



April 17, 2018

To the Stevens Community:

I am delighted to announce that two new staff members have recently joined the Office of the President.

Ms. Mercedes McKay has been appointed Deputy Chief of Staff in the Office of the President, effective April 16, 2018. In this role, Ms. McKay will serve as project manager and support for key initiatives led by the Office of the President encompassing administrative operations, strategic objectives, Presidential communications and promotional activities, government and community relations initiatives, diversity and inclusion activities, and other internal and external priorities including development and corporate outreach.

Ms. McKay has over 20 years of academic and administrative experience at Stevens. Most recently, she served as Co-Director of the Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education (CIESE) in which she was responsible for developing, securing and managing STEM education grant programs, cultivating strategic partnership opportunities, pursuing new areas of growth, and performing research center administration duties. She has served as Co-PI, Project Director and Assistant Project Director on national and state-funded multi-institutional projects focused on STEM education and has authored numerous journal and book chapter publications, conference proceedings papers, and presentations for STEM education. Ms. McKay has served on advisory boards of national K-12 science and engineering projects, as a board member of the American Society for Engineering Education's Pre-college Engineering Education Division, and reviewer for the TeachEngineering.org digital library collection. She earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie-Mellon University and a graduate certificate in Technology Applications in Science Education from Stevens Institute of Technology. Before joining Stevens, Ms. McKay was a practicing mechanical engineer and also taught high school science and math.

Ms. Phyllis Ruiz joined the Office of the President on March 19, 2018 and was recently appointed Executive Assistant to President Farvardin. In this position, Ms. Ruiz will coordinate administrative responsibilities of the President's Office including President Farvardin's calendar management. Ms. Ruiz has held administrative, community outreach, and development research positions at Felician University, Rutgers University, and several major non-profit organizations. In addition to serving as the Executive Assistant for the Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Felician University, she also worked closely with the President's Office and served as Interim Secretary to the Board of Trustees there. She earned a B.A. in Biology from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA.

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Mercedes McKay and Ms. Phyllis Ruiz to the Office of the President.

Sincerely,

*Beth McGrath*

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Chief of Staff & Director, Government & Community Relations

