



September 15, 2020

To the Stevens Community:

Provost Christophe Pierre, appointed as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs in August 2016, has announced his decision to step down at the end of his five-year term, which will conclude on August 31, 2021. Having served as an accomplished academic administrator throughout his long career, as well as a prolific and productive researcher and teacher, Provost Pierre intends to participate as an active member of the faculty of Stevens' Department of Mechanical Engineering at the conclusion of his term as Provost.

I particularly want to thank Provost Pierre for his past and continuing efforts to build a world-class academic enterprise at Stevens. In particular, Provost Pierre has:

- Recruited talented academic leaders and faculty of the highest caliber. He has led an ambitious academic renewal effort, including the recruitment of 20-30 tenure-stream positions at the assistant professor, mid-career, and senior levels, each year. Based on the six strategic research pillars of Stevens, faculty hiring has included several endowed chairs and junior professorships. Through his leadership, 42% of tenure-stream faculty and 32% of total faculty are new at Stevens over the past four years, and the number of tenure-stream faculty has increased from 162 in 2016-17 to 213 in 2020-21. Forty-five percent of the faculty recruited during the last academic year are women.
- Strengthened the graduate enterprise. Provost Pierre led the growth of graduate programs through the development of an ambitious plan to enhance and streamline marketing, recruitment, and admissions activities and the reorganization of the Graduate Education Office. As a result, an unprecedented 1,518 new students were recruited in Fall 2019 and 1,999 for AY19-20, with total graduate enrollment at the record-breaking level of 3,624 in Fall 2019. Despite the pandemic, graduate enrollment for Fall 2020 is estimated to exceed 3,400. In addition, Provost Pierre launched StevensOnline in Fall 2017 and led the creation of fully online master's programs. Three years later, StevensOnline enrolls more than 500 students.
- Advanced research and innovation. Through Provost Pierre's leadership, a number of synergistic efforts to enhance the research performance of Stevens have been implemented. As a result, external research awards increased by 86% from 2016-17 to 2019-20, reaching \$46 million.
- Enhanced, reorganized, and instituted significant process improvements in the administration and operations of units in the academic enterprise, most notably the Schools, the Office of the Provost, the Office of the Vice Provost for Research and

Innovation, and the Offices of the Registrar, Graduate Education, and Undergraduate Academics.

Provost Pierre has also played a crucial leadership role in numerous campus-wide administrative and planning initiatives, including the development and launch of Responsibility Center Management model implemented in FY18 and through his role as Co-Chair of the Budget Advisory Committee, both in partnership with the Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer. He also chaired the Strategic Plan Midpoint Review Steering Committee and led the comprehensive and inclusive process that produced the updated Stevens Strategic Plan in 2017; led the successful Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) reaccreditation of Stevens for a full eight-year term; assumed leadership of and currently spearheads the Workday Student project; contributed to the development and implementation of the Administrative Unit Review process; and instituted numerous efforts to enhance communication and engagement with key stakeholder groups such as the Faculty Senate, the Student Government Association, and the Graduate Student Council.

I am enormously grateful to Provost Pierre for the contributions he has made to Stevens' ascent and his leadership during the first four years of his appointment. I know his colleagues will join me in working collaboratively with him during the remaining year of his tenure to continue to make progress toward Stevens' strategic goals.

In the coming weeks, I will provide additional information about our next steps and timeline in forming a search committee to identify Provost Pierre's successor.

*Per aspera ad astra,*



Nariman Farvardin  
President