Your commencement on **Saturday, June 16th 8:00am** is the last occasion in which you will be an undergraduate member of the Thurgood Marshall College family. On that day a special opportunity will exist for one graduating senior to express, in words, his/her feelings about being a member of our family, as well as his/her hopes for the future.

The Thurgood Marshall College Graduation Committee invites all interested seniors to write a graduation address. All speeches should be submitted to the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Victoria Kerba Miller [vmiller@ucsd.edu](mailto:vmiller@ucsd.edu) no later than **Friday, April 20th 12:00pm** (3rd week). The speeches should be typed (double spaced) and include on a separate page the applicant’s name, email address, phone number.

A maximum of 10 individuals will be chosen to continue to the next judging phase, where they will deliver their speech to the Thurgood Marshall College Graduation Committee on a specified date and time to be determined. All students submitting a speech must sign up for an audition time. **If you are not selected to audition, you will be contacted.** Be reminded that if you are not contacted, you are expected to present your speech. The oral presentation of the commencement speech should not exceed 5 minutes.

**The speeches will be judged in two main categories: content and delivery. The selection committee will use the following criteria:**

**CONTENT:** The selection committee will read the written speeches (the author’s name will not appear on the copies to read by the committee), and rank them in order of preference keeping in mind the following:

1. Content should embrace the spirit of Thurgood Marshall College
2. Creativity and originality
3. Upbeat/inspirational tone
4. Clarity of message
5. Connect with the audience

**DELIVERY:** The selection committee will hear the oral presentation of the speeches by the applicants and rank them in order of preference keeping in mind the following:

- Stage presence (i.e. eye contact with audience), confidence, poise etc.
- Enunciation, articulation, and projection
- Practice and preparation

**Speeches should be five minutes or less.** We encourage you to be as creative and original as you wish, with the message being clear and relevant to the occasion.

Reminder: Selected individuals will deliver speeches to the Graduation Committee during fourth week of the quarter (date to be determined). You must sign up at the Dean’s Office for Speech Auditions when you submit your written speech.