



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Davenport University to Host Great Michigan Read's "We Don't Want Them" Exhibit**

#### ***"We Don't Want Them" to display building blocks of civil rights movement***

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Dec. 1, 2011** –Davenport University is proud to host the traveling exhibit, "We Don't Want Them," supplementing the Great Michigan Read programming centered on Kevin Boyle's "Arc of Justice." This interactive exhibit focuses on issues of housing segregation and discrimination in Detroit, MI throughout the 1900's and will be displayed in the library at Davenport's W.A. Lettinga Campus Dec. 2 - 15, with the grand opening reception at 11 a.m. on Dec. 2.

"We're very excited to have the opportunity to host this unique exhibit at Davenport," said Dr. Rhae-Ann Booker, Executive Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Davenport University. "The exhibit will open the eyes of students, faculty and staff on issues related to segregation, discrimination and tolerance."

"Arc of Justice" tells the story of African American physician Ossian Sweet and the chain of events that occurred after he purchased a home for his family in an all-white Detroit neighborhood in 1925. By telling this story, Boyle illuminates other historical issues, including the building blocks of the civil rights movement, the Great Migration of African Americans to the north, the social and political climate of the 1920s and the boomtown years of Detroit.

In the *We Don't Want Them* exhibit, events are documented in a broader context of policies and practices that limited where some could live, thus impacting their quality of life. The exhibit was produced in partnership with the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, and is free and open to the public.

#### **About the Great Michigan Read**

The Great Michigan Read is a free statewide humanities initiative inviting Michigan citizens to read and participate in book discussions and events in their hometowns. Intended for young adults to senior citizens, the Great Michigan Read aims to make literature more accessible and appealing while also encouraging residents to learn more about their state. The program is presented by the Michigan Humanities Council with support from Meijer and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**About Davenport University**

Founded in 1866, Davenport is a private, non-profit university with campuses across Michigan and online courses serving an enrollment of nearly 13,000 students. With tuition among the lowest of all private universities in the state, Davenport provides high academic quality, small class sizes, conveniently located campuses, faculty with real-world experience and more than 40 dynamic undergraduate and graduate programs addressing in-demand careers. More information is available at [www.davenport.edu](http://www.davenport.edu).

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