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February 9, 2001

For Immediate Release:

"GOSPEL EXPLOSION" TO BRING A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC TO EIU

CHARLESTON – Choirs from three area churches will join efforts this weekend to fill Eastern Illinois University's University Ballroom with bursts of musical energy.

"Gospel Explosion," which begins at 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, will feature choir members from the Second Missionary Baptist Church of Mattoon and the Charleston Community Church and Faith Builders Church, both of Charleston. Eastern's Unity Gospel Fellowship Choir also will perform.

Admission is free and open to the public.

The event takes place as part of the University's African-American Heritage Celebration 2001 – a month-long commemoration which occurs annually during February.

Mitze Dunn, celebration coordinator, said the list of activities would be incomplete without "Gospel Explosion" in that the event represents the spiritual component of African-American heritage.

"The church has always been our mainstay, our main support system," Dunn explained. "It supplies the roots of African-American heritage."