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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM SLATED AT EIU

CHARLESTON, IL--Black History Month is being observed at

Eastern Illinois University with a variety of events highlighting

"Afro-American Scholars: Leaders, Activists and Writers."

Most are free.

Gloria Jean Davis, assistant to the president and director of affirmative action at Illinois State University, will open Eastern's observance with a lecture on "Black Homophobia and Sexuality" at 7 p.m. Thursday (Feb. 4) in Eastern's University zUnion, Oakland Room.

On Feb. 5, Herman Taylor, chairman of Eastern's music department, will give an lecture/organ recital on music by black American composers at 7:30 p.m. in Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Building.

EIU Professors of English Carol Schmudde and Michael Loudon will present a lecture/panel discussion on "Modern Black Women Writers" at 7 p.m. Feb. 9 in the Union's University Ballroom.

At 8 p.m., Feb. 9, the Minneapolis Gospel Sound will perform in the Union Grand Ballroom. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for the general public. The group has released two albums and is a recipient of a Minnesota Black Music Award for Best Gospel Group.

On Feb. 19, the University of Illinois Black Chorus will perform at 7:30 p.m. in Dvorak Concert Hall. Admission is \$2 for students and \$5 for the general public. There will also be "A Taste of Black Culture" display in the Fine Arts Building lobby.

Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity has designated Feb. 21 as "Malcom X Day" and will sponsor a 7 p.m. lecture, "The Life and Work of Malcom X," in the Union Tuscola/Arcola Room.

As part of Eastern's "One Nation: Many Voices" lecture series, Eastern's Cultural Diversity Committee will sponsor a lecture by Randall Robinson, Anti-Apartheid activist and founder of the Trans-Africa Forum, at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24 in the Tarble Arts Center. Robinson, a Harvard Law School graduate, has appeared on "Nightline" and other news programs.

Eastern will sponsor a health fair and symposium Feb. 25-26 featuring exhibits and workshops dealing with a wide variety of health issues.

Two movies will be shown during the month: "Mo Money" Feb. 4 and 5; and "Boomerang" Feb. 24 and 25. Both movies will be shown at 8 p.m. in the Union Grand Ballroom. Admission is \$1.

The Black Student Union will sponsor the 17th annual Miss Black EIU Pageant at 8 p.m. Feb. 27 in the Union Grand Ballroom. Admission is \$6 in advance and \$8 at the door for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under. A coronation dance will follow the pageant. Special activities for parents have also been planned for Feb. 27.

Other events during the month include an exhibit of paintings by Lamerol Gatewood through Feb. 21 at the Tarble Arts

Center. There will also be a "Black History" exhibit in Booth

Library through Feb. 28.

Eastern's student organizations are also hosting special Black History Month activities. The student newspaper, The Daily Eastern News, will again sponsor its annual Black History Month essay contest. This year's theme is "Unity: Why Can't We All Just Get Along?"

Other sponsors of Black History Month activities include
Eastern's Office of Student Activities, Office of Minority
Affairs, Afro-American Studies Program, Taylor Hall, University
Board, Department of Health Studies, College of Fine Arts, Black
Greek Council and EIU Foundation.

For more information, call Eastern's Student Activities

Office at 581-3829 or Afro-American Studies Program at 581-5719.