



Office of the President

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**President Nariman Farvardin**  
**154<sup>th</sup> Commencement Address**  
**Graduate Ceremony**  
**May 20, 2026**

Class of 2026, today, we celebrate not only your academic accomplishments but also your resilience, your determination and your innovative spirit. So, to start, I offer you my heartfelt congratulations.

You complete your advanced studies at a singular moment. Our nation is marking its 250th anniversary. Artificial intelligence is reshaping every field you will lead. And the world is asking who is prepared to navigate this transformation with both technical depth and sound judgment.

You are.

Stevens was founded in 1870 by America's First Family of Inventors on the conviction that rigorous thinking and practical invention can improve lives and change the world. Your advanced education has equipped you to carry that conviction forward — with specialized expertise, critical thinking and the ethical awareness needed to address the most complex challenges of our time.

I want to say a word about the moment you are entering, because I know it weighs on many minds. There is real concern about the role of artificial intelligence in reshaping the workforce. I would offer you a different perspective. AI will indeed transform work that is physically or cognitively simple or repetitive. But the work that requires deep expertise, original thinking and ethical judgment — the work you have trained to do — is more essential than ever. The world needs people who can lead at the intersection of technology and humanity. That is what your education here has prepared you to do.



Innovation is not merely about creating something new. It is about challenging established thinking, pushing boundaries and having the courage to pursue solutions that others overlook. Take that courage with you.

Before I close, a word to the families and friends in this audience. Today is your achievement, too. Thank you for the support you have given our graduates along the way and congratulations to you all.

Class of 2026, you are joining a network of nearly 60,000 Stevens alumni worldwide. Lean on this community. And no matter where life takes you, you will always be part of the Stevens family.

Congratulations!