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January 27, 1995

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH TO BE CELEBRATED AT EIU

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University will celebrate Black History Month in February with a variety of events that are open to the public.

On display now through March 5 is an exhibit of African art titled West African Art: Curios of Life and Function at the Tarble Arts Center at Eastern. The exhibition includes masks, musical instruments, statues and other objects used in everyday life in West Africa.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Roslyn Walker, curator of the National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, will discuss "African Art in the Cycle of Life" at 7 p.m. Feb. 16 at the Tarble Arts Center.

Beginning Feb. 1, Eastern's Booth Library will display banners honoring children's literature authors and outstanding African-Americans in technology. Books, posters and examples of their work will also be exhibited.

The 5th National African-American Read-In Chain, hosted by the Eastern District of the Lincoln Association of Teachers of English, will take place at 2 p.m. Feb. 5 in the Paris Room of the University Union at

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Eastern. Individuals are invited to bring books by African-Americans to share and enjoy.

The University Board Human Potential Committee will sponsor the play "Our Young Black Men are Dying and No One Seems to Care" at 7 p.m. Feb. 5 in the Union Grand Ballroom. Admission is \$2 for students and \$5 for the general public. The play is a musical addressing issues such as homelessness, date rape, and domestic violence.

Published playwright, director, choreographer and producer Dianne Dixon will perform a one-woman show, "Claim the Dream," at 8 p.m. Feb. 7 in the Union Grand Ballroom. The performance will focus on freedom, justice and equality. Cost is \$1 for students and \$3 for the general public.

Zelema Harris, president of Parkland College in Champaign, will be the keynote speaker at Eastern's third annual Heritage Dinner at 6 p.m. Feb. 17 in the Union Grand Ballroom. She will speak on black leadership. The dinner, featuring authentic soul food, is \$11 for the public, \$8 for students and \$5 for children under 10. For more information, call Dennis Jones at 581-6456.

Eastern's Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences will present a panel discussion on "The College Experience and The Transition to the Work Place" at 7 p.m. Feb. 21 in Lumpkin Hall Room 122. The panel will include two EIU students and two EIU graduates who will share how their college experiences have prepared them for their careers.

On Feb. 23, the Afro-American Studies Program will sponsor a

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lecture and display of children's literature at 3:30 p.m. at the Tarble Arts Center. Children's book publishers Deborah Chocolate and Vesta Rundle are the guest lecturers.

EIU health studies professor Ollie Mae Ray will look at the effect of African-American influence on theater and dance at 7 p.m. Feb. 24 in the Union Grand Ballroom. The presentation will include a discussion, slide lecture and demonstration of line and group dancing.

The Black Student Union will sponsor a Parents' Appreciation luncheon at 1 p.m. Feb. 25 in the University Ballroom. The luncheon will include a lecture by an East St. Louis minister, an essay contest for "Parent of the Year" and a performance by the group, "Impact."

The Miss Black EIU Pageant will be held at 7 p.m. Feb. 25 in the Union Grand Ballroom. Contestants will be judged on categories designed to express the African-American culture. Cost is \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door.

Black History Month will close with a Multi-Cultural Job Fair beginning at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 28 in the Union University Ballroom. The Career Planning and Placement Center is sponsoring the job fair, which will be attended by more than 65 employers.

For more information about these events, call Eastern's Student Activities Office at 581-3829 or Afro-American Studies Program at 581-5719.