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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CENTENARY COLLEGE'S NAACP CHAPTER PRESENTS KEYNOTE SPEAKER IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**Various Events are also Scheduled for Black History Month Including an Appearance by Mayhem Poets**

**Hackettstown, N.J. January 20, 2012** – Centenary College's National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Chapter will present a special keynote speaker in honor of Black History Month at 3 p.m. February 21, 2012, at the Sitnik Theater of the David and Carol Lackland Center at Centenary College. Philip E. Freeman, Sr., Assistant Director, New Jersey Division on Civil Rights, will discuss the mission of the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights and statutory obligations.

He will review the history of the civil rights struggle nationally and in New Jersey over the past 50 years. Freeman also will cover the recognition of a new "ethnic majority" inclusive of minorities of all ethnic groups continuing the struggle for equality from a social, economic and political perspective, as well as embracing diversity to support the ethnic majority and how it is important to understand, respect, value and appreciate one another's differences.

In addition to serving as Assistant Director with the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights under the Office of the Attorney General, Freeman is the Division's Affirmative Action Coordinator. He has been with the agency for 31 years and has held the positions of Investigator, Regional Manager, Special Assistant to the Director and Community Relations Coordinator prior to his current position.

Freeman also serves as a departmental Hearing Officer under the Office of the Attorney General, which requires him to hear and render departmental decisions on behalf of the Attorney General in major disciplinary matters.

President Oveston Cox of the Warren/Sussex NAACP will also speak on Civil Rights and Diversity, and Centenary College President Dr. Barbara-Jayne Lewthwaite will also speak on the subject of Black History Month.

"I am so pleased that we have the opportunity to celebrate Black History Month by having Mr. Freeman, Sr., serve as keynote speaker in for this celebrative event," says the Rev. David Jones, Vice President for

Student Engagement at Centenary College. "I would also like to thank the NAACP Centenary Chapter for making this opportunity possible."

Please contact Alison Grenon, Founder/Chapter Advisor of NAACP at Centenary College at [grenona@yahoo.com](mailto:grenona@yahoo.com) for any questions about Mr. Freeman's talk.

Other events for Black History Month that are open to the public include a Soul Food at the Marketplace Event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on February 15, 2012 at the David and Carol Lackland Center. Lunch will be available for \$6.65 for guests and various vendors will be selling African-American jewelry, art and books (sponsored by the College's Educational Opportunity Fund Dept) and a Candlelight Vigil will be held at 3 p.m. on February 29, 2012 at the George H. Whitney Chapel. For those interested in night entertainment, the Mayhem Poets, who are Spoken Word artists, will perform at 10 p.m. February 29, 2012, in the Soulful Café in the Edward W. Seay Administration Building.

The Mayhem Poets were dubbed "an amazing ride" by the *New York Times*. These theatre-trained, comedically gifted, lyrical virtuosos seamlessly blend raw elements of hip hop, theatre, improv and stand-up comedy.

Other student only activities throughout the month include Black History Month trivia sessions, Black History Month movie nights, viewings and discussions of the movie, *The Help* and a Black History Month Trivia Gameshow and Prize Ceremony.

For questions about any other Black History Month events, please contact Tiffany Kushner, Director of Co-curricular Transitions at Centenary College, at (908) 852-1400, ext. 2426 or at [kushnert@centenarycollege.edu](mailto:kushnert@centenarycollege.edu).

Founded in 1867 by the Newark Conference of the United Methodist Church, Centenary College's academic program integrates a solid liberal arts foundation with a strong career orientation. This mix is designed to provide an educational experience that prepares students to succeed in the increasingly global and interdependent world.

Centenary College's main campus is located in Hackettstown, N.J., with its equestrian facility in Washington Township (Morris County). The Centenary College School of Professional Studies offer accelerated degree completion programs in Parsippany, with an additional facility in Edison and at corporate sites throughout New Jersey.

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