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For Immediate Release

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April 13, 1994

Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--A former Miss Indian USA and White House intern will speak on "Native American Spirituality" April 20, as part of an "Earth Week" observance at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Chenoa Bah Stilwell, a senior majoring in intercultural communications at the University of New Mexico, will make her presentation at 11 a.m. in Evelyn Chapel, 1301 N. Park St. Her speech is open to the public; there is no admission fee.

Stilwell, who also has served as a consultant on the Navajo language for Tony Hillerman's novels, will make an informal presentation, "Life in New Mexico: The Geography and Culture of My People," at 4 p.m., April 20 in the Davidson Room of IWU's Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University St.

Stilwell's IWU itinerary also includes these events:

- April 20, 9 a.m.--She will speak in a "Cultural Anthropology" class, taught by Pamela Moro, assistant professor of anthropology. For more information on this event, contact Moro at 309/556-3180.

- April 20, 2 p.m.--She will address a class in "Race and Ethnic Relations," taught by Georganne Rundblad, assistant professor of sociology. For more information on this event, contact Rundblad at 309/556-3193.

- April 21, 9:25 a.m.--She will speak in a "Christian Social Ethics" class with William L. White, professor of religion and university chaplain. For more information, contact White at 309/556-3005,

While in Bloomington-Normal, Stilwell also will participate in these events at Illinois State University:

- April 20, 7 p.m.--She will make a presentation sponsored by the Native American Interest Group. For additional information, contact: Dawn Woodward, 309/452-5141.

- April 20, 9 p.m.--She will participate in a Wesley Foundation worship service, "Native American Spirituality." For more information, contact: Rev. Raydean Davis, 309/454-8602.

Stilwell was chosen as the fourth national Miss Indian USA in 1990. She traveled nationwide as a goodwill ambassador on behalf of Native

Americans, promoting traditional languages and lifestyles; giving motivational speeches to youth in Navajo and English stressing the importance of education and prevention of substance abuse; and meeting with tribal officials on American Indian reservations and national political leaders and foreign dignitaries in Washington, D.C.

For six months in 1992, Stilwell served as a White House intern in the Office of National Service, working on President Bush's "Thousand Points of Light" program. She did research on and helped select applicants who were nominated for the "Thousand Points of Light" Award Program, honoring volunteerism and community service.

Since 1992, Stilwell has served as chairperson of American Indians for Change, Inc., an organization promoting the hiring of American Indians by the Clinton administration.

As a student, Stilwell has addressed several state and national groups, including National Student Day, Sept. 18, 1992, with then-Gov. Bill Clinton; Get Out the Vote Day, Oct. 24, 1992, sponsored by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, civil rights leader and head of the Rainbow Coalition; and the New Mexico state legislature, Nov. 24, 1992, encouraging lawmakers to support ethnic diversity at the University of New Mexico.