



Retirement of Susan Metz

From: Nariman Farvardin, President

To: Stevens Faculty and Staff

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After more than 40 years of distinguished service, Susan Staffin Metz, Executive Director of University Culture and Engagement and member of the President's Cabinet, has announced her retirement from Stevens, effective June 30, 2026. Her career has fundamentally shaped STEM education at Stevens and across the country. Since joining Stevens, Susan has fostered an institutional culture that enables faculty, staff and students to thrive and contribute fully to our academic community. Her sustained commitment to inclusion, innovation and excellence has left a lasting mark on the Stevens community and on higher education nationwide.

As a Principal Investigator, Susan secured and led multimillion-dollar National Science Foundation–funded initiatives, including the creation of the ECOES precollege program, which expanded access to STEM pathways for high school students, and which continues today. She advanced evidence-based practices, including climate surveys and professional development, to increase awareness of barriers to success and to strengthen the academic environment for all faculty. National and local initiatives that were focused on student retention — including spatial skills training for first-year engineering students and inclusive teaching practices through ENGAGE Engineering — have shaped engineering education at Stevens, community colleges and four-year institutions across the United States.

Susan's leadership has earned recognition from the White House — twice. Through her appointment as the inaugural Executive Director of the Lore El Center, Stevens received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM), awarded by President Clinton. The Women in Engineering Pro-Active Network, Inc. (WEPAN), the national educational organization she co-founded, which designated Stevens a major hub, later received the same honor under the Bush administration.

Susan served on the National Science Foundation Engineering Directorate Advisory Board and on the National Academy of Engineering Task Force on the Center for the Advancement of Scholarship on Engineering Education (CASEE). Her peer recognition reflects the same breadth: She was selected for

the NSF-funded Engineering Education Pioneers Project, named a Fellow of the Association for Women in Science and received the Maria Mitchell Women in Science Award.

In lieu of a formal reception — at Susan's request — she looks forward to connecting with colleagues over the coming months. I have been fortunate to work alongside Susan for many years, and Stevens is a better institution for her decades of commitment. Please join me in thanking her for her extraordinary service and enduring legacy.

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