

To: Stevens Students, Faculty and Staff

From: Nariman Farvardin, President

Date: February 9, 2024

Subject: February Update: Commencement Speakers, Great Place to Work, Career Outcomes

The Spring semester is in full swing, and the campus is alive with activity and good news!

I am delighted to announce the **speakers for the Class of 2024 Commencement ceremonies**, which will take place at PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel, NJ, on May 22, 2024. Both speakers are exceptionally distinguished alumni with significant accomplishments spanning multiple fields. For the undergraduate ceremony, we will welcome Marques Brownlee '15, known globally as MKBHD, an American YouTuber, tech reviewer and professional ultimate frisbee player. Marques is a powerful tech influencer, with more than 18 million subscribers and 4 billion views on YouTube. His journey to tech stardom is truly inspiring.

For the graduate Commencement ceremony, we are privileged to have Michael Kakos, MMS '71, whose remarkable career bridges science, business and philanthropy. His work at both Celanese Corporation and Resin Express Ltd. showcases his commitment to innovation and business excellence. Beyond his professional achievements, Michael and his wife, Aimee, actively **contribute to their communities through various charitable endeavors**.

I invite you to learn more about our exceptional speakers by visiting stevens.edu/commencement. I look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of the Class of 2024 and gaining valuable insights from these distinguished honorees.

Just earlier this week, Stevens was **certified™ by Great Place to Work® for the second consecutive year**, with the satisfaction rate by colleagues increasing from 75% to 81%. This significant increase reflects our focused efforts and commitment to fostering continuous improvement and excellence. Thank you to all faculty and staff for your active participation.

I'm also proud to announce that the **Undergraduate Class of 2023 Career Outcomes Report** shows that 96.4% of graduates achieved their desired outcome — offers of employment or graduate school — within six months of graduation. The figure for women graduates was 99%, and the average salary for the Class of 2023 was \$85,200, an increase over last year. These outcomes illustrate the excellence of our students and the value of a Stevens education.

In national rankings, *U.S. News & World Report* released its 2024 Best Online Graduate Rankings this week, ranking Stevens' [online Engineering program at No. 26](#) and our [online MBA at No. 60 nationally](#) — both No. 1 in New Jersey.

To our community members who will welcome the Year of the Dragon this weekend, I extend my warmest wishes for a year filled with joy, prosperity and good fortune. The new year is a time for celebration with family and friends, embracing cultural richness and looking forward to a better future. May this festive season bring you and your loved ones much happiness and success!

Per aspera ad astra.

1 Castle Point Terrace None | Hoboken, NJ 07030 US

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