



Urban League
San Diego County

Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.

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NEWS RELEASE

ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-SIX, POWER PLAYERS HONORED IN SAN DIEGO

The 2019 Urban League of San Diego County's Golden Pyramid Scholars Awards Celebration & College Signing Day

San Diego, CA - The Urban League of San Diego County, in partnership with UC San Diego, hosted the 28th Annual Golden Pyramid Scholars Award Ceremony and College Signing Day for 196 students, in grades 9th through 12th, who have maintained a cumulative 3.5 or higher grade point average. The event took place Sunday, May 19, 2019, 2:00 p.m., at UC San Diego's Price Center Ballroom. Rear Admiral Alvin Holsey, Commander, Carrier Strike Group ONE, U.S. Navy, keynote speaker, will make special remarks encouraging youth to explore math and science studies and careers.

Family members, friends, community leaders, and board members attended to salute these student power players with high scholastics while community and academic leaders promoted a college-going culture of academic success. The Urban League designed this program to identify, recruit, cultivate and support students who are striving to achieve academic and economic excellence. The college venue exposes students to a college campus and reinforces the perception of college as a viable and achievable option. "The Urban League of San Diego County understands that by openly acknowledging our youth in a public forum, we make it clear to them and the community that we believe in and support their achievements," said Ray King, President, and CEO. "These young leaders are being honored because they demonstrate that 'Achievement Matters.' They are the building blocks of our community and our future leaders. In addition, it is not every day our youth get a chance to hear a special message from leaders like Rear Admiral Alvin Holsey and Chancellor Pradeep Khosla."

The Urban League also used the ceremony to celebrate students receiving college scholarships from Ashford University, U.S.S. Midway. We asked that you help us share a special thanks to UC San Diego and CALSOAP who hosted and partnered with us to plan this great occasion. The Mistress of Ceremony, Ebonee Williams, from UC San Diego, and Masters of Ceremony, Alex Presha, from NBC 7, moved the program along very smoothly with their professional expertise and humor.

Special thanks to all of the sponsors, not mentioned above, who also made the program possible such as Bank of America, Zeeda M. Daniele, Enterprise, National Urban League, San Diego Education Association, San Diego State University, San Diego City College, San Diego Education Association, San Diego Gas & Electric, National Naval Officer Association, and University of San Diego.

Here are the names of the 2019 program participants:

- Al Abdallah, COO, ULSDC
- Mistress of Ceremony, Dr. Ebonee Williams, Executive Director, Gordon Engineering Leadership Center, UC San Diego
- Masters of Ceremonies, Alex Presha, Journalist, NBC 7
- Dr. Pradeep Khosla, Chancellor, UC San Diego
- Honorable Shirley Weber, Ph.D., CA Assembly Member
- Gustavo Bidart, Board Chair, ULSDC (Civic San Diego)
- Rear Admiral Alvin Holsey, Commander, Carrier Strike Group ONE, U.S. Navy, Keynote Speaker
- Dr. Newton Miller is the Associate Dean in the College of Education, Ashford University
- Marco Cromartie, President, National Naval Officer Association
- Tosha Blackshear, VP Relationship Manager, Business Banking, Bank of America
- Jelani Matthews, Chapter President, Urban League of San Diego County Young Professionals
- Oliver Jones, Human Resources, UPS

Here is a link for the program, videos, and photos

<https://www.sdul.org/golden-pyramid-scholars-program>

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Organized in 1953, the Urban League of San Diego County (ULSDC) is a community based, direct service, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) and affiliate of the National Urban League that focuses on empowering underserved communities. ULSDC works to achieve social and economic equality through advocacy, bridge building, programs, services, and research. ULSDC maintains a strong focus on **policy**, **practice**, and **protest** regarding youth education and family support services through employment, housing, elderly health outreach, and women's re-entry programs.