

Office of the President

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To the Stevens Community:

After more than a year of research, consultation and input from faculty, deans and other colleagues, we are pleased to announce the launch of a process to establish the <u>College of Online and Professional</u> <u>Education</u>. This new academic unit will deliver on Stevens' Strategic Plan Goal 2 to significantly grow our online programs by providing flexible learning opportunities for working professionals and upskilling the technology-focused labor force. The College of Online and Professional Education will be the mechanism to enable this growth.

The time is right to create a dedicated unit with the necessary infrastructure to dramatically expand Stevens' online graduate programs to meet the burgeoning demand for STEM and technology-focused credentials and advanced degrees. Stevens is well-positioned to build on its leadership in online education, having been an early pioneer through the creation of WebCampus nearly 25 years ago, through additional programs offered by StevensOnline and programs in partnership with Noodle. The College of Online and Professional Education will bring together all Stevens' online educational programs within one academic unit and expand Stevens' geographic reach and influence nationally and globally.

We will soon launch a search for the inaugural Dean of the College of Online and Professional Education who will lead the planning and development of the infrastructure for this independent academic unit. The Dean will report to the Provost, and the College will work in close partnership with the four Schools at Stevens to ensure that the academic quality for which Stevens is known is maintained in all online programs.

We have partnered with <u>WittKiefer Executive Search</u> to identify an experienced, energetic and entrepreneurial leader for this new venture. We will share additional updates on this exciting initiative as the process advances.

Per aspera ad astra,

Nariman Farvardin President

Jianmin Qu Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost