UC San Diego All Campus Commencement

John Lewis, often called “one of the most courageous persons the civil rights movement ever produced,” is keynote speaker at the University of California San Diego All Campus Commencement June 16, 2018. UC San Diego, recognized as one of the top ten public universities in the U.S., is committed to public service and inclusive excellence—two areas that align with the work of John Lewis.

Inspired by the activism surrounding the Montgomery bus boycott and the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as a young boy he made a decision to become a part of the civil rights movement. A devoted advocate of the philosophy of nonviolence, Lewis has remained at the vanguard of progressive social movements and the human rights struggle in the United States. He has served as U.S. Representative of Georgia’s Fifth Congressional District since 1986.

In his talk at UC San Diego’s commencement, Lewis hopes to inspire the audience as he shares his early civil rights involvement and work in Congress. He often tells students, “When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you must have the courage to stand up, to speak up, and find a way to get in the way.”

“Rep. John Lewis has dedicated his life to making our world a better place for everyone by protecting human rights and securing civil liberties,” said UC San Diego Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla. “He stands up for what he believes in and he is not afraid to take risks. These are ideals we aim to convey to our more than 8,000 graduates as they commence their careers and lives beyond the classroom.”

Born the son of sharecroppers, Lewis attended segregated public schools in Alabama. At the age of 25, he helped spearhead one of the most seminal moments of the civil rights movement, leading with Hosea Williams—another notable civil rights leader—more than 600 peaceful, orderly protestors across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala. They intended to march from Selma to Montgomery to demonstrate the need for voting rights in the state. The marchers were attacked by Alabama state troopers in a brutal confrontation that became known as Bloody Sunday. News broadcasts and photographs revealing the senseless cruelty of the segregated South helped hasten the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in religion and philosophy from Fisk University, and is a graduate of the American Baptist Theological Seminary, both in Nashville, Tenn. Lewis is a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor.

The All Campus Commencement kicks off graduation weekend at UC San Diego. Chancellor Khosla will officially confer degrees by academic division upon graduates gathered as one student body. Following the ceremony, the campus’s six undergraduate colleges, two professional schools and various graduate programs will host personalized graduation events.
Commencement 2018 Schedule of Ceremonies
Graduates will be recognized by name as they walk across the stage at ceremonies hosted by the six undergraduate colleges, the Graduate Division, or the professional schools.

Saturday, June 16
9:00 a.m.      All Campus Commencement (RIMAC Field)
12:30 p.m.     Graduate Division Master’s Degrees (RIMAC Arena)
1:00 p.m.       Earl Warren College Commencement (RIMAC Field)
4:00 p.m.      Graduate Division Doctoral Degrees (RIMAC Arena)
4:30 p.m.      John Muir College Commencement (RIMAC Field)
7:30 p.m.      Jacobs School of Engineering Ring Ceremony (Warren Mall)

Sunday, June 17
8:00 a.m.      Eleanor Roosevelt College Commencement (RIMAC Field)
9:00 a.m.       Rady School of Management Commencement (RIMAC Arena)
11:30 a.m.      Revelle College Commencement (RIMAC Field)
1:30 p.m.      School of Global Policy and Strategy Commencement (RIMAC Arena)
3:00 p.m.      Thurgood Marshall College Commencement (RIMAC Field)
6:30 p.m.      Sixth College Commencement (RIMAC Field)

Earlier graduation ceremonies include:
• Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Commencement (May 19)
• School of Medicine Commencement (June 3)
• Scripps Institution of Oceanography Commencement (June 15)

About UC San Diego
At the University of California San Diego, we constantly push boundaries and challenge expectations. Established in 1960, UC San Diego has been shaped by exceptional scholars who aren’t afraid to take risks and redefine conventional wisdom. Today, as one of the top 15 research universities in the world, we are driving innovation and change to advance society, propel economic growth and make our world a better place. Learn more at www.ucsd.edu.