

2-26-1998

02/26/1998 - Discussion To Examine Challenges Of Physical Disabilities.pdf

University Marketing and Communications

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1998

Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "02/26/1998 - Discussion To Examine Challenges Of Physical Disabilities.pdf" (1998).
1998. 52.

http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1998/52

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Press Releases at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1998 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

98-68

February 26, 1998

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DISCUSSION TO EXAMINE CHALLENGES OF PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

CHARLESTON -- Four speakers will share their personal experiences and advice when Eastern Illinois University presents "Life Challenges: Every Day, Every Way," an exploration into physical disabilities.

It is just one of many programs the Women's Advocacy Council is offering in celebration of Women's History and Awareness Month and the 150th anniversary of the Women's Rights Movement. The series, titled "Living the Legacy: The Women's Rights Movement, 1848-1998," will run throughout the month of March.

Vicki Wilson, program director for the Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities in Illinois, is not physically disabled but is engaged to someone who is. She is trained in rehabilitation and knows how inaccessible many buildings are for people in wheelchairs. Wilson will present

-more-

information on the American Disabilities Act and its requirements.

Vauhnee Baptist is a former EIU student who has multiple sclerosis. She is one of many wheelchair-bound faculty and students who participated in Ad Hoc Advocacy, a program that brought ramps to buildings on campus. She will address the efforts that can be made to make buildings not only at EIU, but in the Charleston/Mattoon area, accessible. Baptist currently teaches psychology part-time at Lake Land College.

Kelly Pankey will also share her experience as a person living in a wheelchair. Pankey is a student at EIU and will talk about life in the residence halls and on campus.

Retired professor Edith Hedges, who has had need of a wheelchair since 1986, decided she wanted to travel. It was then she realized just how many places are inaccessible to persons in wheelchairs. For the past 10 years, Hedges has been speaking on how the physically disabled can find a lifestyle for themselves and that making certain changes is not as difficult as it seems.

Education helps reduce obstacles for physically disabled persons. "Life Challenges: Every Day, Every Way" will provide the education and advice needed to practice these rights. The program will take place at 3:30 pm. Thursday, March 5, in the Charleston-Mattoon Room of Eastern's Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.