



Office of the President

From: Nariman Farvardin, President

To: Stevens Students, Faculty and Staff

Date: January 22, 2025

Subject: Spring 2025: Good News and Welcome Back

As we begin a new semester amid the chilly winter days in Hoboken, I am energized by the remarkable achievements and initiatives that continue to distinguish Stevens as a premier technological university.

Our community is exceptionally proud that **Professor Victor Lawrence has been awarded the National Medal of Technology and Innovation by the White House** — our nation's highest honor for achievement in technology. **Additionally, Professor Nick Parziale has been recognized with the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on early-career scientists and engineers.** These prestigious awards reflect the extraordinary caliber of our faculty and their impact on society. We look forward to celebrating their achievements as a community later this semester.

Last week, we **launched the Stevens Center for Sustainability**, an initiative supported by the PSEG Foundation, which will advance our research and leadership in sustainable technologies. The launch event brought together faculty, students and industry partners to showcase ongoing research and future directions for this important work.

Earlier this month, **Stevens hosted the second annual New Jersey Higher Education Mental Health Summit**, welcoming more than 400 professionals from the state's 54 colleges and universities. With dignitaries including NJ Senator Joe Cryan, Assemblywoman Linda Carter M.S. '00 and Secretary of Higher Education Brian Bridges, as well as presidents and faculty from nearly all public and private institutions in New Jersey in attendance, the summit fostered vital collaboration on student mental health and wellness initiatives, reflecting our ongoing commitment to supporting student wellbeing.

The New Jersey Fintech Accelerator at Stevens (NJ FAST) powered by Plug and Play recently celebrated a significant milestone as its **inaugural cohort** of 14 startups presented their innovations at Prudential's headquarters. The program's significance was underscored when Governor Murphy specifically named Stevens and NJ FAST in his **2025 State of the State Address** as a prime example of how New Jersey's premier institutions are bringing together students, industry leaders and innovators to shape the future of technology and fuel New Jersey's economic engine.

In a fitting tribute to our heritage of innovation, a permanent "Home of Stevens Institute of Technology" sign was recently installed at the historic Hoboken Terminal, visible to approximately 7,000 riders per day. This sign honors Stevens' legacy of transportation innovation, from Colonel John Stevens' pioneering work in steam navigation to our present-day research in transit resilience, infrastructure safety and emergency response systems.

Our faculty continue to share their expertise on critical issues facing our society. Professor [Jose Ramirez-Marquez](#) was featured in *the Los Angeles Times*, providing clarity on wildfire-related misinformation. Professor [George Calhoun](#) offered insights in *CNBC* on the Federal Reserve's interest rate policies and their impact on mortgage markets. Professor [Dibs Sarkar](#) was quoted in *PRISM* discussing the EPA's historical knowledge of PFAS in drinking water systems.

Next week, we will honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through our fourth annual Week of Service featuring two distinguished keynote speakers: Jonathan L. Allen, co-founder of Leadership Brainery, and New Jersey State Senator Angela McKnight. I encourage all community members to [register today](#) to participate.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendar for two of our community's signature events: [Innovation Expo on May 9](#) and [Commencement on May 21](#). More details on both events will be forthcoming soon.

I wish our students, faculty and staff the best of luck with the new semester. As we begin the Spring 2025 semester, I am inspired by our community's achievements, from [record-breaking enrollment](#) and [research funding](#) to [cutting-edge academic programming](#) and [initiatives](#) that create meaningful impact for our students, our region and society. I look forward to our continued collaboration in making 2025 another extraordinary year.

Per aspera ad astra.

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