The Black Graduate Recognition Ceremony was started in 1989 by B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S. as a way to celebrate African American culture and achievement at a predominately white institution. This year, 153 graduates participated—134 undergraduates and 19 graduate students—17 master’s degree recipients and 2 doctoral degree recipients—way to go Dr. Thomas Rasheed and Dr. Tia Robinson! Thirty-two graduates earned a 3.0 or higher and seven completed the Minor in Black Studies.

This year’s keynote speaker was alumnus, Marlon Haywood:

Marlon received his M.S.Ed in Adult & Higher Education and a Bachelor’s of Arts in Liberal Studies from NIU. Currently, Marlon is a Doctoral student in the Educational Leadership program at Roosevelt University. Marlon developed Urban Male Initiative, a male mentoring program for first generation minority students at Malcolm X College. He serves as an adjunct faculty for the Urban Male Course at Malcolm-X and Kennedy-King College.

InSPiRATIon…

Marlon Haywood, Keynote Speaker:

Marlon is active in Mentor Teacher Brother (MTB), a non-profit organization that mentors African American male high school students. MTB is the national philanthropy program for Phi Rho Eta Fraternity, Inc., in which he is a proud member. Moreover, Marlon is a Health Disparities Research Fellow at Rush University Medical Center with the focus to address socioeconomic and health disparity issues in low-income communities of Chicago. Still, even with all the work he does with the aforementioned organizations, Marlon felt there was more he could do. He founded Marlon Speaks, LLC, a platform that allows him to use his voice and experiences to promote social change.

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26th Annual Black Graduate Recognition Ceremony
“DARE TO DREAM:
THE JOURNEY TO GREATNESS!”
May 3, 2015
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SENIORS & GRAD STUDENTS—GREAT JOB—DON’T BE A STRANGER!
FRESHMEN – JUNIORS…BE SAFE OVER THE SUMMER, AND SEE YOU IN THE FALL!

PICTURED ABOVE – CENTER FOR BLACK STUDIES STAFF [LEFT TO RIGHT]: Mr. Derrick Smith, Community Outreach Coordinator; Dr. LaVerne Gyant, Director; Dr. Joy Coates, Associate Director; and Ms. Regina Curry, S-Plan Coordinator (not pictured, Mrs. Crystal Slaughter, Office Support Specialist and Don Bramlett, Graduation Specialist)