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FILE COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU TELEVISION STATION TO BROADCAST VIDEOCONFERENCE ON RACISM

CHARLESTON, IL.--Eastern Illinois University's television station, WEIU Channel 51, will broadcast a special program "Racism on Campus: Toward an Agenda for Action" Tuesday, March 22 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Check local listing for appropriate cable channel).

Communicating with each other via satellite and phone lines, as many as 3,000 to 5,000 university presidents, chancellors, faculty members, students and members of governing boards will be able to share in a discussion of racial conflict and minority student concerns.

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Because the videoconference is scheduled during Eastern's spring semester break, university faculty, staff and students will not participate in the program. However, Eastern's Affirmative Action Advisory Committee will follow-up the videoconference with on-campus workshops dealing with racial awareness, according to Affirmative Action Director Judith Anderson.

"The aims of the videoconference are to promote an understanding of the issues, to look for ways to reduce conflict and to bring institutions around the country together in an effort to overcome racism on campuses," Anderson said.

The 3 1/2 hour videoconference is being presented by Governors State University in University Park, Ill., and the Johnson Foundation in Racine, Wis., and co-sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the American Association of University Administrators.

The program will open with an introductory piece on the historical/contemporary perspective of the racism issue followed by case studies of the more outward actions against minorities at selected sites.

A panel discussion immediately following will include such noted speakers as Reginald Wilson, director of the Office of Minority Concerns for the American Council on Education; Mark Chesler, co-director of the Program on Conflict Management Alternatives at the University of Michigan and Raymond Mack of the Department of Sociology at Northwestern University and former provost there.