



President Nariman Farvardin
149th Convocation Address
September 4, 2019

Members of the Stevens community, I am delighted to welcome you to Stevens Institute of Technology's 149th Convocation ceremony, the official and ceremonial opening of a new academic year.

Students: Convocation represents many things—a new beginning; a celebration of our community; and the opportunity to recognize our esteemed faculty, who will inspire and guide your academic pursuits, and our hard-working staff and administrative leadership, who are here to support your personal growth and development. Most importantly, it is the opportunity to offer our most heartfelt welcome to you, our students, the newest members of our Stevens family.

You may have chosen Stevens because our mission—to prepare tomorrow's leaders for a complex, technology-based, global society—resonated with you. You may have chosen Stevens because the preparation we provide for our graduates—affirmed most recently by our #13 national ranking in the Payscale mid-career salary report—impressed you. You may have chosen Stevens because you believe that our unique blend of technology-based education, applied learning opportunities, small size, and charming location here in Hoboken and close to Manhattan, would position you for a bright future. Whatever your own reasons, whatever your unique path, you will receive our—*my own and my faculty and administrative colleagues*'—fullest support as you test your limits and pursue your dreams here at Stevens.

Use your years here to push yourself outside your comfort zone. Explore the academic offerings and intellectual relationships available to you. Take advantage of research opportunities and international exchange programs. Volunteer for service opportunities in local schools or other worthy organizations. Sit in the dining hall with someone you haven't met yet. Sign up for a "Pancakes with the President" breakfast and share breakfast and conversation with me and my wife, and meet my dog, Martini. Most importantly, take care of yourself and one another. Respect and learn from the differences among us. Work together to help each another succeed.

Welcome to Stevens, Class of 2023. I look forward to seeing you, getting to know you individually, and seeing each of you achieve your fullest potential.