



May 27, 2020

To the Stevens Community:

It is my great pleasure to announce that, after an intensive and extremely competitive search process, Mr. Tej Patel has been selected as Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, starting on August 17, 2020.

Mr. Patel joins Stevens as a forward-looking leader with over 15 years of higher education and corporate information technology (IT) experience, managing and providing state-of-the-art IT services. He is deeply invested in building and leading IT organizations that are focused on innovation and delivering enhanced services through data-driven decisions. His experience includes building high performing teams with strong technical and digital product management skills; extensive understanding of information services, academic research, and online learning; and establishing collaborative partnerships to enhance an IT department's reputation and the services it provides.

Mr. Patel served as the CIO, Information Technology Services, at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing since 2015. His many accomplishments in this role include creating a vision and implementing its components; judiciously managing multiple IT budgets; and leading a team that provided consistent, relevant, and quality IT services. Among the many systems and services under his responsibility were hyper-converged infrastructure, hybrid cloud, virtual desktops, networks, research computing and mobile environments; data services; privacy and security; web applications and social media integration; simulation center and online learning technologies, including course management, hybrid learning, and video conferencing.

Mr. Patel instilled confidence in IT services by sustaining a robust technology infrastructure and by protecting the school's data and information assets. He also advised on strategic investments and integrated technologies that best supported advancements in learning, research, and practice. He cultivated partnerships within the university as well as with peer schools, vendors, healthcare institutions, and funding agencies to leverage knowledge and investments, and maximize partnership opportunities. Mr. Patel advanced the goals of the University's and School's strategic plans by aligning the IT strategic plan which included supporting device-independence and mobility, managing data as an enterprise resource, supporting connected learning and global initiatives, and building and managing an effective hybrid environment that best utilized local, central, and cloud-based services.

Previously at the University of Pennsylvania, Annenberg School for Communication, Mr. Patel served as IT Director, Systems and Infrastructure Services (2012-2015), and earlier as IT Operations Manager, Information Technology & Services (2006-2012). In these capacities, he

directed all aspects of the school's state-of-the-art IT infrastructure and services, two data centers, security, and application development for over 500 faculty, staff, and students.


Mr. Patel earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Management Information Systems from Montclair State University and is a candidate for a Master of Science in Organizational Dynamics at the University of Pennsylvania.

Please join me in welcoming Mr. Tej Patel to Stevens and giving him your full support as he develops a clear IT vision and strategy to address research and scholarship; shared IT and data governance; information security and privacy; improved student learning and success; and optimization of IT services.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank Assistant Vice President for Information Technology, Michael Parente, for his interim leadership of the Division of Information Technology. I and the entire Stevens community are grateful for his dedicated work ethic and professionalism during this transitional period.

I would also like to thank the members of the Search Committee, led by Dr. Giuseppe Ateniese, Farber Chair Professor and Department Chair, Department of Computer Science, for their diligence throughout the search process, as well as the faculty, staff, and trustees who helped in the interview process.

*Per aspera ad astra,*

  
Nariman Farvardin  
President