

MIT Commencement Speakers

- 1880** First MIT Commencement speaker of record (Rev. George E. Ellis)
- 119** MIT Commencement speakers since 1880
- 43** CEOs, chairs, directors, and organization presidents
- 24** MIT alumni
- 11** MIT presidents
- 6** World leaders (Annan, Barco, Clinton, Gore, Salinas, Schmidt)
- 5** Clergy, spiritual leaders, and theologians
- 2** Minutes of silence in lieu of a speaker in 1970
- 1** Commencement held online in 2020
- 0** Commencement exercises in 1918–1919 due to World War I

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Hank Green

Science Communicator, Video Producer, and Entrepreneur

Noubar Afeyan PhD '87

Inventor, Entrepreneur, and Philanthropist

Mark Rober

Engineer, Educator, and Founder of CrunchLabs

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala MCP '78, PhD '81

Director-General, World Trade Organization

Bryan Stevenson

Public Interest Lawyer, Professor, and Social Justice Activist

Admiral William McRaven

United States Navy four-star admiral

Michael Bloomberg

Entrepreneur, Philanthropist, and former New York City mayor

Sheryl Sandberg

COO, Facebook

Tim Cook

CEO, Apple Inc.

Matt Damon

Actor, Filmmaker, and Social Activist

Megan Smith '86, SM '88

United States Chief Technology Officer

Ellen Kullman

CEO and Chair, DuPont

Drew Houston '05

CEO and Founder, Dropbox

Salman Khan '98

Founder, Khan Academy

Ursula Burns

CEO, Xerox

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Raymond S. Stata '57, SM '58

Chair and Founder, Analog Devices

Deval Patrick

Massachusetts Governor

Muhammad Yunus

2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner

Charles Vest HM '94

Former MIT President

Ben Bernanke PhD '79

Chair, Federal Reserve Board

Irwin M. Jacobs '57, ScD '59

Co-Founder and Chair, Qualcomm

Elias Zerhouni

Director, National Institutes of Health

George Mitchell

Former United States Senator

James Wolfensohn

President, World Bank Group

Daniel Goldin

NASA Administrator

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Carly Fiorina SM '89

President and CEO, Hewlett-Packard

Ray Magliozzi '72

Host, "Car Talk"

Tom Magliozzi '58

Host, "Car Talk"

William Jefferson Clinton

United States President

David Ho

CEO and Director, Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center

Kofi Annan SM '72

United Nations Secretary-General

Albert Gore

United States Vice President

Hanna H. Gray

President Emeritus, University of Chicago

Karim Aga Khan IV

Spiritual Leader, Shia Ismaili Muslims

Carlos Salinas de Gortari

President, United Mexican States

Leslie Aspin PhD '66

United States Representative from Wisconsin

Walter E. Massey

Director, National Science Foundation

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