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## Newspaper Columnist, Radio Commentator, Author, Activist-- Juliianne Malveaux-- to Lecture

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April 5, 1995

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"Mad Economist"

**Newspaper Columnist, Radio Commentator, Author, Activist--  
Julianne Malveaux--To Lecture on Affirmative Action  
at Illinois Wesleyan University, April 19**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Affirmative action--a topic hotly debated on Capitol Hill and across the nation--is the focus of an April 19 public lecture at Illinois Wesleyan University by economist, author, and Washington, D.C., radio commentator Julianne Malveaux.

Malveaux--author of *Sex . . . Lies . . . and Stereotypes: Perspectives of a Mad Economist* and a columnist syndicated in 20 newspapers nationally--will speak at 7 p.m., in Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall, 303 E. University St., Bloomington. There is no admission charge for the lecture and it is open to the public.

She served on the staff of the President's Council of Economic Advisors during the Carter administration.

Michael Seeborg, Robert S. Eckley Distinguished Professor and chairperson of economics, said the address by Malveaux is timely because of Capitol Hill efforts to rollback affirmative action laws and regulations. Malveaux, Seeborg said, supports affirmative action programs to open jobs, classrooms, and other segments of U.S. society to minorities.

In August, 1994, *Essence Magazine* wrote of Malveaux: "It's 5:00 a.m., and syndicated columnist Julianne Malveaux is already staring at her computer screen, preparing another sassy and succinct column about the hard truths of 'our nation's economic conundrum.' Today's topic is health care.

"Using statistics, history and simple common sense, this self-described 'mad economist' . . . delights in confronting the status quo with wit and furor . . . In one column, for instance, Malveaux critiques the matter of racial quotas by serving notice that 'there is only one operating quota in the United States and it is this: There shall be at least one dumb White man in the White House at all times.'"

Malveaux told *Essence*: "In an ideal world you wouldn't have to write

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about racial economic gaps. I write about injustice every day."

In a Sept. 22, 1994 column in *Black Issues in Higher Education*, Malveaux wrote: "To be sure, integration has been no panacea, no magic bullet to cure all that ails Black America."

In a May 19, 1994 column in *Black Issues*, Malveaux opined: "The unemployment differential that plagues the entire Black community has no special mercy on new college graduates."

Malveaux, who earned a doctorate in economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is a popularizer of economic concepts, Seeborg explained.

"There is a tremendous need for that type of person," Seeborg said, "to come out of the ivory tower and get into the fray as an activist."

Malveaux's research focuses on labor market public policy issues and their impact on women and minorities.

Monica Taylor, director of IWU's Office of Multi-cultural Affairs, attended a February, 1994, leadership conference for black students at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where Malveaux was a speaker.

Speaking of Malveaux, Taylor said: "To me, she is a person who encourages students to achieve and not to let anything get in the way of achieving their goals. She also is an advocate for equal treatment for minority students."

Malveaux will discuss civil rights and other public policy and economics issues with IWU students at 10:50 a.m., April 20. The session will take place in the Turfler Room, Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University, St., Bloomington.

She also will participate in a panel discussion on cultural and ethnic diversity at IWU with student leaders at a noon luncheon in the Turfler Room.

Malveaux, a columnist for *Black Issues in Higher Education*, is a native of San Francisco and a Boston College graduate.

*Sex . . . Lies . . . and Stereotypes* is a compilation of 150 of her popular and academic writings from magazines, newspapers, and journals.

Charlayne Hunter-Gault, correspondent for the *McNeil/Lehrer*

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*NewsHour* on public television, said: "Julianne Malveaux's highly original romp through the nation's economic and social landscape is one of the most frank, informative, and entertaining collection of articles I've read on any subject. She may be a 'Mad Economist,' but it is surely the madness born of genius and passion."

Carol Kleiman of the *Chicago Tribune* wrote of the book: "At last, an economist who not only is right-on, but can also write! A wonderful, witty and brilliant book."

Malveaux has written the "Left Coast" column for *Emerge Magazine* and has authored a column, "Economics and You," for *Essence Magazine*. She also is a regular contributor to *Ms. Magazine*, *USA Today*, and a weekly contributor to the *San Francisco Sun Reporter*.

Malveaux regularly provides radio and television commentary on CNN's "CNN and Company" and is often seen as a panelist on public television's "To the Contrary."

As a scholar, Malveaux most recently served in 1991 as a visiting faculty member at the University of California-Berkeley, in the African American Studies Department.

As an activist, Malveaux has drafted citizen initiatives on divestiture of public funds from South Africa (1984). She is vice president of the National Business and Professional Women's Club. Malveaux also has served as president of the Black Leadership Forum, the San Francisco Business and Professional Women's Club, and as vice president of the San Francisco NAACP.

Nationally, Malveaux has served as vice president of the National Child Labor Committee and is a board member of the Center for Policy Alternatives. She has worked on the staff of the Rockefeller Foundation and other groups. Malveaux has been a consultant for the National Organization of Women (NOW), NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, and the National Coalition of 100 Black Women.

Malveaux is a frequent lecturer at colleges and universities and before civic groups nationwide. Among topics she often discusses are economic development, social policy, and race relations. Recently, she was the keynote

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speaker for the Diversity Day program at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., and she has spoken to black MBA students at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Before her address, Malveaux will attend the annual banquet of Delta Omicron Delta, the national economics honorary society, where new members will be initiated and students will be honored for excellence in economics' studies. Last year, about 29 members were initiated into the 75-member student group.

Several groups are sponsoring the visit of Malveaux to IWU: Office of Multi-cultural Affairs, Economics Department, Social Studies Division, and the Office of the Provost.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,800 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. In recent years, the university's endowment has grown to more than \$92 million; a \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$24 million science building will open in 1995. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 164 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition. *101 of the Best Values in America's Colleges and Universities* calls IWU "undoubtedly one of the finest small colleges in the country," adding, "Illinois Wesleyan has surged to national prominence on the basis of its reputation as a school with a rock-solid academic program."

**Editor's Note:** Julianne Malveaux will be available for media interviews on the morning of April 20, prior to her 10:50 a.m. meeting with IWU students. Her address on the evening of April 19 and her April 20 meeting with IWU students and the IWU diversity luncheon are all open to news media coverage. To arrange interviews with Malveaux, call IWU Public Relations-News Services, 309/556-3181.