



Office of the President

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**President Nariman Farvardin**  
**152<sup>nd</sup> Commencement Address**  
**Graduate Ceremony**  
**May 22, 2024**

Class of 2024, today marks a momentous occasion. I extend my heartfelt congratulations on your graduation from Stevens Institute of Technology. Today, we celebrate not only your academic accomplishments but also your resilience, determination and spirit.

Given all that has occurred in our world over the past several years, for many of you, your journey to this moment has been marked by unprecedented disruptions and unforeseen challenges, yet you have navigated them with grace and perseverance. Reflecting on your time at Stevens, it is my hope that you will remember the lessons learned, the friendships forged and the knowledge gained.

As you stand on the cusp of a new chapter in your lives, I encourage you to reflect on the lessons you have learned during your time at Stevens. Embrace the spirit of disruption that alters our course trajectory. Use it as a catalyst for growth, both personally and professionally.

Disruption is not merely about shaking things up for the sake of it. It is about challenging the status quo, pushing boundaries and embracing innovation. It is about having the courage to step outside your comfort zone and pursue new opportunities.

We have seen firsthand how disruption can lead to transformative change. From the tech industry to the world of art and beyond, disruptors have paved the way for progress and innovation. Take, for example, Michael Kakos, our esteemed commencement speaker. Through his illustrious career, he has continuously pushed the boundaries of scientific innovation and entrepreneurial leadership.

But disruption is not just about individual success. Disruptive people and disruptive 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 it is developing new artificial intelligence algorithms, pioneering new technologies that improve health or following your passion as an entrepreneur, you have the power to shape the future. Do not hesitate to be a disruptor.

Before I conclude, I want 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 2024, you are among the most resilient of classes in Stevens' 154-year history. As you embark on the next phase of your journey, remember the lessons you have learned here. Embrace disruption, challenge the status quo and continue to inspire us. Remember, too, that no matter where life takes you, you will always be a part of the Stevens family and always have a home in Hoboken.

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