



August 7, 2020

To the Stevens Community:

I am very pleased to announce that this week the New Jersey Business and Industry Association (NJBIA) selected Stevens and the Stevens ACES Initiative to receive NJBIA's Diversity and Inclusion Award for 2020.

[Stevens ACES](#) (Accessing Careers in Engineering and Science) was launched in 2017 to provide underserved and underrepresented minority (URM) students with opportunities, financial support, and mentoring – all critical needs for pursuing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) degrees and careers. ACES introduces talented students to college life and Stevens' distinctive technology-centric education by forging three-way partnerships among high schools enrolling significant percentages of underserved and URM students, Stevens, and the corporate and philanthropic sector.

In its first year of implementation, ACES resulted in a 60% increase in the percentage of URM students in an intensive, pre-college residential STEM summer program and a 46% increase in the percentage of URM students in the freshman cohort at Stevens. Second year results continued these impressive trends: a 50% and 29% percent increase, respectively in pre-college and undergraduate participation of URM students over the baseline year, and 97% of students retained from their first- to second-year.

I am very proud of what the ACES initiative has accomplished in just three years. It is gaining an excellent reputation for the opportunity it provides to promising young men and women from underserved communities and underrepresented minority groups. In fact, this is the second state-wide recognition it has received. Last year, Stevens ACES received the 2019 Innovation in Education Award from the New Jersey Technology Council. The NJBIA's 2020 Awards for Excellence will be featured in its magazine, *New Jersey Business*, later in the year.

*Per aspera ad astra,*

Nariman Farvardin  
President