



April 27, 2021

To Faculty, Staff, and Students:

On July 9, 2019, I [announced the formation of a Task Force](#) that included representatives from various sectors of the campus community--students, faculty, staff, alumni, and parents--with the charge to focus on “Make Seeking Help Our Strength,” that is, to increase help-seeking behavior among Stevens students. Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Marybeth Murphy and Dean of the College of Arts and Letters Dr. Kelland Thomas were named co-chairs, and a steering committee that included the co-chairs and Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Sara Klein and Director of Counseling and Psychological Services Dr. Eric Rose was formed.

The Steering Committee established three sub-committees: Collaboration, Communication, and Culture. The full Task Force and the three subgroups met throughout the year. The Task Force’s report and recommendations were slightly delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic; however, I received the final report from the Task Force in November of 2020. A copy of the report can be [accessed here](#).

Since the time that the report was prepared, Stevens has made considerable progress on the recommendations of the Task Force, most notably by increasing student access to high quality mental health care. A progress report on the Task Force’s recommendations can be [accessed here](#). The Steering Committee will continue to meet each semester moving forward to review progress on the recommendations and provide updates to the Stevens community.

In addition to the work of the President’s Task Force on Mental Health, a [progress report](#) on our Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan is also available. This plan incorporates recommendations Stevens received as a member of the [Jed Campus program](#), an initiative of the Jed Foundation. In 2013, Stevens was among the inaugural class of 30 colleges and universities awarded the JED Seal by the [Jed Foundation](#), a leading organization in college and university mental health and suicide prevention.

I would like to thank the members of the Task Force for their dedication and excellent work on this very important topic and to offer my full support to our community’s ongoing efforts to enhance students’ emotional and mental well-being.

Per aspera ad astra,

Nariman Farvardin
President