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NEWS

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For Immediate Release:

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

CHARLESTON – Choirs from area churches, as well as from Illinois State and Indiana State universities, will join efforts this weekend to fill Eastern Illinois University's University Ballroom with bursts of musical energy.

"Gospel Explosion," which begins at 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24, also will include a presentation by Eastern's Unity Gospel Fellowship Choir.

Admission is free and open to the public.

The event takes place as part of the university's African-American Heritage Celebration 2002 – 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."

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Eastern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 10,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern's pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.