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Office of Multicultural Affairs Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

Nicole Travis

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September 15, 2008

Contact: Nicole Travis '11, (309) 556-3181

Office of Multicultural Affairs Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University's Office of Multicultural Student Affairs will kick off Hispanic Heritage Month, which begins today, with a showing of the DVD *The African Presence in Mexico*. Provided by the National Museum of Mexican Art, the DVD will play in the hallway between the Davidson and Henning Rooms in the Memorial Center (104 University St., Bloomington). Students interested in the historical and cultural context of the DVD are encouraged to visit the Multicultural Center (1405 N. Park St., Bloomington) for more information.

The Sept. 15 start date of Hispanic Heritage Month honors the independence day of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Each celebrates 187 years of independence from Spain.

The celebration also honors the Sept. 16 and Sept. 18 anniversaries of Mexican and Chilean independence, respectively. Both countries have been independent of Spanish rule for 198 years.

Further activities include hosting Jose Curbelo and friends as they perform accordion dance music from Argentina, Uruguay and Southern Brazil on Saturday, Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Young Main Lounge in the Memorial Center. The group expects audience participation to enhance their performance.

The University will also celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month through a poster campaign commemorating Latino artists, entertainers and Nobel Prize winners. Throughout the month the posters will be updated and on display in the Memorial Center.

In time for the launch of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Action Research Center announced that a new Latino Radio show will be aired for the Bloomington-Normal area with the participation of WESN 88.1 FM, IWU's student-run radio station. Illinois Wesleyan students and hosts Marita Calderon and Jocelyn Martinex will air their first show this Wednesday, Sept. 17 from noon to 1 p.m. With a focus on the local Latino community, the show will be held completely in Spanish.

For more information on IWU's Multicultural Center and Office of Multicultural Student Affairs and to learn a daily Hispanic Heritage Month fact, visit <http://www.iwu.edu/multicultural/index.shtml>.

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