

UCSD to rename Third College for Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall

March 31, 1993

Media Contact: Dolores Davies, (619) 534-5994

UCSD TO RENAME THIRD COLLEGE FOR SUPREME COURT JUSTICE THURGOOD MARSHALL

An effort is currently under way to rename the University of California, San Diego's Third College, one of five undergraduate colleges at UCSD, for the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

"Thurgood Marshall's life and career epitomize the goals of Third College -- justice, diversity and equality," said Cecil Lytle, Provost of Third College. "Despite his many court victories protecting speech, reproductive and voting rights, privacy issues, public accommodation, open housing, and due process, Thurgood Marshall left his most enduring imprint on public education. It is only fitting, especially in view of his recent passing, that we rename Third College in honor of this courageous, civic-minded man."

Thurgood Marshall's commitment to shatter barriers to education began two years after he graduated from the Howard University Law School in 1933, when he won a lawsuit that struck down the very discrimination law that denied him admission to the University of Maryland Law School some years earlier. Twenty years later, as legal counsel for the NAACP, his landmark victory in the Brown vs. Board of Education case of 1954 established the principle that equal education was a right, and the proper nonviolent instrument to effect personal and social change. In 1967, he was appointed justice to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Lyndon B. Johnson. He retired from the bench in 1991.

According to Lytle, the recommendation to rename Third College has been endorsed by the Third College Executive Committee, the UCSD Naming Committee, and the UCSD Faculty Senate Council. The name also, said Lytle, has the "strong and enthusiastic support" of UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson and awaits only approval from the University of California Regents.

Since its inception in 1970, numerous efforts have been initiated to give Third College a proper name that suitably reflects its educational mission and social philosophy. Third College was founded on the principles embodied in the civil rights movement --justice, equality and social responsibility. The college's academic program is considered unique in the nation in that its students receive general education credit for tutoring students in local inner city elementary schools.

(March 31, 1993)