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## Media Advisory

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### *Media Advisory*

**Event:** Events recognizing the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education United States Supreme Court decision: *The Case and the Stories that Followed*.

**Dates and Times:** April 10-April 16 (Saturday-Friday)

IWU student-constructed desegregation timeline will be on exhibit in the Hansen Student Center, 300 Beecher St., Bloomington.

April 12 (Monday) at 7:30 p.m.

Students will present a dramatic re-enactment of the Supreme Court arguments in Brown v. Board of Education in a Reader's Theatre performance. The performance will include excerpts from Robert Coles' "A Study of Courage and Fear," which tells the stories of those living through the turbulent times of school desegregation. The events will take place in Beckman Auditorium of The Ames Library, 1 Ames Plaza, Bloomington.

**Background:** On May 17, 1954, in the case of Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka, the U.S. Supreme Court ended federally sanctioned racial segregation in public schools by ruling unanimously that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." A groundbreaking case, Brown not only overturned the precedent of Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), which had declared "separate but equal facilities" constitutional, but also provided the legal foundation of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Although widely perceived as a revolutionary decision, Brown was in fact the culmination of changes both in the Court and in the strategies of the Civil Rights Movement.

Robin Leavitt, professor of Educational Studies, currently teaches a course entitled "Brown v. Board of Education" at IWU. Leavitt's students have studied the specifics of the decision as well as its lasting effects.

**Contact:** For additional information, please contact Leavitt at 556-3504.