Search for the Inaugural Dean, School of Computing
Stevens Institute of Technology
Hoboken, New Jersey

THE SEARCH

Stevens Institute of Technology, a premier, private research university known for its technological distinction and student-centric mission, seeks an innovative, visionary, and entrepreneurial leader to serve as the inaugural Dean of the School of Computing. The founding dean will have a unique opportunity to shape the school from its inception, infusing it with strategic direction, academic excellence, and a spirit of innovation. The new School of Computing represents an important milestone in Stevens' continued ascent as a national leader in technology-driven education and research. The School will be a forward-looking academic unit that will serve as the university's hub for computing research, education, and innovation. Rooted in the understanding that computing now touches every area of human inquiry, the School will elevate interdisciplinary collaboration across engineering, science, business, the arts, and the humanities, positioning Stevens at the forefront of a rapidly evolving digital world.

Over the past decade, Stevens has experienced extraordinary transformation and momentum, ushering in an era of unprecedented growth, advancement, and institutional renewal. During this time, Stevens has seen dramatic gains across nearly every dimension. Demand has continued to accelerate, with undergraduate applications nearly tripling and enrollment rising 62%. This period is also marked by notable strides in student success, major expansion of faculty and research activity, strengthened financial foundations, and transformative campus development. Spending from research awards during FY24 totaled $63.8 million university-wide, up 23% from the previous year. New academic structures, pioneering curricular initiatives, and cutting-edge research centers have further elevated Stevens' national and global visibility, earning top rankings for career outcomes, institutional excellence, and workplace culture. This remarkable trajectory provides a powerful platform for the launch of the School of Computing and the impactful leadership of its founding dean.

As the chief academic and administrative leader of the new School of Computing, the inaugural dean will define the School's identity, build its academic and research enterprise, and forge collaborations that position Stevens at the forefront of computing and interdisciplinary innovation. Stevens seeks a scholar and leader with the vision, operational strength, and enthusiasm to launch and grow a new school in an

increasingly digital and AI-driven world, elevating its visibility and cultivating partnerships that expand its reach and impact. The successful candidate will bring strategic, innovative, and entrepreneurial leadership, with experience creating new academic initiatives, managing growth effectively, and building structures that support long-term success.

Stevens has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in conducting this important search and to help identify outstanding candidates. All inquiries, applications, and nominations for this opportunity should be directed to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

ABOUT STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Established in 1870 and located on a 55-acre campus overlooking the Manhattan skyline, Stevens Institute of Technology is a premier, private research university with technology at its core. Since its founding, technological innovation has been fundamental to Stevens' educational and research endeavors. Stevens enrolls more than 8,000 undergraduate and graduate students and is home to more than 370 faculty members committed to advancing discovery, innovation, and the student experience. The new School of Computing will join the Charles V. Schaefer, Jr. School of Engineering and Science, the School of Business, and the School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. In April 2024, Stevens launched the College of Professional Education to expand online graduate offerings and reinforce Stevens' commitment to lifelong learning. The university consistently ranks among the nation's top institutions for career placement, mid-career earnings, and return on tuition investment.

Guided by the 2032 Strategic Plan - *Inspired by Humanity, Powered by Technology* - Stevens is deeply committed to enhancing student success, expanding research impact, strengthening academic reputation, and cultivating a connected and inclusive community. The university's core values—Excellence, Integrity, Student-Centricity, Collaboration and Innovation, One Stevens, and Sustainability—serve as foundational principles that guide institutional decision-making and shape the campus environment.

Momentum and Transformation

The last decade at Stevens has been characterized by the intentional development of new academic structures, forward-looking initiatives, and research capabilities that support the university's expanding ambitions, strengthening the institution's capacity to innovate, collaborate, and lead at the intersection of technology and society.

The university's commitment to student success is reflected in a 90% graduation rate, a testament to its holistic, technology-intensive curriculum and robust support ecosystem. Additionally, the academic profile of incoming classes has strengthened significantly, including a 160-point increase in median SAT scores.

This era of growth has extended deeply into the university's academic and research enterprise. Full-time faculty have increased, with tenure/tenure-track ranks growing by 71%. Externally funded research

awards have increased by 199%, underscoring Stevens' growing prominence in national and global research communities.

Financially, operating revenue has grown by 119%, philanthropic giving by 362%, and the university's endowment by 164%. The successful completion of the $200 million *Power of Stevens* campaign reflects the deep confidence of alumni, industry partners, and philanthropic supporters in Stevens' strategic direction and impact.

Together, these structural, academic, cultural, and philanthropic transformations have positioned Stevens to launch the School of Computing from a place of strength. The inaugural dean will join a university deeply committed to innovation, collaboration, and technology-driven academic excellence, with a strong foundation on which to build the next chapter of Stevens' evolution.

Campus & Location

Stevens offers students, faculty, and staff a vibrant, dynamic environment on its 55-acre residential campus in Hoboken, New Jersey. Ranked among the top college towns in the nation by The Princeton Review, Hoboken is a lively, highly walkable community offering a variety of boutiques, restaurants, parks, cafes, and nightlife. New York City is a quick train, bus, or ferry ride away from Stevens' waterfront campus on the Hudson River.

Since 2011, Stevens has invested $500 million in comprehensive campus improvements, including the renovation and technological upgrade of all classrooms. This investment transformed the campus into a state-of-the-art educational and research environment, encompassing both physical infrastructure and digital technology. Several landmark capital projects have been completed in recent years, significantly enhancing academic, research, and campus facilities. These include the Gateway Academic Center, a 90,000 square-foot teaching and research facility, along with other notable additions such as the North Building, the ABS Engineering Center and the Lore-El Center for Women's Leadership. The Babbio Garage expansion bolstered campus infrastructure, while the remodeling of the Ruesterholz Admissions Center modernized the university's welcome center for prospective students. Student life enhancements include the renovation of the Schaefer Athletic Center lobby and the completion of a new Student Wellness Center.

The crowning achievement of this transformation is the iconic University Center Complex, which opened in spring 2022. The largest construction project in Stevens' history, its dual 16- and 18-story residential towers, atop a three-story university center, reshaped the city skyline and are visible from New York City, symbolizing Stevens' growing prominence in the metro area. Housing 1,000 students and featuring state-of-the-art facilities, the complex serves as a vibrant hub for student life, academic collaboration, and community engagement. Both the University Center Complex in 2022 and the Gateway Academic Center in 2020 were awarded LEED Gold Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council, highlighting Stevens' commitment to sustainable design and construction.

In June 2024, Stevens also launched the centralized Research Computing Services program, which offers the Stevens Research community access to high-performance computing (HPC) clusters, storage, networking, and cloud computing resources, as well as training and support services. This includes JARVIS, a new HPC cluster with cutting-edge resources that boasts the latest NVIDIA GPUs to offer the research enterprise advanced computational capabilities.

Leadership

Nariman Farvardin, President

Dr. Nariman Farvardin became Stevens' seventh president in July 2011, ushering in an era of unprecedented growth and innovation. Now the longest-serving president at a private college in New Jersey, Farvardin led Stevens through a remarkable renaissance, elevating the institution to national and global prominence. Following the successful conclusion of the 10-year strategic plan, *The Future. Ours to Create.*, Farvardin launched a subsequent vision in 2022, *Stevens 2032: Inspired by Humanity, Powered by Technology*, charting an ambitious course for the university's future.

An accomplished researcher, Farvardin holds seven U.S. patents and has co-authored more than 150 technical papers. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). Prior to joining Stevens, Farvardin served as Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at the University of Maryland. A native of Tehran, Iran, Farvardin earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. A more comprehensive biography of Dr. Farvardin, including details of the significant transformation of the university during his tenure, can be found here.

Jianmin Qu, Provost

Dr. Jianmin Qu serves as Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at Stevens Institute of Technology, where he is the chief academic officer and the university's highest-ranking leader after the president. He oversees all academic units and research centers, drives strategic planning, and ensures the infrastructure, policies, and resources needed to sustain academic excellence. In partnership with university leadership, he also co-leads the annual budget process and steers initiatives that strengthen research, entrepreneurship, and institutional growth. He oversees all academic units and research centers, drives strategic planning, and ensures the infrastructure, policies, and resources needed to sustain academic excellence. In partnership with university leadership, he also co-leads the annual budget process and steers initiatives that strengthen research, entrepreneurship, and institutional -growth. Ranking leader after the president. He oversees all academic units and research centers, drives strategic planning, and ensures the infrastructure, policies, and resources needed to sustain academic excellence. In partnership with university leadership, he also co-leads the annual budget process and steers initiatives that strengthen research, entrepreneurship, and institutional growth. An accomplished scholar and administrator, Dr. Qu previously served as Dean of the School of Engineering at Tufts University, where he led transformational advances in research, enrollment, philanthropy, and academic innovation. Earlier,

he held leadership roles at Northwestern University and Georgia Tech, driving significant expansion in faculty, research activity, and academic programs. A leading researcher in theoretical and applied mechanics, Dr. Qu has authored more than 220 refereed publications, secured over $16 million in sponsored research as principal investigator, and earned major recognition, including the NDE Lifetime Achievement Award. He is a Fellow of ASME and IEEE. A more comprehensive biography of Dr. Qu can be found here.

THE SCHOOL OF COMPUTING

The School of Computing, targeted to launch in Fall 2026, represents a bold new investment in the university's long-standing strength in computer science, computational research, and digital innovation. Built on the excellent foundation of existing programs in computer science, software engineering, cybersecurity, AI, scientific computing, and related areas, the new school will advance Stevens' commitment to preparing students for the rapidly evolving technology landscape while expanding the university's research footprint in high-impact computing disciplines.

Computing now represents more than 25% of Stevens' total enrollment, and the new School will expand interdisciplinary "Computing + X" programs, serving as a campus-wide hub for computing education and computational scholarship, connecting faculty and students across Stevens' existing schools and college with emerging technologies and interdisciplinary opportunities. Its programs will address major societal and technological challenges and position Stevens graduates to thrive in the digital economy. The School is expected to experience significant growth in student enrollment, faculty hiring, research activity, and external partnerships, particularly given Stevens' ideal location in the New York metropolitan region, a global center of innovation and technology.

The Department of Computer Science, the largest department at Stevens Institute of Technology and one of the leading departments in the country, will serve as the foundation for the new School of Computing. The department's approximately 43 full-time faculty members and current computer science majors (770 undergraduate and 826 graduate students) will transition to the new School with student degrees and academic progress remaining unchanged. During the transition, faculty and student activities, programs, and curricula will continue without disruption.

The budget for the current Department of Computer Science will be transferred to the new school as its base budget. Additional expenses associated with establishing the new school will be provided through committed and anticipated philanthropic support, currently totaling more than $36 million to date. This includes endowed scholarships, endowed professorships, and funding for new faculty positions. It is proposed that the dean be assisted by three associate deans, each responsible for the graduate, undergraduate, and research programs. There will also be an assistant or an administrative dean responsible for managing administrative and financial support for the school.

Current Academic Programs

Current Undergraduate

- B.S. in Computer Science
- B.S. in Artificial Intelligence
- B.S. in Cybersecurity

Current Graduate

- M.S. in Computer Science
- M.S. in Cybersecurity
- M.S. in Machine Learning
- Ph.D. in Computer Science
- Ph.D. in Data Science (interdisciplinary)

Current Research Areas

At Stevens, computer science research drives innovation across AI, data science, cybersecurity, software systems, computer vision, scientific computing and modeling, and human-computer interaction. Students work alongside leading faculty on real-world challenges in health, security, education, and emerging technologies. Research areas include:

- AI and Machine Learning
  AI and Machine Learning Laboratories and Research Centers:
  - Health and AI Lab (HAIL)
  - Stevens Institute for Artificial Intelligence (SIAI)
- Computer Vision
  Laboratories:
  - 3D Computer Vision Lab
- Data Science and Big Data Analytics
  Laboratories
  - Database and Information Management Laboratory
- Programming Languages
  Laboratories:
  - Cybersecurity, Programming Languages, and Systems (Cypress)
- Computer Security and Cryptography
  Computer Security and Cryptography Laboratories and Research Centers:
  - Database and Information Management Laboratory
  - Cybersecurity, Programming Languages, and Systems Lab
  - Center for the Advancement of Secure Systems and Information Assurance (CASSIA)
- Software Systems
- Human Computer Interaction

THE ROLE OF THE INAUGURAL DEAN

Reporting to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, the inaugural dean will serve as the chief academic and administrative officer for the School of Computing and will play a defining role in establishing its identity, building its academic portfolio, cultivating a dynamic research environment, and strengthening Stevens' position at the forefront of computing and computationally-enabled disciplines. The dean will lead efforts to enhance enrollment in undergraduate and graduate programs, bolster the School's research enterprise, expand interdisciplinary initiatives, and develop strategic partnerships with industry, government, and academic collaborators.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Define a strategic vision that positions the School of Computing as a distinctive national leader at the intersection of computing education, interdisciplinary discovery, and technological innovation.

The dean will articulate a compelling direction for the school's growth and ensure that its programs align with workforce needs and emerging societal challenges shaped by rapid technological transformation. This includes developing a cohesive academic identity and advancing the school's research ambitions in areas such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, cybersecurity, data science, software systems, and computational engineering. The dean will also play a critical role in recruiting faculty who will shape the school for decades to come.

Create a supportive and nurturing learning environment to enhance student experience and success.

At the undergraduate level, the dean should be laser-focused on building a continuum of academic and co-curricular learning, intellectual growth, cultural enrichment, and personal development through a technology-infused curriculum in a supportive, high-touch, and inclusive environment that contributes to students' professional and personal success and resilience.

At the graduate level, the new dean should develop a supportive graduate ecosystem that attracts high-caliber students with diverse backgrounds and empowers them to thrive academically, professionally, and personally. The doctoral programs should aim at creating knowledge and solutions to global issues, as well as developing future scholars and leaders, while the master's programs should provide lifelong learning opportunities for college graduates and working adults to stay ahead of the technology-driven and rapidly evolving job market. The new dean will also work closely with the College of Professional Education to grow online programs for working adults.

Build programs that support significant enrollment growth.

The new school is expected to attract students across all levels who are motivated to engage in rigorous, high-impact computing education. The dean will work closely with academic and administrative partners to strengthen student support systems, foster experiential and industry-integrated learning

opportunities, and ensure strong career outcomes that reflect Stevens' longstanding reputation for exceptional return on investment.

Advance and expand Stevens' computing research enterprise.

The inaugural dean will cultivate interdisciplinary collaborations across Stevens' four existing schools and college, and with external partners in the corporate, nonprofit, and government sectors. This includes identifying opportunities for large-scale research initiatives, strategically investing in infrastructure, championing faculty scholarship, and accelerating the School's contributions to national and global conversations in computing and technology.

Build organizational capacity for the new School of Computing.

As the leader of a new school, the dean will have the opportunity to grow the School's capabilities and resources by recruiting outstanding faculty and staff, establishing an effective administrative structure, and nurturing a culture grounded in excellence, integrity, innovation, and inclusivity. The inaugural dean will work closely with other Stevens deans, as some faculty are expected to have cross-appointments with other schools. The School's faculty will bring disciplinary expertise and a deep appreciation for interdisciplinary collaboration to drive excellence across the university.

Serve as a key ambassador for the School of Computing and for Stevens more broadly.

The inaugural dean will develop and maintain meaningful relationships with donors, corporate partners, alumni, and other external constituencies who are essential to advancing the School's mission and strategic priorities. In partnership with Stevens' Advancement team, the dean will strengthen philanthropic engagement and secure support for scholarships, endowed positions, research initiatives, and capital needs. The dean will also represent the School in regional, national, and international forums, enhancing its visibility and reputation as a hub of computing research and talent development.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The successful candidate will have a distinguished record of scholarly achievement in a computing-related field, including credentials suitable for appointment as a tenured full professor, and will possess many, if not all, of the following additional professional qualifications, experiences, and characteristics:

- A deep familiarity with the rapidly changing landscape of computing education and research;
- A capacity to lead in a fast-evolving technological environment;
- A demonstrated ability to develop impactful academic programs that reflect both academic rigor and industry relevance;
- A strong record of providing intentional, supportive, and development-focused mentorship to junior faculty;
- An inclusive, collaborative, and transparent leader who fosters strong relationships across the community;

- Experience engaging industry, government agencies, donors, and alumni;
- A commitment to Stevens' core values, particularly related to student success, integrity, collaboration, innovation, inclusion, and sustainability;
- A record of embracing and encouraging multidisciplinary work and evidence of collaboration with partners across campus;
- An understanding of and interest in finances and the interplay of academic programs, resource requirements, including staffing and compensation, market interest, and revenue generation, including fundraising;
- Effective communication skills, both internally and externally;
- The ability to inspire trust, articulate strategic priorities, and build alignment across faculty, staff, students, and external partners.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website:

https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/stevens-institute-technology-school-computing/inaugural-dean

Kate Barry, Partner
Amy Gillespie, Senior Associate
Kaitlin Cruz, Managing Search Coordinator
Isaacson, Miller

The university is committed to building a diverse faculty and staff and encourages applications from women, minorities, veterans, and individuals with disabilities.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by Stevens Institute of Technology. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by Stevens Institute of Technology would supersede any conflicting information in this document.