

**Nick Christian ’14 Selected Along With President Obama as a Top Commencement Speaker**

[August 4, 2014](http://wordpress.philau.edu/today/2014/08/04/nick-christian-14-selected-along-with-president-obama-as-a-top-commencement-speaker/)

Philadelphia University alumnus Nicholas Christian ’14 was selected along with President Barack Obama and YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki as one of the year’s top six commencement speakers by the North American Association of Commencement Officers.

“I’m ecstatic,” said Christian, an accountant in NBCUniversal’s Telemundo corporate office in Miami. “To be mentioned next to President Obama this early in my career is more motivating than anything else that I have embarked upon or accomplished in my entire life.”

The association said this year’s top speakers “went above and beyond” to deliver inspiring and unforgettable speeches. “A commencement speaker delivers the final and perhaps one of the most important messages students will hear in their academic career,” said Linda Bekerian, NACCO past president. “To be able to make an impression on the graduates, their families and the academic community speaks volumes about each and every one of these individuals.”

* [Read related article in The Philadelphia Inquirer](http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/campus_inq/Lewis-Katz-recognized-as-top-2014-commencement-speaker.html?c=r)

Nick Christian’s rousing speech moved a crowd of some 6,000 PhilaU graduates, faculty, family and friends to their feet for a standing ovation at the University’s 130th annual Commencement at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts in Fairmount Park on May 17.

“My fellow classmates, what is our destiny?” he asked the Class of 2014. “It is rich with innovation, collaboration and ideas that will change the world. Our destiny is not in question. We say to our friends and our families, to our future and everything that tries to block it, our destiny is greatness!”

A star student-athlete, Nicholas Christian served as a member of the National Honor Society, Student Athlete Advisory Committee and Accounting Society, and as the men’s varsity basketball team captain.

President Obama spoke to graduates at the University of California, Irvine, and YouTube CEO Wojcicki delivered remarks at Johns Hopkins University. ABC News Correspondent John Quinones, Astronaut Col. Michael Hopkins, and the late Philadelphia businessman and philanthropist Lewis Katz rounded out the list of this year’s top speakers.

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