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Multicultural Summit to Encourage Open Dialogue

February 24, 2011

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – The Illinois Wesleyan University Office of Multicultural Student Affairs will host the 2nd annual Multicultural Summit on Wednesday, March 2 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Hansen Student Center (300 Beecher St., Bloomington). This lecture and panel discussion will meditate on the question: Are we beyond race?

“In my opinion, racism is something that we have to be conscious of. If we’re not actively thinking about it and trying to overcome it, then we are going to fall victim to it,” said Director of Multicultural Affairs Roshaunda Ross.

Ross hopes the Multicultural Summit will be a forum for people from different cultural backgrounds to come together and have an open conversation about race. “If we declare America ‘post-racial’, then it gives people the green light to stop talking about it and that stops progress,” she said.

Author Bryant K. Smith, who moderated the first Summit, will be the featured speaker at this year’s conference. Smith has lectured throughout the country on the topics of diversity and social justice. “He is one of the most engaging speakers,” said Ross, “He is able to speak on the college student’s level and he always makes you think.”

A panel of students, faculty and staff will share their own experiences through a Q & A session after the lecture. The group includes representatives from the Black Student Union, the Spanish and Latin Student Association, the Asian Pacific Student Association and the Encouraging Diversity program.

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