



NEWS RELEASE

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BLACK HISTORY OBSERVANCE AT USI

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The University of Southern Indiana will launch the February Black History Month observance by linking into *Beyond the Dream V: A Celebration of Black History*, a national teleconference which will air locally from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, February 3, in the University Conference Center.

The annual live, interactive broadcast joins renowned Black authors to discuss the role of literature in understanding African American culture and life experiences. Featured this year will be Terry McMillan, Charles Johnson, Nikki Giovanni, Houston A. Baker, Jr., and Marita Golden. All are authors except Baker, who is director of the Center for the Study of Black Literature and Culture at the University of Pennsylvania, president of the Modern Language Association, and a literary critic. Renee Poussaint, WJLA-TV anchor in Washington, D.C., will be moderator. The public is invited to participate and will have an opportunity to ask questions of the panel, via telephone.

The USI Black Student Union will sponsor a program at 12 noon Friday, January 22, in Forum I, in which Dr. Betty Hart, associate professor of English, will speak on "Perspectives of the Civil Rights Era." The public is invited. The program is part of the BSU observance of Martin Luther King Day. Dr. Hart will share her perceptions of events in 1960s America, when she was a student at the premier black institution, Howard University in Washington, D.C. Many of the nation's Black leaders spoke and rallied at Howard in the struggle for equal rights.

Emily Winters-Brown, Student Life program advisor, and Pamela F. Hopson, assistant director in the Student Financial Assistance Office, are coordinating campus activities.