

House Speaker Newt Gingrich delivers UCSD's 1998 commencement address to crowd of 8,000

June 14, 1998

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HOUSE SPEAKER NEWT GINGRICH DELIVERS UCSD'S 1998 COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS TO CROWD OF 8,000

Approximately 8,000 graduates and their families, friends, faculty and other members of the local and campus communities, gathered today to hear Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich deliver the 1998 Commencement Address, Goals for a Generation and Research for the Future, at the University of California, San Diego graduation ceremonies.

"As a strong advocate for science, research, and technology, I am thrilled to have the opportunity today to share my vision of the future, based on four goals for a generation, with the 1998 graduates of UCSD," said House Speaker Newt Gingrich. "The scientific research achievements of UCSD are remarkable providing an excellent forum to advance a dialogue on the future of research and economic growth in America."

Among other initiatives, Speaker Gingrich has promoted scientific research as growth spurs for regional and national technology clusters. In many ways his interest in the role of research universities in developing a region's economic structure reflects UCSD's development of San Diego's leading technology industries. The campus has spun off over 140 local companies, and last year received the third highest amount of federal research funding in the nation.

The Speaker also has sought a closer tie between science exploration and public policy. He conferred with El Nino experts at UCSD's Scripps Institution of Oceanography when considering public policies regarding disaster assistance funding in Africa, crop yields for California agriculture, and seasonal fluctuations in the price of gasoline.

Newt Gingrich was elected to Congress in 1978, became Speaker of the House of Representatives in 1995, and was reelected Speaker in 1997. He received a bachelor's degree from Emory University and a master's degree and doctorate in modern European history from Tulane University. He taught history and environmental studies for eight years at West Georgia College, is the author of *1945* and *To Renew America*, and the co-author of *Window of Opportunity*, and *Contract With America*. Gingrich just recently released his newest book, *Lessons Learned the Hard Way*, (Harper Collins, 1998).

In 1997, UCSD began a new tradition of an all-university ceremony at which President Bill Clinton delivered his landmark address on diversity and race relations. Since its inception, UCSD has had individual graduation ceremonies for its medical school, graduate programs, and undergraduate colleges. The UCSD Medical School ceremonies were held on June 7. Commencement ceremonies for the Graduate Division, Earl Warren College, Eleanor Roosevelt College, and Revelle College will be held this afternoon. Ceremonies for the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS), Muir College, and Thurgood Marshall College were held on June 13. UCSD's class of '98 numbered 3,400 students.

The all-campus commencement ceremony will be taped for broadcast at 8 p.m., Monday, June 15, on UCSD-TV Channel 35. A rebroadcast of the UCSD Medical School commencement will air on UCSD-TV at 8 p.m., Tuesday, June 16.

(June 14, 1998)