January 14, 2022

To Students, Faculty and Staff:

Stevens is committed to creating a culture in which all members of the community experience the university as a place where they can thrive. Building on recommendations from the President's Task Force on Equity and Inclusive Excellence and in collaboration with the Division of Information Technology, Stevens has enlisted the services of NameCoach, which allows students, faculty and staff to voice record and share the pronunciation of their name in a Canvas course or an email signature.

Names are central to our identity and pronouncing them correctly is a highly impactful way to promote inclusion and belonging. Given the extraordinarily rich diversity of our community, pronouncing someone’s name correctly is no easy task! Often we side-step the use of names, mispronounce or joke about our attempt. Even a seemingly simple name can be challenging to pronounce if it is unfamiliar.

In this pilot year, Stevens will assess the use and value of NameCoach to the community. A high level of adoption by students, faculty and staff is needed to realize the benefits of this service. Students and faculty are encouraged to take two minutes to go to their Canvas account today or during the first week of class to record their names. This video link includes instructions if needed. For additional information visit the project page. The first week in February, students, faculty and staff will be able to record their name on Outlook.

Please send any comments or questions to Maryam Mizra (mmirza5@stevens.edu) in IT or to me at smetz@stevens.edu. Please contact Client Support Services for technical support at support@stevens.edu

Thank you for taking the time to make Stevens a stronger community.

Sincerely,

Susan Metz
Executive Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion