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98-65

February 24, 1998

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU TO CROWN 1998 MISS BLACK EIU

CHARLESTON -- A month-long celebration commemorating African-American heritage will close with a special tribute to African-American women.

“Sankofa,” the 22nd annual Miss Black EIU Pageant, sponsored by Eastern’s Black Student Union, will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Grand Ballroom.

Since its inception in 1971, the pageant has become one of Eastern’s largest cultural events. It pays special tribute to African-American women while instilling a sense of pride, appreciation and cultural awareness in their heritage.

Through the years, more than 100 young women have competed for the coveted crown of Miss Black EIU. This year’s contest will feature four contestants -- Juanta Bennett, a senior theatre major from Oak Park; Amber White, a freshman speech communication major from Chicago; Renita Craig, a junior special education major from Matteson; and Heather Tyler, a freshman undecided

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MISS BLACK EIU

major from Chicago.

The contestants will be competing for cash, prizes and awards in the following categories: creative expression, African garment, talent and evening gown/impromptu questioning. In addition, "Miss Congeniality," "Miss Together," "Miss Enterprise" and "Miss Ebony" special recognition awards will be presented.

The coordinator of this year's pageant is Tawanda Lawrence, reigning Miss Black EIU 1997.