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96-24

January 18, 1996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WORKSHOP TO FOCUS ON CIVIL RIGHTS, DIVERSITY ISSUES

CHARLESTON -- A workshop on civil rights and diversity topics will be held on Thursday, Jan. 25, at Eastern Illinois University as part of the institution's African American Heritage celebration.

Sponsored by Eastern's Affirmative Action Advisory Committee, the workshop, "Opening Doors: Diversity at Eastern," will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday in the University Union.

Cynthia Nichols, director of affirmative action and cultural diversity at Eastern, said the workshop will cover diversity in the curriculum, services for students and staff with disabilities, gender equity in athletics and the recruitment and retention of minority faculty, staff and students.

"The committee believes that these are all critical topics for the university community, who will have an opportunity to share ideas and learn about these timely issues," Nichols said.

Charles Colbert, vice chancellor for administration and human resources at the University of Illinois at Urbana, is the featured luncheon speaker. Before joining the

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WORKSHOP

U of I administration, Colbert was Eastern's vice president for business affairs. He will talk about how being an African American has impacted his professional career.

The workshop is free and open to students, faculty, staff and the general public. Reservations are required for the luncheon and must be made by noon Wednesday, Jan. 24, with the Office of Affirmative Action at 581-5020. Cost is \$3.