



January 31, 2017

Statement of President Nariman Farvardin on White House Executive Order

Stevens is enriched and strengthened by the talents, contributions, and engagement of a culturally, intellectually and geographically diverse community of students, faculty, administration, alumni, and collaborators. The executive order issued by the White House last Friday, which restricts entrance to the U.S. by individuals from seven Muslim-majority countries, has created disruption and anxiety for many throughout our campus and our extended community, their families, and their personal and professional networks.

This executive order presents challenges to values that are central to the academy and to Stevens' education and research programs, which are built upon inclusiveness and nondiscrimination on the basis of race, religion, national origin or any other illegal basis. The implementation of this executive order could have a negative impact on the conduct of the core mission of Stevens and other universities throughout the U.S.—educating the world's best and brightest students and creating new knowledge through research programs that aim to address society's most vexing challenges. By curtailing the recruitment of students and faculty of the highest caliber from all nations of the world to U.S. universities and by restricting the free exchange of ideas and academic collaborations, this action has the potential to weaken our nation's highly regarded system of higher education and the ability of universities to collaborate in global academic endeavors. Moreover, it has a particularly detrimental impact on universities such as Stevens, where students and scholars—many of whom are immigrants—are heavily engaged in international education and research programs and frequently take part in professional conferences requiring international travel.

The leadership of Stevens and key offices have been closely monitoring this situation and its impact on members of our own community over the last several days, including making contact with faculty, staff and students who are directly affected. We are committed to providing support to members of our community who are or may be affected by this executive order. We will continue to track developments carefully and will provide additional guidance as warranted. **We recommend that all members of the Stevens community from the affected countries avoid international travel until the impact of this dynamic situation becomes clearer.**

Please contact the following offices at Stevens for questions and concerns:

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