



Office of the President

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President Nariman Farvardin
153rd Commencement Address
Undergraduate Ceremony
May 21, 2025

Class of 2025, today marks a momentous occasion, as we gather to celebrate your graduation.

It is with immense pride and joy that I stand before you today, joining with your classmates, professors, friends and family to honor your achievement. This milestone represents far more than the completion of your academic requirements — it celebrates your transformation into the innovative leaders our world needs. Congratulations!

Your journey at Stevens has unfolded against the backdrop of a rapidly evolving technological and societal landscape. Throughout your time here, you have witnessed the rapid rise in the accessibility and everyday use of artificial intelligence — an innovation that, I predict, will reshape our lives in fundamental ways. Innovations in battery storage, sustainable energy, in disease detection and drug discovery, and in a vast array of domains and applications, have, even during the time you have studied at Stevens, revolutionized industries and affected our daily lives. You have witnessed the past and the present of technology innovation, and you will play a part in its future.

Behind the scenes of your Stevens experience lies far more than what meets the eye — the late nights in laboratories, the breakthrough moments in collaborative projects, the resilience shown when faced with challenges and the relationships formed that will last a lifetime. These unseen elements have prepared you for achievement in ways that transcend your formal education.

As you stand on the cusp of a new chapter in your lives, I encourage you to embrace innovation not merely as a concept, but as a mindset. Innovation is about challenging the status quo, pushing boundaries and having the courage to step outside your comfort zone. It's about seeing possibilities where others see limitations.

We have seen firsthand how innovation can lead to transformative change. From the tech industry to healthcare and beyond, innovators have paved the way for progress. Take, for example, Emilio Fernandez, our esteemed commencement speaker. Through his remarkable career as an inventor and entrepreneur, he has revolutionized railway safety systems, pioneered e-reading technology and committed himself to nurturing future innovators — embodying the very essence of what it means to harness technology in service to humanity.

But innovation is not just about individual success. Innovative people and approaches can change the world. Armed with your education and experiences, you have the opportunity to make a real difference on a global scale. Whether you go on to develop new artificial intelligence applications, pioneer breakthrough medical innovations or follow your passion as entrepreneurs, you have the power to shape the future. Do not hesitate to be an innovator.

Your educational journey has coincided with — and helped propel — Stevens' own remarkable ascent as a premier technological university. And, just like you, Stevens continues to write its story, celebrating achievements while striving for an even better tomorrow.

Before I conclude, allow me to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the families and friends who have supported our graduates throughout their journeys. Today, we also celebrate your role in this achievement.

To the Class of 2025, as you join our powerful network of nearly 60,000 Stevens alumni worldwide, remember that you are now part of a legacy of innovators who have transformed industries, advanced scientific frontiers and improved lives across the globe. Remember, too, that no matter where life takes you, you will always be a part of the Stevens family and have a home in Hoboken.

May the future hold boundless opportunities for each of you. Come back and visit us often.

Per aspera ad astra!