

Northeastern University

Aoun University Messages

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Our New Provost

I am happy to share with you the appointment of Stephen W. Director as Northeastern University's provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

Steve is currently serving as provost at Drexel University and has previously held positions as dean of engineering at both the University of Michigan and Carnegie Mellon University. A member of the National Academy of Engineering and a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, he earned his doctorate at the University of California at Berkeley.

Most importantly, Steve shares deeply Northeastern's core commitments to promoting experiential education, fostering an environment rich with diversity in all its forms, and expanding fundamental and translational research to meet societal needs. He is an energetic, forward-thinking and collaborative leader – a passionate advocate for excellence in and across disciplines.

The leadership of the Provost Search Committee, chaired by professor Donna Bishop and with professor Joanne Miller as vice chair, was invaluable throughout the search process. I was deeply moved by the committee members' tireless efforts and steadfast commitment to the highest and best interests of the university. These colleagues included trustee Margot Botsford, associate dean of computer science Agnes Chan, dean of engineering David Luzzi, professors James Hackney, Karin Lifter, Carey Rappaport and David Sherman, Stephen Lavenberg of the Student Government Association, and Tina Penman of the Graduate and Professional Students Association.

I also offer my gratitude to Stephen Zoloth, dean of Bouvé College of Health Sciences, who graciously agreed to serve as interim provost for the past several months. He selflessly stepped into this role during a crucial period and thus maintained the university's momentum in several key areas.

Provost Director joins us officially in July, and will be introduced to Northeastern in formal and informal venues over the coming weeks. I ask all faculty, students, and staff not only to help welcome Steve to Northeastern, but also to share with him the dedication and passion for excellence that are the hallmarks of our university community.

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