



Office of the President

From: Nariman Farvardin, President

To: Stevens Faculty and Staff

Date: February 12, 2026

Subject: February News: From AI Leadership to Day of Giving

As we move through the spring semester, Stevens continues to lead in areas that matter most to our students and our future. I am proud to share several significant developments that reflect our community's innovation and impact.

Building on our January announcement of the **new School of Computing**, I am pleased to share that Stevens will offer a dedicated **undergraduate degree in artificial intelligence** beginning Fall 2026. This program will prepare graduates not just as users of AI tools, but as designers, builders and critical thinkers who understand how these systems work and how to responsibly deploy them. We will also offer an AI minor, bringing applied AI fluency to students across disciplines. Together with the School of Computing and the **SUCCESS core curriculum**, these programs position Stevens at the forefront of technology education.

Our commitment to excellence extends to online education. ***U.S. News & World Report's 2026 Best Online Programs*** rankings place Stevens among the nation's top 20 in seven graduate categories, with five programs ranked No. 1 in New Jersey. Our online graduate information technology program has now held the top spot in New Jersey for 11 consecutive years, a testament to the rigor and relevance of our programs and our ability to meet learners where they are in their careers.

The **fifth annual MLK Week of Service** translated reflection into action, with 752 participants engaging in programs supported by 66 volunteer facilitators. Volunteers assembled care kits, prepared sandwiches for local shelters, created artwork for community organizations and participated in blood donation efforts that helped sustain or save 65 lives.

Stevens' student entrepreneurs continue to impress. This year, **11 student ventures received Thomas H. Scholl Launchpad Awards**, with projects ranging from AI-powered health technology to blockchain-based ticketing to modular robotics kits for STEM education. These students embody our identity as a builder's university.

Our faculty continue to share their expertise on issues of national importance. [Jordan Suchow](#) was featured in *ConsumerAffairs* discussing how to identify AI-generated financial advice videos. [Philip Orton](#) spoke with *CBS News* about ice conditions affecting ferry service on the rivers around New York City. And [Igor Pikovski's](#) groundbreaking work on graviton detection was highlighted in *Interesting Engineering*.

Last month, Stevens, Harvard and Pratt collaborated in a spatial audio workshop, building a custom 360-degree sound system for an opera performance. The project challenged students to solve real-world engineering problems in service of the arts — and gave audiences the rare experience of being immersed “inside” the orchestra. You may [watch this video](#) to see what happens when technology and creativity meet.

Looking ahead, I invite you to participate in [Stevens Day of Giving](#) on Feb. 18-19. For 1,870 minutes, our community will come together to support the causes that mean the most to them. This year, I hope you will consider how you can have a direct impact on our students, including supporting emergency assistance for students facing unexpected hardships or Stevens ACES (Accessing Careers in Engineering and Science), which partners with high schools in underserved communities to create pathways to STEM education for talented students. Any additional support, including stretch gifts, will be put to good use and is greatly appreciated!

I also encourage faculty and staff to participate in our annual Great Place to Work survey, opening March 2. Your feedback has driven meaningful improvements across our university, and your voice continues to shape our workplace culture. Please watch your email for details.

Before I sign off, I want to recognize our men's volleyball team, which moved up to No. 2 in Division III after they defeated then-No. 2 Carthage College in front of a large home crowd. As they continue their pursuit of a third national championship, I could not be prouder of these student-athletes. Go Ducks!

As always, I am grateful for your dedication to our community and our mission.

Per aspera ad astra.