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Esperanza Honors Eastern University President David Black with Advocate Award

WASHINGTON – Esperanza, the nation’s largest Hispanic faith-based network, awarded Dr. David Black, president of Eastern University, with its Esperanza Advocate Award for his work on behalf of the Hispanic faith community and Hispanic youth.

“Dr. Black has not only helped the Hispanic faith community but has made the difference in the lives of hundreds of students through his vision for and support of Esperanza College,” said Rev. Luis Cortes, Jr., president of Esperanza, during the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast and Conference. “Dr. Black saw a future in a partnership between Eastern University and Esperanza, and saw the opportunities that would come from creating Esperanza College, a center for contextualized higher learning.”

Esperanza College is Eastern's junior college that is operated in partnership with Nueva Esperanza, Inc., a subsidiary of Esperanza, which serves the Latino community in Philadelphia. Esperanza College has an extremely high success rate: Despite the number of students who have a limited proficiency in English, are single working parents, and are first generation college students, 65 percent of those students graduate in 2 years, 40 percent higher than the average graduation rate for community colleges across the country.

Eastern University is located in Pennsylvania. It is a co-educational, comprehensive Christian university that integrates faith, reason and justice for its 4,000 students in undergraduate, graduate, Seminary and accelerated adult programs.

Dr. Black previously served as the president of Lakeland College and as the vice president of the University for the Rio Grande and Lincoln Memorial University. A graduate of Lee University, he also earned his M.S. and Ph.D at the University of Tennessee and Ohio University, respectively.

For more information about Esperanza, please visit <http://www.esperanza.us>.