

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IU Kokomo marks Black History Month

KOKOMO, Ind. — Indiana University Kokomo will celebrate Black History Month with a series of educational, social, and cultural events.

Tashona Jones, coordinator of campus diversity, said there is something for everyone, no matter their background, in the celebration.

“I believe it’s important for our campus to celebrate Black History Month, because African Americans have played a significant role in this country’s rich history,” she said. “One month just isn’t long enough to cover it all. For those people who don’t have much exposure to the African American culture, this is a time they can catch a small glimpse of it, and I hope they want to learn more.”

The campus begins Black History Month Friday, February 1, with a presentation, “Encountering Blended Identity,” at 7:30 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium. It includes film clips and discussion about the challenges and opportunities for blended identity.

The Black History Month celebration will have its official kick off at 11:45 a.m. Monday, February 4, with a performance by children from F.D. Reese Christian Academy. The elementary students will perform “Celebrating Dreams of Future Generations to Come,” in the Kelley Center Commons.

Maxine Brown, a founding member of the Southern Indiana Minority Enterprise Inc., will discuss the rich African American history in southern Indiana, in a free presentation at 11 a.m. Thursday, February 7, in Kelley Center Room 221. Later that day, at 7 p.m., hip hop violinist Svet will perform in Kresge Auditorium.

Todd Bradley, associate professor of political science, will lead discussion about the re-election of President Barack Obama at 6 p.m. Wednesday, February 13, in Kelley Center Room 221. The discussion will focus on inclusiveness as a major component of democratization.

Preacher Moss will present his comedy and lecture tour, "End of Racism," at 11:30 a.m. Monday, February 18, in the Kelley Center Room 130.

Sarah Heath, assistant professor of history, will talk about the 1954 Brown V. Board of Education decision, which ended racial segregation of schools, and the challenge of inclusion in the 21st Century. Her presentation is at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 19, in Kelley Center Room 130.

IU Kokomo students may win a Kindle Fire for participating in a Black History Month quiz on Friday, March 22 in the Kelley Center Commons, right outside the bookstore.

The month will end with a gospel celebration Sunday, February 24. The time and place will be announced later in February.

Events are free and open to the public, and free parking is available on campus. For more information call Jones at 765-455-9359, or e-mail jonestas@iuk.edu.

Indiana University Kokomo serves north central Indiana.

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