



Office of the President

Tel 201 216 5213

president@stevens.edu

**President Nariman Farvardin
148th Convocation Address
August 29, 2018**

Today, we are joined by the Honorable Ravi Bhalla, Mayor of our hometown of Hoboken. We are delighted and most honored that Mayor Bhalla has made time to welcome you, the incoming Class of 2022 and the newest members of the Stevens community, to the City that will become your home for at least the next four years and perhaps beyond. Mayor Bhalla, you may not know many students fall in love with Hoboken during their time here and many—at last count, more than 600—graduates have chosen to stay on in Hoboken and build a life here. Many younger alumni are providing talent to fuel new firms such as—EY, Jet.com, Newell Brands, and Wiley, to name a few, and quite a few have launched new technology ventures right here in Hoboken. Another interesting fact that you may not know is that just last month, the 2019 edition of the Princeton Review ranked Stevens and Hoboken #3 in the nation for “best college towns.”

And now, it is my privilege to welcome the Mayor of Hoboken, Ravinder S. Bhalla. Mayor, would you join me at the podium?

Mayor Bhalla was elected as Hoboken’s 39th Mayor on November 7, 2017, and the City of Hoboken—and Stevens—are fortunate to have him. Since taking office, he has championed a wide variety of initiatives, from quality of life issues such as improving the City’s aging infrastructure, enhancing Hoboken’s resiliency, strengthening mass transit, and expanding open space to promoting the arts, enhancing the business climate, and maintaining a balanced budget that serves the best interests of the stakeholders of Hoboken. His commitment to diversity and inclusion, and to human rights, is a hallmark of his leadership both as Mayor, and in his eight years as a City Councilman.

Stevens is especially grateful that Mayor Bhalla has been a wonderful collaborator to the university. His partnership, in efforts ranging from the Hoboken Leadership Roundtable, aimed at developing Hoboken as a technology hub, to his leadership and support of Stevens’ recent efforts to rezone the campus, which will enable Stevens to thrive for decades to come, are only a few of the reasons Stevens is grateful to Mayor Bhalla.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Mayor Bhalla received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Psychology from the University of California at Berkeley, then earned the Master of Science degree in Public Administration and Public Policy from the London School of Economics. He then earned a Juris Doctor Degree from Tulane Law School in New Orleans, Louisiana and went on to practice law as a civil rights attorney. He has dedicated his public and professional life to service.

Without further ado, please join me in welcoming Mayor Bhalla to say a few words.