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Winthrop University

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ROCK HILL, S.C. - Lorraine D. Acker, assistant dean of students for minority student support services and women's programs at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, will discuss the importance of collective work and responsibility during Winthrop University's celebration of Kwanzaa on Nov. 28.

The speech by Acker is aimed at motivating students to contribute to their community, according to organizer Kema Gadson, director of multicultural student life.

The 7 p.m. program in McBryde Hall also will include an overview of Kwanzaa, and music and dance performances by Bryan Ingram, the Association of Ebonites, Dance in Motion, the West African Drum Ensemble and Vision of Zion. A reception is planned for 6 p.m.

Kwanzaa is celebrated officially from Dec. 26-Jan. 1 when students are on holiday break. Holding the ceremony early allows members of the Winthrop and York County communities to celebrate together.

Founded in 1966, "Kwanza" comes from a Swahili term meaning "first fruits." The extra "a" was added to represent the seven principles of Kwanzaa. The seven principles in English are: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

For more information, contact Gadson at 803/323-4508.