



President Nariman Farvardin
150th Convocation Address
September 2, 2020

Class of 2024, colleagues, and members of the extended Stevens community, I am delighted to welcome you to Stevens Institute of Technology's 150th Convocation ceremony, the official and ceremonial opening of a new academic year.

At some point in the future when we all look back on the start of the 2020-21 academic year, we will remember this most unusual start to your journey of intellectual and personal growth at Stevens. While we will likely remember the special precautions we are all taking—face coverings, social distancing, handwashing, and testing—I am confident we will also remember the grit and determination that you have shown in getting to this moment. You are the reason we are here. You are our pride and joy. You are Stevens Ducks—and we protect our flock! Each of us has a tremendous opportunity as well as a serious responsibility to make this year the best it can be and the safest it can be. We are counting on each of you to act responsibly so that we may continue and expand on-campus learning and living for all members of our community.

Convocation marks 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 will 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 to attend Stevens for any number of important reasons. 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 of your comfort zone and, I assure you, you will achieve great things.

This year will present unusual challenges for us all. Remember, tough times don't last, but tough people do. Take care of yourself and each another. Respect and learn from the differences among us. Work together to help each another cope and succeed. You and the entire Stevens community will emerge stronger than ever.

Welcome to Stevens, Class of 2024. I look forward to seeing you in person, getting to know you individually, and watching each of you achieve your fullest potential.