



STEVENS
INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY
THE INNOVATION UNIVERSITY

President Nariman Farvardin
Accepted Students Day Reception Remarks
April 19, 2015

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to Stevens Institute of Technology.

First, let me congratulate the young women and men who are here today. Because of your hard work, leadership and dedication to excellence in your scholarly pursuits, you have been accepted into one of the nation's premier technological universities.

Please take a moment to look around you. Among those accepted into the Class of 2019 are several National Merit Finalists, a few All-American Athletic Recruits, an opera singer, a national champion Irish step dancer, and many published researchers. You are a part of the most diverse and accomplished group ever admitted to Stevens.

Second, I want to offer a very special welcome to the parents and families who are here today. All of the stellar achievements you have made in your lifetime are the result not only of your own hard work and talent, but also of the care and sacrifice your families have made to help you become the people you are today and the people you will become in the future. I extend a very special thank you to the parents and families who have done so much to bring you to this point in your life.

And I want to say this to the parents—should your daughters and sons come to Stevens—and we sincerely hope they do, we will do everything in our power to take good care of these young men and women whom you have raised. We will challenge their intellects, we'll expose them to new opportunities, and we will nurture their success as professionals in their chosen fields and as responsible, ethical and honorable citizens of the world.

Entrusting your daughters and sons to any university is a big step. I want to assure you that I will personally see to it that Stevens takes good care of these young men and women and helps them to flourish both academically and personally.

It was President Kennedy who said, "To whom much is given, much is required." These gifts you have been given—your intellect, your tenacity, your talents, and your leadership skills—position you to be a dynamic force that can shape the future.

As Stevens students, you will have the opportunity to hone your talents and join the ranks of Stevens graduates who have gone on to make a mark on the world—in fields as diverse as the arts and literature, technology development, medicine, business and finance, energy, and more.

You have been admitted to Stevens because we believe you are prepared to take full advantage of the extraordinary opportunities available here. I sincerely believe that Stevens can offer you a distinctive and superior education.

But you must know that this is not a one-way street. Stevens will also benefit from your contribution to the university and to our community. The interests you have, the passions you hold, the talents you possess...these will all impact our university in ways we cannot yet imagine.

Through their participation in international academic competitions such as the Solar Decathlon, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy; through their musical talents in the Stevens Choir or Stevens Jazz Band; and through their social activism and volunteerism, such as was displayed by over 300 students in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, our students enrich our community in many, many ways.

We also have a number of incredibly talented and hard-working athletes who balance their commitment to their sport with dedication to their studies. This year, we have had four NCAA Division 3 Champions in Women's Cross Country, Women's Track & Field, and the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke in Women's Swimming. A junior on our fencing team finished 8th and earned All-American status at the NCAA Men's Fencing National Championships; and a junior on our Men's Tennis team has been ranked as high as 2nd in the country in singles. Our Men's Volleyball team is ranked #1 in the nation and is the top seed in the upcoming NCAA Division 3 Men's Volleyball Championships that will be hosted at Stevens next weekend. All 26 of our athletics teams boast a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. Our students also participate in any number of clubs and activities from student government to the Philosophy Club, the Yacht Club to the Bowling Club, Hillel, Habitat for Humanity, Society of Women Engineers, the Drama Society, the Knitting Club, the Entertainment Committee, the radio station, and more.

Stevens is a relatively small university, with important benefits of a larger university: a rich and diverse campus environment combined with a close-knit community. This environment allows students to develop lasting bonds with other students, with their professors, with the Deans, and with the many people on campus who are here to help you be successful.

I know this because I meet with students regularly in forums such as a tradition called "Pancakes with the President."

About once a month, my wife, Hoveida, our dog Martini, and I host students at our campus residence for a pancake breakfast. We learn a lot from our students—including what inspires them and what we can do to make this an even better place. If you are interested in "Pancakes with the President" and meeting Martini, all new students will have the opportunity to sign up in the Fall.

Now, as President, I have a number of responsibilities. One that I am always happy to do, and which I must do before I leave the stage today, is to brag a bit about Stevens.

And so, in the tradition of the favorite viral news site of Millennials, BuzzFeed, I would like to give you my list of "Top 5 Reasons Stevens is the university of choice."

Number 5: Our hometown of Hoboken is consistently ranked as a top college town and made the Princeton Review's list of best college towns last year. It is a wonderful, charming community to live, to volunteer, to be entrepreneurial, and to just "hang out." And, Hoboken's location on the Hudson River provides us with, unequivocally, the best view of New York City, and the best access to the rich resources of the Big Apple.

Number 4: Stevens has an unbelievable track record in turning out successful graduates—from Alexander Calder, who invented the art form known as the mobile; to Mark Crispin, who invented the technology that allows us to check email and access attachments from different devices; to Alfred Fielding, inventor of Bubble Wrap; a former president of Ecuador; a director of NASA; a Nobel prize winner; and many, many successful inventors and entrepreneurs. As you can see, Stevens graduates claim a long list of contributions across a wide variety of domains.

Number 3: Return on Investment. Stevens is ranked #3 in the nation for ROI according to PayScale's 2015 College ROI report. Stevens is also ranked third in the nation for Best Career Placement in The Princeton Review's 2015 edition of "Colleges that Pay You Back." Why? Virtually 100% of Stevens students get real world experience through participation in internships, cooperative education, or undergraduate research experiences, giving them an edge in their job search. In short, Stevens students get jobs, and they get highly paid jobs.

Number 2: Innovation and entrepreneurship are part of our DNA. Our faculty are living at the nexus of the classroom, and the boardroom, giving students amazing opportunities.

As a freshman you can develop a new business idea and simulate running a small company in our Intro to Entrepreneurship course and as a senior, you participate in the annual Innovation Expo, where teams exhibit research, new business ideas, and innovative products they have developed over the course of their senior year. This year's projects range from urban environment simulation technology for emergency planning, to performance enhancing robotics for special operations military combatants, a solar-powered vaccine transport system, social media applications, and wearable technology.

Come back to campus on April 29th, and see our Innovation Expo for yourself.

And the #1 reason, why Stevens is the university of choice? Because we want you. We are committed to your success. Here, you have an unparalleled opportunity to realize your dreams. Your qualities as students, scholars, and members of society will shape this university and elevate it to new heights. And we will do everything we can to shape your growth, too: to help you achieve your full potential, to make lasting bonds with your friends and faculty mentors, to explore new areas of interest, to be intellectually challenged in ways you have not yet experienced, and to prepare you to make your mark on the world.

Thank you all for spending your day with us. We hope you enjoy the afternoon, and I look forward to welcoming you here in the fall.