



Office of the President

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**President Nariman Farvardin**  
**153rd Convocation Address**  
**Graduate Ceremony**  
**September 6, 2023**

Students, colleagues, honored guests and members of the extended Stevens community, I extend a heartfelt welcome to you as we gather to commemorate the 153rd Convocation ceremony of Stevens Institute of Technology. Today marks the official and ceremonial opening of a new academic year.

The start of a new academic year means many things — a new beginning and a shared community celebration as we welcome hundreds of new students to our university. I warmly greet all 1,635 new graduate students who join our ranks. Your presence promises to enrich our university just as your Stevens experience will enrich your personal and professional lives.

Graduate students are an important part of our university community. In fact, graduate students — doctoral, master’s and professional students — make up more than half of Stevens’ student enrollment.

By design, we have created an environment in which you will grow and thrive. Here, you find yourself among a dedicated faculty and staff, united by their commitment to your academic pursuits, professional advancement and holistic well-being. We applaud your desire to learn new skills, make new discoveries and contribute to your communities at and beyond Stevens, as you prepare to make an impact on our world.

Here in this room, among our students, lies the potential to change the world and to become the next generation of technologists, innovators, entrepreneurs and leaders upon which our society depends.

To the newest members of our Stevens family, allow me to encourage you to take full advantage of what Stevens has to offer — explore areas outside your own, seek out faculty with diverse interests, talk with people from different disciplines and parts of the world. Beyond academics, I invite you to explore wellness resources and community gatherings where you’ll find other students, faculty and staff who are eager to make you feel at home at Stevens.

Our motto at Stevens, *per aspera ad astra*, translates to “through adversity to the stars.” Within this institution, you are surrounded by a talented group of peers, nurtured by a stellar faculty and guided by administrators committed to steering you through challenges. As you embrace the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship that defines Stevens, be assured that your journey propels you toward the stars.

I look forward to embarking on this journey of discovery alongside you. Great things await!

Thank you.