

ITP/IMA, Tisch School of the Arts

David Payne-Carter Award for Excellence in Teaching - 2025 Faculty Nomination

Dear Awards Committee,

On behalf of the ITP/IMA department within Tisch School of the Arts, we'd like to nominate **David Rios** for the David Payne-Carter Award for Excellence in Teaching. Year after year, David has shown a deep commitment to his students. His approach to education goes beyond the traditional classroom setting, and he is not only an expert in physical computing—especially in building sound systems and interactive experiences—but he also makes these complex concepts accessible for students of all levels. One of the many qualities that set David apart is his ability to meet students where they are. He recognizes the unique backgrounds and interests of each student and integrates them into his teaching, making physical computing feel both relevant and personal. His courses in physical computing, experience design, and interface design are structured thoughtfully, ensuring that students not only grasp foundational principles but also feel empowered to apply them in meaningful ways relevant to their daily lives.

David is also known for his approachability and unwavering support. Whether he is teaching in the classroom, holding informal office hours on the 4th floor couches of 370 Jay Street, or guiding students through challenging projects, he always remains patient, encouraging, and generous with his time. He possesses an ability to break down difficult concepts and explain them in a clear and accessible manner. He also fosters an atmosphere where students feel comfortable asking questions if they are confused or struggling. Beyond his teaching, David is deeply invested in the broader ITP/IMA community. He actively participates in ITP/IMA student representative meetings and community gatherings, demonstrating his commitment to improving the student experience and ensuring that their voices are heard. His presence in these spaces reflects his dedication to not only teaching but also mentoring and uplifting the community as a whole.

For these reasons, we strongly and wholeheartedly recommend David Rios for the David Payne-Carter Award for Excellence in Teaching. His impact on his students and the ITP community is undeniable, and we believe he deserves to be recognized for his outstanding contributions to education. He is an inspirational educator, a passionate mentor, and an invaluable member of the Tisch faculty. His dedication to student-centered learning makes him an ideal candidate for this award.

Sincerely,

The Students of ITP/IMA

Nomination Package

As part of our faculty nomination package for David Rios, we have created a website showing the impact he's had on his students. This site features video testimonials and written quotes from students that emphasize David's approachability, patience, and deep commitment to student success.

Link: <http://www.welovedavidrios.site/>

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