



2010

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Recommended Citation

Piotrowski '10, Monica, "Jeff Johnson to give Keynote Speech at Soul Food Dinner" (2010). *News and Events*. Paper 1334. <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/1334>

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Jeff Johnson to give Keynote Speech at Soul Food Dinner

February 10, 2010

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – The annual Soul Food Dinner hosted by Student Senate will be held on Feb. 21 in the Hansen Student Center (300 Beecher St., Bloomington). There will be a press conference at 4:30 p.m., the dinner will start at 5:30 p.m. and a speech given by Jeff Johnson, the keynote speaker, will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The speech is free and open to the public. The dinner will cost \$10 for faculty, staff, students and community members wishing to attend. Students also have the option of exchanging their Sunday brunch in order to attend the dinner for free.

Johnson is a Washington D.C.-based award-winning journalist, social activist and political commentator. He is known for his commitment to influencing positive social change and was named by *Source Magazine* as one of the hip hop generation's key political players. Johnson has worked as senior advisor for media and youth outreach for People for the American Way, National Director of the Youth & College division of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and was appointed by Russell Simmons, entrepreneur, as the Vice President of the Hip Hop Summit Action Network (HSAN). Johnson was the only American reporter to receive a post-election interview with Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the first elected female head of state in Africa. In 2007 he was only one of two news correspondents to interview Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir, who had not granted interviews to American media outlets for 13 years.

Johnson is currently the managing editor and chief correspondent for the BET talk show "The Truth with Jeff Johnson" and was recently named as part of the tag-team commentator duo on the nationally syndicated "Tom Joyner Morning Show."

For additional information concerning the Soul Food Dinner, contact Brittany Powell at bpowell@iwu.edu.

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