



CONVOCATION SPEECH

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

Thursday August 14, 10:00 a.m. • Rick Case Arena, Taft University Center

Good morning, distinguished faculty, dedicated staff, proud family and most of all our incredible incoming students.

Today marks more than a milestone. It is a moment of convergence...where aspiration meets action, and where the legacy of our institution rises anew in the hearts and minds of each of you.

Let's begin by reflecting not just on where we are today, but on how we've evolved.

Sixty years ago, our university welcomed its very first cohort. We first opened as a graduate school with an inaugural class of 17 students.

Those students arrived armed with paper notebooks and pencils...carrying big dreams. Today you arrive with powerful devices, unprecedented access to information, and dreams just as grand...if not grander.

While tools have changed, the spirit remains: to learn, to challenge, to become.

NSU has undergone remarkable transformation. The university is now a dynamic engine of inquiry, creativity, progress and innovation.

Our momentum was further ignited by two milestones this year that will have a significant impact on our great university and the people we serve for decades to come.

NSU attained the elite status of a Carnegie R1 research institution, placing us among the nation's most important research universities. Our achievement of the R1 credential is testament to the passion and commitment of NSU faculty, scientists, students, alumni, and donors who have paved the way for decades.

The second milestone I'd like to bring to your attention is our recent designation by the Carnegie Foundation as an Opportunity College and University. This classification recognized the extent to which institutions like NSU foster opportunities for student success.

Most importantly, it validates that NSU graduates are earning at a significantly higher level than their peers in the area.

But the story does not end here because you, our newest generation, are writing the next chapter.

Together we stand on the precipice of possibility.

Ahead lies discoveries we can't yet name, disciplines we are just beginning to define, and solutions that will be born from your collaboration, insight and courage.

You are not here to merely absorb knowledge, but to act upon it.

The months and years ahead are not a time for passive study but a time for deep, focused, and meaningful exploration and drive.

Mentorship will be a key part of your journey. The guidance you seek today will shape the questions you ask tomorrow. Seek mentors not just for answers, but for perspective. Let their wisdom challenge your assumptions and strengthen your voice.

We are focused on making your journey as meaningful and beneficial as possible. We want you to get the most out of your time here.

If you do well, we do well.

When I look out at all of you, I have great hope for our future.

You...this class, so full of promise...are the future.

You belong to the generation of “why.”

You question, you reimagine, you innovate.

And that is why I believe in you.

It is no accident that you are here today.

You’ve come from every corner of the county, from points around the world, representing a rich spectrum of interests, dreams and backgrounds.

Let me share a few highlights about your fellow class, those who you sit amongst and will embark on this adventure with:

- More than half (54%) of you are pursuing degrees in Biology, Nursing, Marine Biology and Psychology
- 42 states and 44 countries are represented in this cohort
- Among you are students who have launched nonprofits, conducted research on infectious disease, founded free medical clinics, published their work in selective medical journals, won prestigious awards, overcome adversity, and arrived here determined to grow

That is impressive. That is inspiring. That is what excellence is made of.

So, step into this next chapter, this new beginning with open minds and bold hearts. Ask not only what you will study but how you will live.

Success is a combination of desire and hard work.

Remember, sometimes what is told as new is ancient wisdom reborn. And what seems old becomes the platform for discovery.

Congratulations and welcome to the future only you can build.