



August 29, 2013

Dear Friends,

I'm pleased to share with you several recent news articles featuring the work of Stevens Institute of Technology.

The August 27<sup>th</sup> edition of [The Wall Street Journal](#) and the Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> issue of [The Star Ledger](#) featured Stevens' innovative entry into the U.S. Department of Energy's "Solar Decathlon" national competition. The home, "Ecohabit," was designed and constructed by a group of 60 Stevens students and faculty with the goal of redefining the relationship between a home and its user for the purpose of creating a more energy-efficient and sustainable lifestyle. I invite you to explore this very novel—and very competitive entry into the Solar Decathlon competition—at <http://stevens.edu/sd2013/>. We are so proud of our team and wish them the best of luck in the competition!

The house will soon be disassembled and shipped to the competition in Irvine, California where it will be reassembled and compete with 19 other finalists from across the country. The Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon is held every two years to challenge universities to design and construct energy efficient, solar-powered houses.

As a part of our commitment to U.S. military veterans and to sustainability, Stevens will donate the "Ecohabit" house to California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) following the competition. The structure will be used as a veterans' center which will support and serve the nearly 900 CSUSM students who identify as a veteran, service member or military dependent.



College affordability continues to be a part of the national conversation, and I am pleased to note that Stevens continues to provide an excellent return on investment and excellent career preparation for our students. The 2013 ranking by Payscale.com listed Stevens [#9 in the nation](#) (and [first](#) in New Jersey) for return on investment for lifetime career earnings. In addition, Provost George Korfiatis outlined the further benefits of cooperative education as an excellent vehicle to provide our students with a significant advantage in the job market. In a July 8th [New York Times](#) letter to the editor, he notes: "real-world work experience coupled with a structured academic support environment...enhance the skills that bridge extensive technical skills with real-life applications."

I look forward to keeping you informed about Stevens Institute of Technology's progress in creating the next generation of STEM innovators that fuel New Jersey's and our nation's economy. I would be pleased to welcome you to our campus to experience our momentum for yourself.

With all best wishes,

Nariman Farvardin  
President