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## Civil Rights Pioneer to Speak at IWU

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## **Civil Rights Pioneer to Speak at IWU**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- Ernest G. Green, who with eight classmates became the first black students to integrate Little Rock, Ark., Central High School, will speak at Illinois Wesleyan University on Thursday, Jan. 24.

One of the group known as the "Little Rock Nine", Green will speak at 7:30 p.m. in the main atrium of the Hansen Student Center (formerly Memorial Gymnasium), 300 E. Beecher St., Bloomington.

The free presentation is sponsored by the IWU Student Senate, Multicultural Affairs, and Co-Curricular Programming.

The "Little Rock Nine," including Green and eight classmates, were the first black students to integrate Central High School in Little Rock following the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Brown vs. Board of Education that declared segregation illegal. The first African-American to graduate from Central High School, Green was the subject of a 1993 movie, "The Ernie Green Story" produced and distributed by the Walt Disney Corporation.

Green is the managing director of public finance for Lehman Brothers' office in Washington, D.C. Since joining Lehman Brothers in 1987, Green served as senior investment banker on transactions for such key clients as the City of New York, City of Chicago, City of Atlanta, Denver Airport and the Washington Metropolitan Airport Authority. Prior to joining Lehman Brothers, Green was president of Ernest Green & Associates, a minority consulting firm that provided technical assistance in marketing, financial management and economic forecasting.

Green served as Assistant Secretary of Labor for employment and training during the Jimmy Carter administration. During his tenure he formulated U.S. Presidential Policy and directed implementation of a vast range of activities, including federally-funded comprehensive training public service employment, and alien worker certification. Prior to his appointment as Assistant Secretary, Green served as Executive Director of the Recruitment and Training Program, Inc., an organization that recruits minorities for apprenticeship programs in the building trades.

Green, an authority on African affairs, was appointed by President Bill Clinton as chairman of the African Development Foundation and Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley appointed Green as chairman of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Advisory Board.

Green presently serves on the board of directors of Africare, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, Advanced Technological Solutions, Inc., the Black Student Fund, Michigan State University College of Social Sciences Board of Visitors and the Legislative Action Committee of the Public Securities Association.

Hundreds of organizations have honored Green during his career and he is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Urban League's Frederick Douglas Medal, the John D. Rockefeller Public Service Award. At 17, he was the youngest recipient of the NAACP's Springard Medal and in 1957, he earned the rank of Eagle Scout from the Boy Scouts of America. In November 1995, the Boy Scouts awarded Green the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award.

The October 1996 issue of Black Enterprise Magazine featured Green as one of the top 25 African Americans on Wall Street.

Green was born in Little Rock on Sept. 22, 1941. He earned his high school diploma from Little Rock Central and a bachelor's degree in social science and a master's in sociology from Michigan State University. He has received honorary doctorates from Michigan State, Tougaloo College and Central State University.

Green and his wife (Phyllis) have three children, Adam, Jessica and McKenzie Ann.