



**STEVENS**  
INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY  
THE INNOVATION UNIVERSITY

**Per Aspera ad Astra**  
***The Stevens Indicator, Summer 2014***

Many members of the Stevens family who have been watching Stevens closely over the last decade or more—alumni, friends, faculty and staff—have told me they feel a palpable sense that our motto, *Per Aspera Ad Astra*, literally, “through adversity to the stars,” is being fulfilled before our very eyes.

The challenging times Stevens experienced in previous years are giving way to a tremendous sense of momentum and excitement, bolstered by quantifiable progress across nearly all areas of the University: the size and academic profile of our undergraduate and graduate students; the quality and accomplishments of the faculty; the impact of our research programs; our fundraising efforts; and, importantly, the value of our graduates in the marketplace. Stevens continues to outpace other universities in the number of graduates who get very competitive and often multiple job offers, in the salaries they command, and in their long-term career success.

As “the Innovation University®,” Stevens continues to innovate in the educational programs we offer, in our methods of educational delivery, and in the value-added skills and competencies we teach that help distinguish our graduates in the marketplace. A few examples illustrate this point: an innovative program developed at Stevens uses machine learning and “gated” course modules to substantially improve the success rate of freshmen taking calculus courses while keeping the academic requirements high. A patent application has been filed for this program, and a new venture has been created to further develop, test, and commercialize this innovation in new educational settings and in other subject areas. Another innovation is the Freshmen Entrepreneurship course, piloted for the first time in Spring 2014, in which 520 freshmen worked in teams on a new business concept, developed a three-minute “kickstarter video” pitching their idea based on customer input, then experienced running a company through a simulation requiring them to make marketing, financial and operations decisions.

On other fronts, a team of undergraduates won a Secretary of Defense- sponsored competition by developing underwater drones to detect unexploded ordnance off the U.S. coastline dating as far back as the Civil War. Multiple news outlets have reported on the debate around high-frequency trading and the future of the industry and market, and our own Hanlon Laboratory has been called “one of the most advanced Wall Street training programs in the world” as demand for technical expertise in trading grows and trading shifts to being handled electronically.

These are just a few examples of the pioneering innovations and educational environment that position Stevens as a cutting edge technological university for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

And our progress is increasingly being noticed—in the media, by thought leaders in academe and business, and by prospective students.

We recently celebrated our 142nd Commencement. I am so proud of our newest graduating class of 2014 and fully confident that these young women and men are prepared to take on the difficult challenges facing our society. They join the ranks of alumni who have achieved success across so many fields and earned

Stevens recognition as 3rd in the nation for mid-career salary of graduates and 5th in the nation for 20-year net ROI by PayScale.com.

I am honored and privileged to have completed my first 1,000 days as President of Stevens earlier this spring, and to note the tremendous momentum we have achieved in the second year of implementation of our 10-year strategic plan, *The Future. Ours to Create*.

I look forward to your continued participation in your alma mater's success, and to sharing more good news in the future.

Per aspera ad astra,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Farvardin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and a long, sweeping underline.

Nariman Farvardin

President, Stevens Institute of Technology