The African American Education Program

Eastern Washington University. Africana Studies Program

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African American Speakers Bureau

AAEP and other University staff speak at schools, colleges, businesses and conferences on topics involving African American history, culture, and issues.

Advising Services for Students

In addition to the University's general services, AAEP provides academic, personal, and career advising. Our advisors are sensitive to concerns African American students may have attending a predominantly White university.

AAEP advisors aid students with course selections, steering them toward required courses for their degrees and planned professions. Incoming students are especially encouraged to contact an AAEP advisor before registering for classes.

AAEP Scholarships

AAEP awards a number of scholarships for Eastern students. The awards are in addition to other Eastern wide scholarships. Interested students should contact the AAEP for application information and each spring’s deadline for the following year. Students should also apply for the University scholarships. Applications should be made prior to February for the coming fall enrollment.

Student Clubs and Organizations

AAEP works closely with the Black Student Union, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, and the EWU Chapter of the NAACP to provide a variety of academic and socio-cultural events on the campus and in the Spokane community. Activities often provide educational and cultural enlightenment about history, literature, arts, and the entire cultural heritage of African Americans.

AAEP is a member of the National Association of African American Studies and the American, Hispanic, Asian, and Native Americans - Business and Professional Association (AHANA).

For more information about AAEP, contact:

African American Education Program
204 Monroe Hall
Cheney, WA 99004-2428

call. (509) 359-2205
fax: (509) 359-2820
e-mail. aaep@mail.ewu.edu
The African American Education Program (AAEP) at Eastern Washington University is both an academic and student-service program. Founded in 1971, the program develops and teaches classes in African American Studies and offers a minor. AAEP administers recruiting, support, and retention services. The AAEP faculty conduct research into African American history and experience.

AAEP assists students, faculty and staff in understanding African American culture and issues. AAEP maintains relationships with a multitude of communities throughout the Inland Northwest. The program also serves as a link between the University and the Spokane African American community.

AAEP is a student-centered program that works to ensure a hospitable, supportive environment for students while encouraging their personal growth and success.

AAEP sponsors national and regional speakers and programs, as well as formal recognition of important dates in African American history. The purpose of these events is to cultivate an awareness of African American history and achievements.

The program publishes a quarterly newsletter on the Web that informs students and the community about AAEP activities. A link can be found on the AAEP homepage at http://sswhs.ewu.edu/aaep.html

### African American Studies

The AAEP offers an African American Studies curriculum and a minor. African American Studies courses provide understanding and appreciation of universal African American experiences today and historically, from an Afrocentric world view. They provide students the opportunity to evaluate the influences of African American culture on the entire human civilization.

All Eastern students are encouraged to take African American Studies courses. Many courses are cross-listed with other departments such as History, English, Humanities, and Art. Some of the courses satisfy the University's cultural diversity requirements.

### African American Studies Minor

Students may earn a minor in African American Studies. Students will gain an understanding of the African American experience from ancient Africa to present day America. African American Studies can benefit students planning a career in professions where multicultural public contact is extensive such as education, counseling, social services, business, medicine, government, and many other fields that require a diverse understanding. Students considering this minor should contact the director of the African American Education Program.

### Recruitment

AAEP actively recruits students to the University. Students who select Eastern may receive assistance through every stage of the admissions process, including application for financial aid. Students are also informed about scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study programs.

"I have definitely taken a lot of classes offered by the AAEP. I really enjoyed classes taught by Nancy Nelson and Scott Finnie. Taking these classes gives me a chance to contribute, and to confront generalizations we’ve all heard about Blacks and Whites in society. If you are open minded, set aside perceptions, and make up your mind to think for yourself, you can do anything you set your mind to do.

I would recommend Eastern to anybody who wants to learn, help build diversity here, and challenge old stereotypes and perceptions you’ve had."

- Romeal Watson

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