



November 4, 2019

To the Stevens Community:

I am writing to announce that Dr. David Dodd, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, has announced his retirement from Stevens effective at the end of 2019. Having served in this role since August 2012, David is planning to return to North Carolina to spend more time with his family, including caring for his elderly parents.

During his seven years as Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, David has made numerous significant contributions to the modernization and transformation of Stevens' IT infrastructure and systems, and has provided oversight and guidance for the adoption and implementation of numerous significant university-wide enterprise technology systems. Specifically, David developed successful grant proposals that resulted in a \$7.25 million grant from the State of New Jersey to upgrade and modernize Stevens' information technology infrastructure, including an overhaul of the fiber optic network and network electronics, a new campus-wide wireless network, and the transition from an old telephone system to a modern voice over IP system. In addition, he conceptualized and played a leadership role in initiatives such as the new, state-of-the-art Data Center, Virtual Learning Environment, Workday HCM, Duo multi-factor authentication system, transition to Office 365, Canvas, Zoom, and development and implementation of technology modernization for 100% of classrooms on campus.

David has served as the key executive sponsor for the Workday Student project and also as the overall Stevens project manager throughout the complex development and implementation of the system since the project's inception; Workday Student is scheduled for completion for the 2020-21 academic year and will replace Stevens' legacy Student Information System. More recently, he led the intensive recovery effort following the malicious ransomware attack that took place in early August 2019, devising and building a more secure environment and rapidly operationalizing business continuity efforts that enabled Stevens to open for Fall 2019 classes on time less than three weeks after the attack. While a significant amount of progress has been made in recovering from the cyber-attack, some areas within the university require further attention. Also, additional cybersecurity provisioning is needed to further strengthen Stevens' security posture. I've asked David to focus his efforts on these critical priorities until his retirement.

As a member of the President's Cabinet, David has contributed broad and deep knowledge of the higher education sector, as well as a thoughtful and collegial approach to solving a wide variety of issues of concern to the leadership team. David leaves Stevens—and its Information Technology organization, infrastructure, and systems—in a better place than when he joined the university seven years ago. I want to thank him for his dedicated service and wish him and his family the very best as he enters this next phase of his life.

A national search will soon be undertaken to identify Stevens' next Vice President for IT/CIO. In the meantime, please join me in thanking David for his service to Stevens and in supporting David and his team during the coming transition.

Per aspera ad astra,

N. Farvardin
Nariman Farvardin
President

