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## **Hip-Hop Workshop Focus of 'Independent's Day'**

February 7, 2011

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – In honor of Black History Month, Illinois Wesleyan University Student Senate is sponsoring a concert-workshop titled “Independent's Day” at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 11 in the Hansen Student Center (300 E. Beecher St., Bloomington). The event is free and open to the public.

Independent's Day is a series of small workshops that combines entertainment and education as it connects music, culture and activism, said Bianca Spratt, an IWU senior who proposed the Senate sponsor the event. “The workshops explore all elements of hip hop, soul and spoken word, and how music can spread a message,” she said.

The event will feature Jitu “the Jugganot” Brown, an emcee and accomplished musician. With four records under his belt he has been a major influence in the rap scene appearing on *Rap City*, the *Box*, and *Yo! MTV Raps*. He is now an educator and community organizer in Chicago. “He is very engaging, and his goal is to help youth organize and engage other youth,” said Spratt, who counts Brown as one of her long-time mentors.

Jill Kawasaki, a first-year IWU student and events commissioner for the Student Senate, said the events represents one of the main roles of the Senate. “Bianca is part of the student body, and is passionate about bringing this event to campus. The Senate is here to respond to student needs when they bring us great programs like Independence Day.”

For additional information on the event, contact Spratt at [bspratt@iwu.edu](mailto:bspratt@iwu.edu).

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