BLACK GRADUATION CEREMONY

NKYINKYIM: TWISTING
Nkyinkyim depicts the tortuous nature of life’s journey.
These twists and turns require one to be versatile and resilient to survive.

UC San Diego Class of 2021
11th of June
6:00pm
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>2021 BLACK GRADUATION</strong></th>
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<td><strong>ORDER OF CEREMONY</strong></td>
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**Opening**

Pamela Fruge  
*Chief Administrative Officer*  
*Colleges Business Office*  

Sianna Gideon  
*UC San Diego Student*  

**Black National Anthem**

**Welcome Remarks**

Pradeep Khosla  
*Chancellor*  

Becky Petitt, Ph.D.  
*Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity & Inclusion*  

**Senior Speaker**

Jordan Ward, *Class of 2021*  

**Award Presentations**

**Keynote Address**

Stephanie Akpa, *Class of 2006*  

**Recognition of Graduates**

Edwina Welch, Ed.D.  
*Director, Cross Cultural Center*  

**Rites of Passage**

Fnann Keflezighi  
*Chair, Black Alumni Council, Class of 2011*  

**Presentation of Graduates**

**Closing**

Porsia Curry  
*Director, Black Resource Center*
“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

"The Black National Anthem" by James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing
Till Earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty:
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died: Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears have been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee: Lest, our hearts drunk with the
wine of the world, we forget thee: Shadowed beneath thy hand,
May we forever stand.
True to our God,
True to our native land.
Jordan Ward is a Political Science major with a concentration of public policy from South Los Angeles California. During her time on this campus she had many opportunities to work with and for the Black community. She has held three positions with the Black Student Union executive board from 2018-2021 which includes the Chair of the Black Student Union. She was also an intern at Black Resource Center in 2019-2020. Similar to many students she is a first generation student as well as the first woman in her family to attend a four year university. After graduation she plans to continue her education in legal studies in San Diego California.

Thank you to my family, friends, and all that have believed in me when I did not. Thank you to all who decided to willingly deal with me over the course of these 4 years. You will be remembered. I appreciate and love you. I did it momma!!!
Keynote Speaker

Stephanie is the former Chief Counsel to Senator Elizabeth Warren. During her time in Senator Warren’s office, Stephanie led a wide-ranging portfolio that included criminal justice, civil rights, anti-corruption immigration, judicial nominations, antitrust, and many other issues.

Stephanie began her legal career as a litigation associate at a large law firm in New York, where her practice focused on regulatory matters, international dispute resolution, and white collar cases. While there, Stephanie also represented clients in criminal defense and immigration pro bono cases and served as co-director of the firm’s legal clinic with a middle school in Bronx, New York.

Stephanie then joined the staff of the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, first as an Equal Justice Works Fellow and then as a Staff Attorney, where she led a project focused on ensuring access to health care in the low-income African American community in D.C.

Afterward, Stephanie transitioned to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where she specialized in enrollment policy and operations for the federal health insurance marketplaces.

Earlier this year, Stephanie joined the Biden-Harris Administration as a Senior Advisor at the Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Health and Human Services.

Stephanie is a proud alum of UCSD, Marshall College, class of 2006, and earned her law degree from Yale Law School. While at UCSD, she served as President of the Black Student Union and was a founding member of the University of California African Black Coalition.

Stephanie was born and raised in San Diego, California, and lives in the Washington, DC area with her husband and their fierce and fearless 2-year-old daughter.
"We need more light about each other. Light creates understanding, understanding creates love, love creates patience, and patience creates unity." ~Malcolm X
“Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope is in the Lord.”
— Jeremiah 17:7

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”
— Nelson Mandela

When looking at the world, focus on solving the big things and the small ones will fall into place.

“Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope is in the Lord.”
— Jeremiah 17:7

One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors ~Plato
M.S. BIOLOGY

“And if I gotta crawl I’m a make it to the end though, and to the top I’m a climb my way, and tell em I’m a rise, I’m headed for the sky, I’m on my way “
~ J. Cole

BUBILE VICTORIA LESSLEY

M.S. CHEMISTRY

“All things work together for our good“
Romans 8:28

MAKADI Ndjondo

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

“We live today so tomorrow can be better.”
By me
Class of 2021

Yvonne Payne

Master of Education

"Only mothers can think of the future because they give birth to it in their children”
~Maxim Gorky

Briana Reed

Master of Professional Accountancy

The kind of beauty I want most is the hard-to-get kind that comes from within - strength, courage, dignity.
~Ruby Dee
Class of 2021

BACHELOR’S DEGREES

OLUSHEUN AKINRIMISI

B.S. CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY
Minor: Education Studies
College: John Muir

"If there's no enemy from within, the enemy on the outside can do us no harm."

HEIDI ALSANGAK

B.A. COMMUNICATION
College: Thurgood Marshall

“I’m counting on y'all counting on me”

RACHEL ASIEDU

B.A. COMMUNICATION
Minor: African-American Studies
College: Thurgood Marshall

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13

MYLES BOSOMPEM

B.S. GENERAL BIOLOGY
Minor: History
College: Earl Warren
Class of 2021

Celeste Brown

B.S. Clinical Psychology
B.A. Human Developmental Sciences
College: Thurgood Marshall

"Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations"
~Dr. Mae Jemison

Rachel Cage

B.S. Biochemistry and Cell Biology
Minor: Psychology
College: Thurgood Marshall

“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.” ~Marian Wright Edelman

Luwana Buckner

B.A. Visual Arts—Media
Minor: Sociology
College: John Muir

“Out of massive suffering emerged the strongest souls; the most massive characters are seared with scars.” ~Khalil Gibran

Kaley Cooksey

B.A. Political Science
College: Thurgood Marshall

“Always do your best & be your best”
~My dad
Desinae Davis

*B.S. Real Estate and Development*
- **Minor:** Business
- **College:** John Muir

“It’s not what you look at that matters, it’s what you choose to see. Perception is everything. Positive perception creates a positive experience.”

Jada Elam

*B.A. International Business*
- **Minor:** Accounting
- **College:** John Muir

“If you see beauty in something, don’t wait for others to agree.”
— Sherihan Gamal

Devin Doss

*B.A. Japanese Studies*
- **B.A. Chinese Studies**
- **College:** Eleanor Roosevelt

Khalid Abdelrahm Elfaki

*B.A. Communication*
- **College:** Roger Revelle

"It's a marathon not a race"
— Nipsey Hussle
Class of 2021

Juliana Foley

B.S. Chemical Engineering
Minor: Business
College: Earl Warren

“You have gotta lose your mind, just to find your peace of mind.”
~Jhené Aiko

Destiny Freeman

B.A. Political Science:
International Relations
College: Eleanor Roosevelt

“At you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.”
~Audrey Hepburn

Jacob Fraizer

B.S. Mathematics and Computer Science
College: Sixth

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”
~Aristotle

Taylor Gaines

B.S. Global Health
College: Eleanor Roosevelt

“Don’t try to lessen yourself for the world; let the world catch up to you.”
~Beyoncé Knowles
Nebiyu Getahun

**B.S. Physiology and Neuroscience**

Minor: History  
College: Earl Warren

“Success without integrity is failure.”

Courtney Green

**B.A. Human Development**

Minor: Psychology  
College: Earl Warren

Macune Gilruth

**B.S. General Chemistry**

College: Sixth

“Question Everything”

Kendall Green

**B.A. Sociology: Law & Society**

Minor: Urban Studies and Planning  
College: Earl Warren

“Hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories”

~Amilcar Cabral

Most people want to skip the process, not knowing that when you skip steps, you miss lessons. If you start small and build on what you have, you can continue to multiply that into something greater, while picking up all of the valuable lessons along the way. ~Nipsey Hussle
RODAS HAILU

B.S. BIOENGINEERING
College: John Muir

"Better to have a short life that is full of things
you like doing than a long life spent in a
miserable way." ~Allan Watts

SHERRIAH HARRINGTON

B.S. HUMAN BIOLOGY
Minor: Global Health
College: Roger Revelle

“So do not fear, for I am with you:
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”
Isaiah 41:10

CHASE HAMILTON

B.A. SOCIOLOGY
College: Thurgood Marshall

Stay down even when you’re up

SAIDA HASSAN

B.A. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS
Minor: African-American Studies
College: Eleanor Roosevelt

“Change your life today. Don't gamble on the
future, act now, without delay.”
― Simone de Beauvoir,
The Book of Positive Quotations
**YASRIBA KELIL HASSAN**

**B.A. Sociology: Law and Society**  
**Minor:** Political Science  
**College:** Thurgood Marshall

"You gotta go hard, you gotta believe in Yourself [...] You gotta just stick to the script, believe and have an overwhelming confidence. Be your own biggest fan, your own biggest believer, and put it on your back and carry the weight." ~Nipsey Hussle

**KRISTINA HEISSER**

**B.S. Psychology: Human Health**  
**B.S. Human Developmental Sciences**  
**Minor:** Urban Studies and Planning  
**College:** John Muir

“I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me”  
Philippians 4:13

**CAMERON HAYWOOD**

**B.A. Interdisciplinary Computing and the Arts**  
**College:** Eleanor Roosevelt

“No deserves to have the power to control your life but you “  
~Jazmine Sullivan

**MONE’ HICKS**

**B.A. Sociology**  
**Minor:** Health Care: Social Issues  
**College:** John Muir

“Everything in the universe is within you. Ask all from yourself.”  
~Rumi
Asyria Holland

B.S. Physiology and Neuroscience
Minor: ICAM
College: Roger Revelle

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift. That’s why they call it present"
~Master Oogway

Ikran Ibrahim

B.S. Biochemistry and Cellular Biology
Minor: Psychology
College: John Muir

"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change, I am changing the things I cannot accept"
~Maya Angelou

Kaylee Howard

B.A. Communication
B.A. Sociology: Culture & Communication
College: John Muir

"Success is not final; failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts"
~Winston Churchill

Karen Johnson

B.A. Psychology
Minor: Business
College: Sixth

"Success isn't about how much money you make. It's about the difference you make in people's lives."
~Michelle Obama
Kevin Jones

B.A. Sociology: Science and Medicine
College: Earl Warren

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”
~Nelson Mandela

Jasmine Kennedy

B.S. Sociology: Law and Society
College: Thurgood Marshall

“You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time.”
— Angela Davis

Deddeh Kaba

B.A. Communication
Minor: African-American Studies
College: Thurgood Marshall

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today”
~Malcolm X

Evodie Koutouan

B.S. Human Biology
Minor: Business
College: Roger Revelle

“Cherish your visions and your dreams as they are the children of your soul, the blueprints of your ultimate achievements.”
~Napoleon Hill.

“Cherish your visions and your dreams as they are the children of your soul, the blueprints of your ultimate achievements.”
~Napoleon Hill.
MAKAYLA LAWRENCE

B.A. Communication
Minor: Cognitive Science
College: Earl Warren

“You may shoot me with your words, You may cut me with your eyes, You may kill me with your hatefulness, But still, like air, I'll rise. [...] Out of the huts of history's shame I rise Up from a past that's rooted in pain I rise” — Maya Angelou

ANTHONY LONGMIRE JR.

B.A. Communication
Minor: Entrepreneurship & Innovation
College: Thurgood Marshall

"The best way to make dreams come true is to wake up.”
~Mae C. Jemison

CHRISTINA LIVINGSTON

B.A. Anthropology: Archaeology
Minor: Critical Gender Studies
College: Thurgood Marshall

"Without struggle, there is no progress.”
~Frederick Douglass

MICHAEL LYKEN

B.S. Cognitive Science: Machine Learning & Neural Computation
Minor: Communication
College: Sixth

“For with God nothing shall be impossible”
Luke 1:37
Class of 2021

**Soraya Moss**

*B.A. International Studies: International Business*
College: John Muir

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us”
~Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Symonay Muhammad**

*B.A. Sociology: Social Inequality*
College: John Muir

“You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take.”
~Wayne Gretzky

~Michael Scott

**Tenomewah Murray**

*B.S. Political Science: International Relations*
Minors: African-American Studies and Critical Gender Studies
College: Thurgood Marshall

“Happy Beans Sprout”- The Beans

**Malik Navarra Gilbert**

*B.A. Sociology*
Minors: Political Science & Ethnic Studies
College: Thurgood Marshall

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”
~El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz
Class of 2021

Amaya Nellum

B.S. Clinical Psychology
College: Sixth

“You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.”
– Max Ehrmann

Mora Ogamba

B.S. Computer Engineering
College: Earl Warren

“When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid.”
– Audre Lorde

Shaylen Nelson

B.A. Visual Arts: Studio
College: Earl Warren

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”
– Romans 12:2

Dalja Parks

B.S. Human Biology
Minor: Psychology
College: John Muir

“Things may seem impossible. People may say its impossible. The only way you will know if its impossible is if you try! I did and look where I am now”
– Dalja Parks
Jazmin Patterson

B.A. Sociology
College: Roger Revelle

“If you aren’t making mistakes, you aren’t trying”
~My friend Emily

Alexander Pile

B.S. Biochemistry and Cell Biology
B.S. Global Health
College: Thurgood Marshall

Ivy Penn

B.A. Speculative Design
B.A. Business Management
College: John Muir

“...most people unconsciously dream themselves out of their goals. They dream so far past their current reality—or what's currently possible—that they end up abandoning their goals and damaging their own self-esteem.” — Lisa Nichols

Olayemi Shekete

B.S. Social Psychology
B.S. Public Health:
Community Health Sciences
Minor: African-American Studies
College: Thurgood Marshall

“What is given can be taken. What is earned cannot.”
Cieara Simmons

B.A. Global Health
College: Eleanor Roosevelt

“As Black women, we’re always given these seemingly devastating experiences … But what the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the master calls the butterfly. What we do as Black women is take the worst situations and create from that point.”
- Viola Davis

Greyson Sims

B.A. Philosophy
College: Eleanor Roosevelt

“Today has never happened
And it doesn’t frighten me”
- Bjork, Alarm Call

Mignote Tadele

B.A. Political Science: International Relations
Minor: African-American Studies
College: Thurgood Marshall

“No one is going to give you the education you need to overthrow them. Nobody is going to teach you your true history, teach you your true heroes, if they know that that knowledge will help set you free.”
- Assata Shakur

Danna Smith

B.S. Human Biology
Minor: Sociocultural Anthropology
College: Roger Revelle

“It takes a great deal of courage to see the world in all its tainted glory, and still to love it”
- Oscar Wilde
DEANHAL TAWFEK

B.S. Public Health
College: Eleanor Roosevelt

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."
—Sun Tzu

AMIR UQDAH

B.S. Data Science
College: Roger Revelle

“I am the greatest, I said that even before I knew I was”
—Muhammad Ali

NDIYA USIM

B.S. Human Biology
Minor: Psychology
College: Eleanor Roosevelt

"I know, ultimately, I want to help effect change; otherwise, I would look at myself in the mirror every day and think, 'What in the world am I doing with my life?’" -Yara Shahidi

EMMANUEL UYONG

B.A. Political Science
College: Eleanor Roosevelt

“Be present in every moment”
RAECHEL WALKER

B.S. DATA SCIENCE
College: Earl Warren

“Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill His promises to her.”
Luke 1:45

MATTHEW WATKINS

B.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE: PUBLIC LAW
Minor: African-American Studies
College: John Muir

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory that shall be revealed.”
Paul

JORDAN WARD

B.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE: PUBLIC POLICY
College: Roger Revelle

"Im rooting for everybody Black"
~Issa Rae

CIERA WHITE

B.S. SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
College: Thurgood Marshall

“If there is no struggle there is no progress”
~Frederick Douglass
Class of 2021

**TIANNA WHITE**

*B.A. INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS*

College: Sixth

"It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all."

- J.K. Rowling

**BREANNE WILLIAMS**

*B.S. HUMAN BIOLOGY*

Minor: Psychology

College: John Muir

"Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it"

- Maya Angelou

**TRENT WILEY**

*B.S. STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING*

College: John Muir

"You can dream but don't neglect the execution"

- Jermaine Cole

**KHAI WILLIAMS**

*B.S. PHYSIOLOGY AND NEUROSCIENCE*

College: Roger Revelle

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift, that is why it's called the present"

~Master Oogway
ALEXIS DAY

**B.S. ACS Chemistry**
**Xavier University of Louisiana**
**Minor:** Mathematics

"Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think."
_Ephesians 3:30_

VASHTI KNIGHT

**B.S. General Biology**
**Minor:** Global Health
**College:** Roger Revelle

"Sometimes you lose. And you're never too good to lose. You're never too big to lose. You're never too smart to lose. It happens."
_–Beyoncé_

MYASHIA FOX

**B.A. Music**
**College:** Sixth

"You've got big dreams, you want fame. Well fame cost, and right here is where you start paying in sweat."
_–Debbie Allen as Lydia Grant_

JZOV STITH

**B.A. Political Science**
**Minor:** African American Studies
**College:** Thurgood Marshall

"Trust Yourself"
Special Recognition: Class of 2020

Rukky Umukoro

B.S. International Business
Minor: Accounting
College: John Muir

"Do it today, because tomorrow is not promised"

Aliaya White

B.A. Ethnic Studies
College: Roger Revelle

“Understand who you are and who you want to be and the rest will follow.”
Rites of Passage

CEREMONY LEADER: "Who is it that comes to the Ritual of the Crossroads?"

GRADUATES: "It is I, in the person of (give full name)"

CEREMONY LEADER: "Why do you come?"

GRADUATES: "I come because I am of the age of reason and have accepted the challenge of wisdom. I come out of honor for myself, my family, and my ancestors. I come in the African tradition to receive the blessing of God and the permission of this community to be recognized and respected as a person, graduate and educator."

CEREMONY LEADER: (Addressing the community) "What do you say to this request?"

COMMUNITY: "Yebo! (YAY-Bo) Yebo! Yebo!" (Lulu word meaning, "Yes it is done")

CEREMONY LEADER: "I call upon God and our ancestors to witness what we have done."

COMMUNITY: "And who we are."

CEREMONY LEADER: "I call upon the community here present to recognize anew the individuals before you."

COMMUNITY: "We recognize and respect them as people, graduates and educators!"

CEREMONY LEADER: "I call upon you young people to accept the challenge as educators and to move forward in your lives with purpose, honor, dignity, and determination."

GRADUATES: "We pledge our lives and souls to assist our communities, to be an advocate of our people and devote our lives to the betterment of all African people. We will never break this promise. Our ancestors have heard this pledge. They will hold us to this pledge. This is the final and there is no compromise. Yebo!"

CEREMONY LEADER: "Come forth for you have been recognized."
Congratulations Class of 2021!

On behalf of the Black Graduation planning committee, we applaud your achievements and wish you success and happiness in the years to come!

2021 BLACK GRADUATION PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Jordan Ward, 2020-2021 BSU Board Chair

Kyler Nathan IV, Facilities, Operations, & Events Coordinator, Black Resource Center

Jay Rice, Assistant Director, Black Resource Center

Porsia Curry, Director, Black Resource Center

Special thanks to the many volunteers who helped make this event possible!

Black Graduation is sponsored by: Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion, Black Student Union, & the Black Resource Center