

## MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty and Staff

From: Wanda M. Costen, Provost and Vice-President Academic

Date: March 23, 2026

**Re: Appointment of Dean Computer Science**

I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Nur Zincir-Heywood** as Dean, Computer Science for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2026.

Dr. Zincir-Heywood is a Dalhousie Distinguished Research Professor and currently the Associate Dean of Research in the Faculty of Computer Science. Her research interests include machine learning and artificial intelligence for cyber resilience, and security in networks, systems and services. She has supported the graduation of 100+ highly qualified professionals, secured \$16.6M in research funding from programs in NSERC, Mitacs, DND, EU ITEA, and industry contracts, and has published more than 250 fully reviewed papers together with her students and collaborators. She serves as an Associate Editor-in-Chief for the journal *IEEE Transactions on Network and Service Management* and is an Associate Editor for the *Springer* and *Wiley* Journals. She was appointed to the NSERC Board of Governors in January 2025 and currently serves on the Executive Team of the Council.

Dr. Zincir-Heywood brings a combination of distinguished research leadership, proven administrative experience, and a principled, inclusive approach to leadership. Her deep understanding of research, graduate education, and faculty culture — together with a clear commitment to integrity, equity, and collective success — positions her well to lead the Faculty.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Zincir-Heywood on her appointment.

As Dr. Andrew Rau-Chaplin concludes his term as Dean, Faculty of Computer Science this spring, we extend our sincere appreciation for his dedicated leadership and many contributions. Having been a professor and researcher at Dalhousie since 1997, his academic research has led to over 100 publications in conferences and journals and his MSc and PhD students have

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gone on to positions in academia and leading technology companies including Google, Microsoft, and Intel. As Dean, his leadership has been instrumental in the rapid change and expansion of the Faculty of Computer Science.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the search committee for their contributions over the course of the search process in helping consider such a competitive pool of applicants as well as members of the Faculty of Computer Science community for their engagement throughout.

Wanda M. Costen, PhD  
Provost and Vice-President Academic

**Search committee membership**

Chair: **Dr. Wanda M. Costen**, Provost and Vice-President Academic

**Dr. Aaron Newman**, Professor and Chair, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience

**Dr. Alex Brodsky**, University Teaching Fellow, Computer Science

**Dr. Chris Whidden**, Assistant Professor, Computer Science

**Emily Fenton**, ShiftKey Sandbox Manager

**Gabriella Mosquera**, Instructor and Director, Bachelor of Applied Computer Science Program

**Dr. Paul Ralph**, Professor, Computer Science

**Dr. Rina Wehbe**, Assistant Professor, Computer Science

**Sigma Jahan**, Student Representative