

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New England Innovation Academy Appoints Inspiring New Head of School

Durga Suresh-Menon, Ph.D. to Empower Future Entrepreneurs and Innovators

[Marlborough, MA] March 31, 2025 – The Board of Trustees for [New England Innovation Academy \(NEIA\)](#) is excited to announce the appointment of [Durga Suresh-Menon, Ph.D.](#), as its new Head of School, effective July 1, 2025. An energizing, dynamic and growth-minded educator with a record of inclusive leadership and passionate storytelling, Dr. Suresh-Menon joins NEIA with over two decades of collaborative higher-education experience, academic program development and a unique understanding of what makes students successful.

The Board's unanimous selection of Dr. Suresh-Menon, an enterprising student-centered leader with a Ph.D. in cybersecurity, reflects NEIA's ongoing commitment to provide an inclusive, competency-based education model for students. Under her guidance, NEIA's future leaders in entrepreneurship and innovation will be empowered to create and make discoveries while belonging to a high achieving, diverse community that prepares them for a successful life.

"I am honored and thrilled to join New England Innovation Academy, where a competency-based education is essential for preparing students to navigate the rapidly evolving landscape of AI and cybersecurity," said Dr. Suresh-Menon. "In an era of accelerating technological advancements and emerging cyber threats, fostering adaptive, skills-driven learning is critical to developing the next generation of innovative and resilient digital leaders. The ethos of NEIA is community, inclusivity and bringing diverse perspectives together to form a supportive foundation. I enjoy relating with student innovators and anyone with an entrepreneurial spirit, and I'm deeply committed to providing NEIA students - our future leaders and innovators - with a connected space to explore, empathize, innovate, and thrive."

Dr. Suresh-Menon comes to NEIA with a rich background in higher education, leadership, curriculum development, and academic excellence. Before joining NEIA, she served as Dean of the School of Computing and Data Science and Dean of Graduate Education at Wentworth Institute of Technology, as well as an Associate Professor, where she led efforts to implement progressive learning strategies and interdisciplinary curriculum that promoted innovation and global awareness. She is recognized for her work fostering a culture of growth, development and innovation, ensuring that a STEAM curriculum remains aligned with the ever-evolving technological landscape and industry demands. Fluent in multiple languages, Dr. Suresh-Menon loves to connect with tech-minded students and parents from all backgrounds, and brings a global perspective and collaborative spirit to NEIA's academic community.

"We are absolutely delighted to welcome Dr. Suresh-Menon to NEIA," said Jean Jones, Chair of the Board of Trustees for New England Innovation Academy. "Dr. Suresh-Menon has an exceptional track record, commitment to technology in education, creativity and inclusivity, and a

vision for the future that aligns perfectly with NEIA's student-centered mission and community values. With dramatic transformations to secondary and higher-education unfolding worldwide, we are confident she will serve as an exceptional leader whose passion, energy, and excitement for NEIA will advance the school's growth, expansion and future impact."

As Head of School, Dr. Suresh-Menon will oversee all aspects of NEIA's programs and operational functions, bolster recruitment efforts, support college admissions and develop novel philanthropic approaches for the school's growth trajectory. She will also work closely with faculty, students, and the community to further the school's mission of preparing the next generation of creative leaders to pursue their dreams and shape a better world. Under Dr. Suresh-Menon's leadership, NEIA will continue to support students as they identify their passion and purpose, and innovate with impact.

Ahead of her summer start date, Dr. Suresh-Menon will be on campus this spring to experience NEIA in action, attend events, and meet administrators, teachers and students.

For more information about New England Innovation Academy and to request a visit, please follow [hello.neia](#) on Instagram and go to www.neiacademy.org

About New England Innovation Academy

Located just 20 minutes outside of Boston in Marlborough, MA, [NEIA](#) is an independent college preparatory day and residential school for grades 7-12. Opened in 2021 and entering its fifth year, NEIA received NEASC accreditation in its third year of operation and is SEVIS qualified to issue I-20 paperwork to international students. Last spring, the school graduated its first class of students; the class of 15 was admitted to more than 100 colleges and universities including top tier schools around the world.