

THE CAMPUS ECHO

EXCELLENCE WITHOUT EXCUSE

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Jordan To Speak At Commencement

Graduation is a time of excitement and apprehension by some students, and an inspirational commencement speaker could help graduating seniors have a better outlook on where they are going. This year's commencement speaker is Ex-Urban League president Vernon Jordan.

Vernon Jordan has served as Urban League president as well as chairman of the Clinton Presidential Transition Board. Jordan's history dates back to the 1960's when he was field secretary for the Georgia Branch of the NAACP and at one time he helped register 2 million southern blacks to vote. He has also been the executive director for the NAACP. With the Urban League, he has helped instigate a high quality of voter registration and social service programs. Jordan resigned from the Urban League in 1981 and practiced private law.

The NCCU commencement will begin at 9 a.m. at O'Kelly-Riddick Stadium.

Jordan is currently a senior partner in the law firm of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P., which has offices in Washington, Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, Houston, New York, and Brussels. He is resident at the law firm's Washington office.

He is a member of the boards of The Brookings Institution, The Ford Foundation, Howard University, the Joint Center for Political & Economic

Studies, the LBJ Foundation, the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., the National Academy Foundation, and the Roy Wilkins Foundation.

He also serves as a director of American Express Company, Bankers Trust New York Corporation, Corning Incorporated, Dow Jones & Company, J.C. Penney Company, Inc., Revlon Group, R.J.R. Nabisco, Inc., Ryder System, Inc., Sara Lee Corporation, Union Carbids Corporation, and Xerox Corporation.

The NCCU commencement speaker has previously served as executive director of the United Negro College Fund, director of the Voter Education Project of the Southern Regional Council, attorney-consultant to the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, assistant to the executive director of the Southern Regional Council, Inc., and Georgia field director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

He served as chair of the White House Conference, "To Fulfill These Rights," in 1966. He has been a member of the National Advisory Commission on Selective Service in 1966-67, the American Revolution Bi-Centennial Commission in 1972, the Presidential Clemency Board in 1974, the Advisory Council on Social Security in 1974, the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on South

Africa in 1985, and the President's Advisory Committee, Points of Light Initiative Foundation, in 1989.

In 1977, Jordan received the Alexis de Toqueville Award of the United Way of America. He has been the author of a weekly syndicated newspaper column, and has also broadcast commentaries for the Westinghouse Broadcast Network. He has been a frequent guest on such television programs as "Meet the Press," "Issues and Answers," and "Face the Nation."

He holds honorary degrees from 47 colleges and universities, including five in North Carolina: Davidson College, Duke University, North Carolina A&T State University, Wake Forest University, and Winston-Salem State University.

Jordan holds the bachelor of arts degree from Depauw University and the juris doctor degree from Howard University. He was a fellow of the Institute of Politics of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 1969.

He has been admitted to the bar in Arkansas, the District of Columbia, and Georgia, as well as to the bar of the U.S. Supreme Court. His memberships include the American Bar Association,



Vernon Jordan

the National Bar Association, the American Law Institute, The University Club, the Century Association, the Board Room,

the Council on Foreign Relations, the Bildenberg Meetings, and the Trilateral Commission.

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