

2-10-1995

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "02/10/1995 - Eastern To Host Heritage Dinner.pdf" (1995). 1995. 50.
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February 10, 1995

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EASTERN TO HOST HERITAGE DINNER

CHARLESTON -- Zelema Harris, president of Parkland College in Champaign, will be the featured speaker at Eastern Illinois University's third annual African-American Heritage Dinner on Feb. 17, featuring authentic soul food and entertainment by well-known jazz pianist and vocalist Henry Butler.

Harris will discuss "Black Leadership" during the dinner, which begins at 6:30 p.m. in Eastern's University Union Grand Ballroom. Eastern President David Jorns will also give remarks.

The dinner is among numerous activities planned during Eastern's celebration of Black History Month in February.

Harris is the recipient of the 1994 National Council on Black American Affairs Leadership Award and has served on the Minority Commission on Education. Among the many awards Parkland College has received under her leadership are for institutional quality, operational planning and the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

Prior to Parkland College, Harris served as president of Penn Valley Community College and Pioneer Community College of the Metropolitan Community Colleges in Kansas City, Mo.

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HERITAGE DINNER

Other highlights of the dinner include a performance by Eastern music faculty member Henry Butler, a blind keyboardist who draws on jazz, blues and gospel traditions, pop standards, Western European classicism and Third World ethnic sources to make music that's decidedly his own. He has recorded two albums with MCA/Impulse records and a live R & B set cut at New Orleans' famed club Tipitina's.

The public is invited to the dinner, which features soul food by Glory Foods, Inc., of Columbus, Ohio, an African-American owned company that creates "down home taste" in African-American cuisine that is quick and easy to prepare for today's busy life-styles.

The menu consists of fried chicken, fried catfish, collard greens, blackeyed peas, cornbread dressing, cornbread, candied sweet potatoes, potato salad, lettuce salad, sweet potato pie and peach cobbler.

Cost is \$10 for the public; \$6 for students; and \$5 for children. Tickets are available in the University Union Ticket Office, 581-5122.

For more information about the dinner, call Dennis Jones in Eastern's institutional advancement office at 581-6456.