



Fall 11-29-2006

Annual Kwanzaa Celebration Honors African Culture, Consciousness

Rebecca Welzenbach
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

Recommended Citation

Welzenbach, Rebecca, "Annual Kwanzaa Celebration Honors African Culture, Consciousness" (2006). *News and Events*. 3332.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/3332>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Annual Kwanzaa Celebration Honors African Culture, Consciousness
November 29, 2006

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Illinois Wesleyan University's Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Black Student Union (BSU) will host the annual Kwanzaa Celebration on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 5:30 p.m. in the Turfler Room of the Memorial Center, 104 E. University St., in Bloomington. Food will be served and the event is free and open to the public.

The term Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza," which means "first fruits" in Swahili, the most popular dialect in Africa, and corresponds with the celebration of ancient African harvest celebrations.

Established in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa, which is a cultural rather than religious celebration, is an opportunity for people to reflect at the end of the year while looking ahead to the next year. In addition, the celebration serves to build community, enrich African-American consciousness, and introduce and reinforce the "Nguzo Saba," or seven principles. The principles are: "Umoja" (Unity), "Kujichagulia" (Self-Determination), "Ujima" (Collective Work and Responsibility), "Ujamaa" (Cooperative Economics), "Nia" (Purpose), "Kuumba" (Creativity), and "Imani" (Faith).

Nationally, Kwanzaa takes place from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1. However, Illinois Wesleyan will celebrate the holiday early because students and faculty will be on winter break during this time.

For additional information, contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs at (309) 556-3412.

Contact: Rebecca Welzenbach, (309) 556-3181