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March 8, 1993

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ROLDAN TO SPEAK AT EASTERN MARCH 10

CHARLESTON, IL--Paul Roldan, president of the Hispanic Housing Development Corp. (HHDC) in Chicago, will present "Hispanic Empowerment," a lecture focusing on the purpose of the HHDC and community activism, at 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, in Eastern Illinois University's Booth Library lecture room.

Sponsored by Eastern's Department of Sociology/Anthropology and Alpha Kappa Delta sociology honor society, the lecture is free and open to the public.

"I had the pleasure to hear Mr. Roldan speak very briefly in Chicago last year," said Craig Eckert, sociology professor at

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Eastern, "and it brought tears to my eyes. I have never heard a more motivating speaker."

As a volunteer at a community agency that rehabilitated Sunset Park, a waterfront area in Brooklyn, Roldan decided to dedicate his life to securing funds to upgrade and create moderate and low income housing for Hispanic people. Up to date, he has successfully provided housing for those who need it in ten new developments in the Chicagoland area.

In addition to assisting Hispanics in finding adequate housing, Roldan also works to give them opportunities to pursue a career in this field. "We need more people out there to motivate society and make them aware of what has to be done," said Bob Whittenbarger, chairman of the sociology/anthropology department at Eastern.

For recognition of his achievements, the MacArthur Foundation presented Roldan with a \$275,000 "genius grant" in 1988. "While most recipients of the award would use the funds to pay off their debts or take early retirement," said Eckert, "Roldan used it to create a \$100,000 college scholarship fund to help Hispanic students receive an education so they could begin a career in urban planning and real estate development."

According to Eckert, "We need more Paul Roldans in this world to help motivate and create an awareness of the needs of our fellow man."