



**STEVENS**  
INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY  
THE INNOVATION UNIVERSITY

**Our Great Momentum—And Great Responsibility Ahead**  
*The Stevens Indicator, Fall 2015*

Over the last several months, I have had many conversations with alumni, corporate leaders, elected officials and other “movers and shakers” to share the tremendous momentum that Stevens is experiencing. As they listen to the Stevens story, I hear some common themes in response. First, they are incredibly impressed that an institution can be making progress on so many fronts simultaneously — from the academic profile and growth in applications of our undergraduate and graduate student populations, to research awards, to national rankings and more. Second, they appreciate the tremendous impact that Stevens has on economic vitality in New Jersey, throughout the metropolitan region, and even worldwide.

When I think about the real mission of Stevens, I think of these dual objectives: providing the educational experience necessary to unleash the potential of our students to achieve their greatest ambitions; and contributing to society by strengthening our economy, advancing the frontiers of research to improve the human condition and pursuing solutions to many of the complex problems we face in the 21st century.

I see evidence that our alumni are also energized by Stevens’ impact and the bigger role their alma mater is playing on the national and world stage. This summer, for example, Stevens reached a major milestone with an 18 percent alumni participation in giving, up 3 percentage points over two years ago. This important metric is a tangible symbol of the pride alumni feel in their alma mater, and the investment our community is making to help Stevens realize its potential as a premier, student-centric research university.

There is much more in which we can all take pride at Stevens today. Researchers in fields as diverse as coastal and urban infrastructure resilience, financial systems, personalized cancer treatment, national defense, and many others, are becoming recognized as experts in these areas of significant national need. Programs such as visual arts and technology, music and technology and quantitative finance are forging new, distinctive niches for Stevens. And a whole host of other exciting initiatives, accomplishments and collaborations, from our 2015 entry into the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon (the SU+RE HOUSE) to our first national team championship, in men’s volleyball, are simultaneously raising our profile and raising the bar for the future.

With this increased momentum also comes increased responsibility: We must use these new heights as the benchmark for our future achievements. On July 1, 2015, I started my fifth year as president, and I am more convinced than ever before that Stevens is poised to realize its goal to become a world-class, student-centric research university. I am honored that the Board of Trustees has invited me to continue for a second five-year term, and I have gladly accepted. My goals for the next few years remain focused on our strategic plan — enhancing the academic profile of our student body, growing in areas that will broaden our reach and impact, continuing to strengthen the faculty to become internationally recognized in research pursuits of societal significance, and continuing to improve the financial health and operations, as well as the prestige and name recognition, of Stevens. I am most enthusiastic about continuing to serve our students and faculty, our 40,000 alumni and the entire Stevens community as president. And I am committed to dedicating myself to Stevens, to enable it to realize its fullest potential.

Per aspera ad astra,

Nariman Farvardin  
President, Stevens Institute of Technology