



**Remarkable Progress and the Road Ahead**  
*The Stevens Indicator, Spring/Summer 2017*

Five years ago the university community set forth on an ambitious journey: a 10-year Strategic Plan entitled, *The Future. Ours to Create*. This plan charted a course toward a future that builds upon our historic legacy and leverages our distinctive strengths to become a premier, student-centric, technological research university. We have arrived at the midpoint of the implementation of the Strategic Plan, and I am proud to report that remarkable and unprecedented progress has been achieved across all areas of the university over the past five years:

- Undergraduate applications have increased 106%, undergraduate enrollment has increased 28%; and admissions selectivity has reached 39%;
- Middle 50% SAT scores have increased from 1190-1390 to 1260-1440;
- The first-year retention rate rose from 92% to 95% and the six-year graduation rate rose from 79% to 83%;
- 96% of the Class of 2016 secured career outcomes in intended fields within six months of graduation with an average starting salary of \$67,100;
- Graduate applications have increased 139%, and graduate enrollment has increased 16%;
- The full-time faculty body has increased 23% with new faculty members hailing from institutions such as Harvard, MIT, Princeton, Stanford, Carnegie Mellon, and UNC-Chapel Hill;
- Sponsored research awards have increased by 17% to \$35.6 million;
- Gifts and pledges increased 338%;
- Stevens' rankings continue to rise with a notable 17 place improvement from 88<sup>th</sup> to 71<sup>st</sup> in *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Colleges" ranking, making Stevens the **third fastest-rising university** among the top 100 universities in the nation;
- Standard & Poor's raised its bond rating of Stevens to "A-" with a stable outlook and Moody's upgraded the university's outlook from "stable" to "positive;" and
- Our IT infrastructure and enterprise systems have been transformed from archaic to cutting edge.

In just five years, the collective dedication and investment of the university community has enabled these critical advances toward our strategic goals and laid the foundation for realizing our vision for the future. The next five years promise to be equally as transformative as we build a world-class physical infrastructure befitting our university's ascent.

Bright and innovative students have inspired modern spaces that cultivate interdisciplinary collaboration, like the ABS Engineering Center; that nurture entrepreneurial ventures and ideas, like the Stevens Venture Center; and that provide dedicated resources, like the Lore-El Center, which will be renovated and relaunched to support women's programs on campus. Forward-thinking faculty members are the impetus for new, cutting-edge laboratory spaces that will facilitate boundary-pushing research across diverse domains from alternative energy to music and technology, healthcare, cybersecurity, and urban resiliency. Dedicated alumni are setting the standard with strategic investments in modern facilities. From the Ruesterholz Admissions Center, to Hanlon Laboratory for Financial Analytics and Data Visualization (Hanlon 2) that expands the university's strengths in high-tech financial systems, to the Gianforte Academic Center that will provide state-of-the-art space for teaching, learning, and research, these investments ensure that areas of critical importance to the university will continue to flourish.

As you will read in this issue of *The Indicator*, renewed energy, dedicated focus, and elevated measures of excellence across our community are raising the bar for the necessary and exciting developments that will define the future of our university.

I offer heartfelt thanks to each and every member of the Stevens community for all you do to advance our journey toward becoming a world-class university.

Per aspera ad astra,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Farvardin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nariman Farvardin  
President, Stevens Institute of Technology