



President Nariman Farvardin
151st Convocation Address
September 22, 2021

Class of 2025, colleagues, and members of the extended Stevens community, I am delighted to welcome you to Stevens Institute of Technology's 151st 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. But this year is particularly special. For all of us here today, it is not just the start to another year but the resumption of college life as we know it – albeit with precautions and safeguards still in place. I can't tell you how thrilled I am to hold today's ceremony in person and to be able to personally greet each and every one of you in the days ahead when I see you on campus.

It has required great strides by all of us in this room to reach this point. To the newest members of our Stevens family, I would like to say this: You have persevered in your studies during one of the most disruptive periods in recent history, and that same hard work, discipline, and persistence will serve you well throughout your years at Stevens and your entire lives. Undoubtedly, it has not been an easy time, but you will emerge stronger because of it. To our faculty and staff: your unwavering dedication and commitment to educating and supporting our students will prepare them to become the next generation of technologists, innovators, entrepreneurs, and leaders upon which our society depends, now more than ever before. Your expertise and caring support will help them to achieve their full potential and make their mark in our world.

The Class of 2025 is the largest in Stevens' history – over 1,100 strong – and so incredibly talented. You will be challenged by your professors as you embark on your studies, but you will learn and accomplish things you never thought possible. You will have opportunities to design innovative solutions to real problems, conduct research, hold internships, study abroad, launch companies, create original works, engage in extra-curricular experiences, and pursue your dreams. 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.

Welcome to Stevens, Class of 2025. 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.

And now, it is my great pleasure to introduce Stevens' new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Jianmin Qu. Like you, today marks a new beginning for him as he joins Stevens' leadership team as Stevens Chief Academic Officer. I am delighted to officially welcome him to the Stevens family, and I look forward to the impact that he will make on your education and to Stevens in the years ahead.

