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**President Nariman Farvardin
154th Convocation Address
Undergraduate Ceremony
September 4, 2024**

Class of 2028, colleagues, honored guests and members of the extended Stevens community, I am delighted to welcome you to Stevens Institute of Technology's 154th Undergraduate Convocation ceremony, the official and ceremonial opening of a new academic year.

For Stevens, the start of a new academic year means many things – a new beginning and a celebration among our community as we welcome Stevens' incoming class. We welcome you, all 1,130 new students of the Class of 2028, to Stevens and to the City of Hoboken that will become your home for at least the next four years and perhaps beyond.

We are joined today by our esteemed faculty and dedicated staff, the heart and soul of this university. Their commitment to guiding the educational journey of our students is what powers the Stevens engine. Here in this room, among our students, lies the potential to change the world and to become the next generation of technologists, innovators, entrepreneurs and leaders upon which our society depends. The expertise and caring support of Stevens' faculty and staff will help our students achieve their full potential and make their mark in our world.

To the newest members of our Stevens family, I would like to say this: You will be challenged by your professors as you embark upon your studies, but you will learn and accomplish things you never thought possible. Use your years here to push yourself outside your comfort zone. Explore the academic and creative offerings available to you. Take advantage of research and internship opportunities and international exchange programs. Volunteer for service opportunities. Sit in the dining hall with someone you haven't met yet. Sign up for a "Pancakes with the President" breakfast and share breakfast and conversation with me and my wife, Hoveida. Everyone you see here – myself included – is here to help you be successful. You will find every opportunity and every support within our means to flourish and to enjoy your years here.

Our motto at Stevens, *per aspera ad astra*, means "through adversity to the stars." Here, you are surrounded by a talented group of students, supported by a stellar and caring group of faculty and



assisted by administrators who will help guide you through challenges as you carry the spirit of this university — of innovation and entrepreneurship — forward and on to the stars.

Welcome to Stevens, Class of 2028. I look forward to seeing you on campus, getting to know you individually and watching each of you thrive and grow in the years ahead. I know great things are in store for you.

Thank you.