



Remarks for Gov. Christie's Visit --Oct. 4, 2013

Welcome Stevens trustees, faculty, students, staff, parents, alumni, and special guests.

And on behalf of the entire Stevens Community, a very enthusiastic and warm welcome to you, Governor Christie. I am honored and enormously pleased to have you here on the Stevens campus for this very special occasion.

Today, we are celebrating the beginning of a new era at Stevens, one enabled by technology and one that inspires innovation.

You may have heard that Stevens is known as **The Innovation University**. What you may not know is that this is more than just a tagline. From its very beginning more than 143 years ago, Stevens has given rise to innovation.

The Stevens family was responsible for a number of critical transportation technologies still in use today...from the T-rail used in railroads to steam engine technology, to the development of a business model for ferries between Manhattan and Hoboken.

Our alumni have gone on to make important contributions in developing technologies in telecommunications, energy, health care, and consumer products and leading New Jersey and global companies across many industries...ranging from Verizon, as illustrated by Chairman Emeritus Larry Babbio and current Chairman of our Board Virginia Ruesterholz, to Ralph LaRossa of PSE&G, Jack Howe, former President and CEO of Becton, Dickinson, Tom Corcoran of Lockheed Martin, Frank Semcer of Micro, Phil Crowley of Johnson & Johnson, and many, many more.

If you will permit me, I would like to take a few moments to brag about Stevens. You see, I do for Stevens what you do for the State of New Jersey.

Our incoming class of 2017 is the largest and most academically talented in our history. A record 719 new undergraduates students and more than 1,000 graduate students joined us this fall, bringing our total enrollment to about 6,200 bright and talented future technologists, innovators and entrepreneurs. This is in addition to hundreds of students who take classes in our various corporate education programs, in New Jersey and across the globe.

These students represent the crème de la crème and are studying engineering, science, business, finance, and the arts and humanities—all with a technology focus. Stevens graduated more than 1,600 students with B.S., M.S. and PhD. degrees last year and this number is growing fast. Our 10-year strategic plan calls for a 60% increase in our undergraduate student

population and a 30% increase in the graduate student population. With your support we will achieve and exceed these ambitious goals.

Universities generate, basically, two products: graduates and new knowledge through research, and I would like to share with you a few words about each.

Stevens has a vibrant and growing research enterprise. We have chosen to focus our research efforts in areas requiring the types of technical expertise that Stevens possesses and that address complex problems facing New Jersey and our nation.

You are certainly aware of the important role that the Stevens Center for Maritime Systems has played in forecasting, evaluation, and planning for Hurricane Sandy-type natural and made-made disasters. We are working closely both with the State of New Jersey and the City of Hoboken to contribute to improved preparedness and mitigation strategies. We are host to three federally-funded National Centers of Excellence: the Center for Secure and Resilient Maritime Commerce, the Atlantic Center for the Innovative Design and Control of Small Ships, and the Systems Engineering Research Center. And I am delighted to report that we have just learned that the Systems Engineering Research Center has received a five-year, \$60 million grant to help the Department of Defense maintain and advance critical engineering and technology capabilities.

These centers, combined with extensive capabilities in broad and complex areas such as financial systems, sustainable energy, defense and security, and healthcare and medicine, contribute to a much greater research impact than one might attribute to an institution of our size.

And, the record is no less impressive for the other type of product we produce—our graduates.

Stevens was named 7th in the nation—and first in New Jersey—for the percentage of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics degrees awarded. We were also #3 in the nation—and first in New Jersey—in mid-career salaries of graduates, according to Payscale.com, which also ranked us #9 in the nation—and should I mention, first in New Jersey—in the return on investment of a Stevens education.

Yesterday, Stevens celebrated another national award that is also very special. We were named the Eastern College Athletic Conference Institution of the Year for the second time—recognizing exemplary academic and athletic achievements by our scholar athletes who were selected from among 320 Division 1, 2, or 3 institutions throughout the nation.

And, if you are impressed with all these achievements, you ain't seen nothing yet. This is only the beginning!

As part of our ambitious strategic plan and with the generous funding of \$7.25 million from the State of New Jersey, Stevens will dramatically enhance its information technology infrastructure through two exciting projects, the Unified Communications and Collaboration Environment and the Virtual Learning Environment.

The first project will unify all campus communications systems—replacing all networking electronics and installing a new fiber-optic infrastructure and Voice-over-IP. The result will enable voice and video communications to travel over the campus network and the Internet at

extremely high speed, providing substantially increased capabilities and access to learning resources to our faculty and students.

The Virtualized Learning Environment will revolutionize education delivery at Stevens and put us in a position of national leadership in the use of technology for technical education. This project will enable access to course materials and sophisticated design, computation, simulation and visualization tools via computers, smartphones, ipads and other devices, while reducing the need for traditional computer labs scattered across campus.

These projects will literally transform Stevens into the campus of the future.

Governor Christie, on behalf of the current and future generations of Stevens students who will benefit from these powerful technology tools, I thank you for your vision, your leadership, and your commitment to advancing New Jersey's higher education infrastructure. It is through programs like the one we are celebrating today that innovation will flourish to the benefit of society and the vitality of New Jersey's economy.

I offer a heartfelt and collective thank you.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Governor of the State of New Jersey, Governor Chris Christie...