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February 3, 2015

Dr. Eugene McGowan to be Honored in Special Program February 8, 2015

Delaware Historical Society's Center for African American Heritage and the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew jointly honor Dr. McGowan with documentary and mini-exhibition.

Wilmington, DE —Dr. Eugene McGowan, the first African-American school psychologist in the state of Delaware and a lifetime civil rights activist, will be honored on February 8, 2015 at 12:00 pm at the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew, 719 N. Shipley Street, Wilmington.

Conversation with Dr. Eugene McGowan: African American Psychologist and Community Leader, a film produced in collaboration by the Delaware Historical Society and Dr. Jeanne Nutter, will be screened and accompanied by a mini-exhibition curated by the Delaware Historical Society's Center for African American Heritage.

In 1951, Dr. McGowan moved to Wilmington, where as a school psychologist he worked diligently to address the inadequacies of using standardized testing to measure the intellectual capabilities of African-American children. Dr. McGowan has been a leader in the community and active in professional and civil rights organizations. He served as the first African-American member of the Delaware Board of Corrections as well as the first African-American president of the Delaware Psychological Association. Dr. McGowan was president of the Delaware Leadership Council, vice-president of the Delaware Committee for Fair Practices, and a board member of the State Agency to Reduce Crime. He also worked with the local and state chapters of the NAACP.

In 2014, Dr. McGowan donated his papers to the Delaware Historical Society. Among Dr. McGowan's correspondence is a 1965 letter signed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. thanking McGowan for inviting him to speak in New Castle, Delaware.

The Delaware Historical Society gratefully acknowledges Dr. McGowan's donation to the library which enriches and enhances the collection, contributing to the mission to explore, preserve, share, and promote Delaware history, heritage, and culture to strengthen our community.

Reservations for the program can be made by calling (302) 655-7161 or deinfo@dehistory.org.

The Delaware Historical Society owns and operates the Delaware History Museum; a nationally recognized Research Library; Old Town Hall; Willingtown Square, four 18th-century houses surrounding a picturesque urban courtyard located in Wilmington; as well as the Read House & Gardens located in historic New Castle, recognized as an “American Treasure” by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service; and The Center for African American Heritage, which will be included as part of the expansion of the Delaware History Museum, expected to reopen in 2016.

For more information on the Delaware Historical Society, call (302) 655-7161 or visit www.dehistory.org.

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