programs, visit griffissinstitute.org. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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As the premier STEM Talent and Technology Accelerator for the United States Department of Defense, Griffiss Institute (GI) is also comprised of an elite international network of academic, government, and industry partners. Together with our team of expert professionals we bridge the gap, bringing these three unique sectors together into one collaborative space known as the Innovare Advancement Center (IAC) in Rome, NY.

Located in the picturesque Mohawk Valley Region of New York State, GI has served the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate (AFRL/RI) and the United States since 2002. GI empowers diverse teams with talent and technology development programs that lead the nation in technical and economic impact.

Media Contact
Pam Mustee, Marketing & Communications Manager
Griffiss Institute
M: (315) 749-8324 | pmustee@griffissinstitute.org

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