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92-15

January 17, 1992

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CHISHOLM TO VISIT EIU

CHARLESTON, IL--Former New York congresswoman Shirley Chisholm will be the first speaker in a new lecture series at Eastern Illinois University titled, "One Nation: Many Voices."

The public is invited to Chisholm's talk on multiculturalism and diversity in American society at 7 p.m., Jan. 21, in Roberson Auditorium, Lumpkin Hall on Garfield Street. Admission is free. A reception in her honor will follow the lecture.

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The new lecture series is sponsored by Eastern's Cultural Diversity Committee. Johnetta Jones, EIU director of minority student affairs and a member of the committee, said, "This series is designed to celebrate the contributions which different groups have made to the mosaic of American society."

Chisholm was elected to Congress in 1968 from the multi-racial 12th congressional district in Brooklyn and served until her retirement in 1982.

She was the only woman, and the only Black American, to sit on the House Rules Committee, and was a leading member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

In 1972, she became the first Black woman to seek the Democratic Party nomination for president. Currently she is Purington Chair at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, the oldest women's college in the United States.

She is the author of "Unbought and Unbossed," her autobiography; and "The Good Fight," the story of her 1972 bid for the presidency.

Other speakers in the series will include Blandina Cardenas Ramirez, director of the American Council on Education's Office of Minorities in Higher Education, who is scheduled to speak in February, and Ken Kashiwahara, an 18-year veteran with ABC News, who will be at Eastern in April.