



Office of the President

From: Nariman Farvardin, President

To: Stevens Faculty and Staff

Date: April 10, 2025

Subject: April Highlights: National Recognition and Exciting Upcoming Events

As we approach the final weeks of the spring semester, I am delighted to share several remarkable achievements and upcoming events that showcase the extraordinary impact of our Stevens community.

I am particularly proud to share that **Stevens has been ranked No. 9 in the nation for return on investment by U.S. News & World Report**, based on the recently released Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce report. Additionally, in the 2025 **U.S. News Best Graduate School Rankings**, both our School of Engineering and Science (up nine spots to No. 74) and School of Business (up four spots to No. 68) have made significant gains. These exceptional rankings reinforce what we already know: A Stevens education provides unparalleled value throughout our graduates' professional careers.

It is an honor to announce that **Trustee Emeritus Emilio A. Fernandez will deliver the keynote address at our 153rd Commencement ceremony** on May 21, 2025. Mr. Fernandez, a visionary inventor, entrepreneur and education advocate, has devoted his professional, civic and philanthropic life to technological and educational innovation. His commitment to Stevens includes the development and endowment of our **iSTEM program**, which identifies and nurtures exceptionally creative students. For more information about our upcoming Commencement activities, please visit stevens.edu/commencement.

Our students continue to demonstrate remarkable ingenuity and problem-solving skills. A team of six engineering students was selected as **one of only two finalists in The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey College Challenge**, designing a robotic platform to patrol Lincoln Tunnel catwalks and earning a \$10,000 grant and summer internship offers. Meanwhile, our DASSHing Ducks team captured first place and a \$10,000 prize in the **DASSH 2025: Security in an AI World competition** hosted by Arizona State University.

Three Stevens researchers — Brendan Englot, Philip Odonkor and Antonia Zaferiou — have been honored for their groundbreaking work in AI, robotics, energy and sports science as part of the **2025**

class of Innovate100 Leaders. This recognition showcases the significant contributions our faculty are making to address critical societal challenges through innovative research and technology.

Looking ahead, I encourage you to mark your calendars for two events: **TEDxStevens on April 15** and our **Innovation Expo on May 9**. The TEDx event will feature thought-provoking presentations on "Interpreting the Role of Research in Accelerating Societal Good." The Innovation Expo showcases student innovation and entrepreneurship through Senior Projects, the HASS Concert, the Gallois Autonomous Robot Competition and the 10th annual Ansary Entrepreneurship Competition. Nathan Schultz, president and CEO of Chegg, Inc., will deliver the Thomas H. Scholl Lecture titled "Take Control: Own the Game, Shape Your Future."

I am delighted to note that Stevens has been designated as a **Certified Great Place to Work for the third consecutive year**. With 81% of employees indicating that Stevens is a great place to work — 24 points higher than the average U.S. company — this recognition affirms our continued commitment to fostering an exceptional university culture. To celebrate this achievement, I invite all faculty and staff to join us for a tailgate on April 22 (RSVP [here](#)).

Our dedication to excellence continues to garner media attention, with Stevens receiving 2,804 media mentions between November 2024 and March 2025 — a 23% increase compared to the same period last year — according to our **latest media highlights report**. I was personally honored to speak with Shauna Cox on the "**Illumination by Modern Campus**" podcast about the transformative role of technology in reshaping educational delivery.

Last weekend, we welcomed more than 2,400 prospective students and their families to campus for **Admitted Student Weekend**. A special thank you goes to the Division of Enrollment Management and the many faculty, staff and student volunteers who worked hard to prepare for and warmly welcome next year's class of new students. The enthusiasm and excitement were palpable as these talented individuals explored our campus, engaged with faculty and staff and imagined their futures at Stevens. We look forward to welcoming our new cohort of students this fall, including **the adorable "student," Tillie Stella Stevens**, our Goldendoodle puppy who will join us after completing her training.

As we enter the final stretch of the academic year, I am inspired by the remarkable achievements of our community and look forward to celebrating together at our upcoming events. Thank you for your continued dedication to excellence and for embodying the values that make Stevens such an extraordinary institution.

Per aspera ad astra.

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