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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Celebrating Black History Month

by Josiah Clemons, Public Relations Writer

February 18, 2014

Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr, and James Meredith are well-remembered as pillars of the American Civil Rights movement. These leaders, and some lesser-known pioneers in African-American history will be honored during a program on Wednesday, Feb. 26, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Cedarville University's Center for Biblical and Theological Studies. The program, sponsored by [student life](#) and the [office of admissions](#), will celebrate "The Unsung Heroes of the Black Community."

"We are excited about giving the much-needed recognition to the leaders of the Civil Rights movement," said Katherine Hernandez, multicultural admissions specialist at Cedarville. "This program will honor the individuals who paved the way for today's leaders."

Shamus Strapp, admissions counselor, believes this approach will benefit everyone who attends the event. "Having an understanding of different cultures and history gives you an appreciation of where people are coming from," said Strapp. "Sometimes we don't know the severity of what has happened in the past to the unsung heroes of black history. When we celebrate African-American culture, it becomes a healing process for some and enlightening for others."

The event will generate a lively atmosphere, including a combination of food, music and commemorations of important, but unrecognized African American leaders of the past. "I have found that any good celebration consists of food, music, and celebration," said

Hernandez. Providing the music will be [Cedarville's OneVoice Gospel Choir](#).

The black history month celebration comes in the middle of several festivals hosted cooperatively by [International Student Services](#), Admissions, and Student life. Last month, students celebrated the Asian culture with a Chinese New Year event and in March, Brenda Reid of International Student services is putting on an Indian-themed night. This Tuesday, a Latino event with salsa and samba dancing has been planned.

Cedarville University, located east of Dayton, Ohio, has 3,459 undergraduate, graduate and online students in more than 100 areas of study. A Baptist university of arts, sciences, professional and graduate programs, Cedarville is recognized nationally for rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and leading student satisfaction ratings. Visit the University online at www.cedarville.edu.