



CONVOCATION SPEECH

Dr. Harry K. Moon • President, Nova Southeastern University

Friday, August 14, 2026, 10 a.m. Rick Case Arena, Taft University Center

Good morning!

To our newest Sharks, to your parents, families, and friends, to our outstanding faculty and staff, and to everyone joining us today—welcome to Nova Southeastern University.

Today is a very special day.

It is a day of celebration, a day of gratitude, and the beginning of an exciting new chapter in your life. Each of you has worked hard to reach this moment, and everyone gathered here today shares in your accomplishment.

Congratulations

Each of you arrives with your own story, your own dreams, and your own reasons for choosing NSU. Beginning today, those individual stories become part of something much larger—the story of this remarkable university.

And what an exciting time to become a Shark.

You are joining a university that is growing in reputation, expanding its impact, and creating opportunities for students that simply did not exist just a few years ago.

I could spend the next few minutes talking about our rankings, our research achievements, or the many recognitions Nova Southeastern University has earned. We are proud of those accomplishments, but they are not what defines us.

What defines NSU is our commitment to preparing students not simply to earn a degree, but to build meaningful careers, lead lives of purpose, and make a difference in the world.

Our responsibility is not only to educate you, but to help you discover your purpose, develop your talents, and prepare you to become leaders in your professions, your communities, and our society.

That commitment is shaping the future of this university.

We are creating new pathways that help students achieve their goals more quickly. We are expanding hands-on learning, strengthening partnerships with leading employers and healthcare systems, and investing in research and innovation that improve lives.

Whether your passion is medicine, business, law, education, psychology, marine science, artificial intelligence, or one of the many other disciplines represented here today, you will have opportunities to learn by doing—not simply by sitting in a classroom.

That has always been one of the great strengths of Nova Southeastern University. Sixty years ago, NSU welcomed just seventeen graduate students who believed in the vision of a young university.

Today, we are a Carnegie R1 research university educating nearly 21,000 students. We educate more healthcare professionals than any university in the nation, conduct research that addresses some of society's most important challenges, and continue to expand our leadership in healthcare, research, innovation, and the ocean sciences.

The future of this university has never been brighter.

And today, you become an important part of that future.

You are not simply this year's entering class. You are the next generation of Sharks. You bring new energy, fresh ideas, diverse experiences, and extraordinary promise to our university. Every great university is renewed by the students who choose to become part of it, and beginning today, you are helping shape the next chapter in Nova Southeastern University's history.

Approximately 1,400 first-year students are joining us today. Forty-two percent of you come from outside Florida. Nearly 500 of you are the first in your families to attend college, and more than 100 have come to NSU from countries around the world.

Each of you has taken a different path to arrive here. Some of you have overcome significant obstacles. Some have already distinguished yourselves as scholars, leaders, athletes, artists, entrepreneurs, or volunteers in your communities.

Every one of you has earned your place at Nova Southeastern University.

Together, you have also achieved something remarkable.

This incoming class has earned the highest entering GPA in the history of our university.

That is certainly worth celebrating.
(Pause for applause.)

But while those accomplishments earned you admission to NSU, they will not define your future.

What will define your future is what you do beginning today.

The friendships you build.

The challenges you embrace.

The professors who inspire you.

The opportunities you seize.

The lives you touch.

You will discover strengths you never knew you possessed. You may even discover a path you never imagined for yourself.

Embrace those moments.

Growth almost always happens outside your comfort zone.

Get involved.

Ask questions.

Seek mentors.

Conduct research.

Study abroad.

Serve your community.

Say yes to opportunities that challenge you to grow.

As your president, I want you to know something that is very important to me.
We believe in you.

We admitted you because we saw your potential. But more importantly, we know your greatest accomplishments are still ahead of you.

Our faculty and staff are committed to helping you succeed—not only academically, but personally and professionally. We want you to leave NSU prepared to lead, to serve, and to make a meaningful difference wherever life takes you.

So dream big.

Work hard.

Support one another.

Lead with integrity.

Take advantage of every opportunity this university places before you. Some of you will complete your degrees in the traditional timeframe. Others will benefit from our new accelerated pathways and reach their goals even sooner.

Congratulations on everything you have achieved to reach this moment.

Thank you for choosing Nova Southeastern University.

Welcome to the Shark family.

It is an honor to serve as your president. I look forward to watching you grow, celebrating your successes, and—whether it is sooner through one of our accelerated pathways or after a traditional course of study—welcoming you to the commencement stage, shaking your hand, and congratulating you on one of the most important days of your life.

Welcome to Nova Southeastern University.

And most importantly...

Welcome home to Nova Southeastern University.