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READING

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"You can't have 30 different programs," he said.

Kame'enui said it is important for children to have strong reading abilities by third grade because curricula change in the fourth grade from narrative texts to more expository, informational texts.

"The text that they're required to read changes very dramatically from third to fourth grade," he said.

College of Education Dean Marty Kaufman said "reading is a linch-pin to success," but nearly 40 percent of children nationwide cannot read at a basic level by fourth grade. Kame'enui said if children are poor readers at the age of 6, there is an 80 percent chance they will be poor readers later on. In a high school classroom of 30 students, about 20 percent struggle with reading on average, he added.

He said the University has a strong history of research based in this area, which is one reason it was awarded the "highly competitive" five-year contract. The western center will receive almost \$2 million per year in funding.

"The University College of

Education has a long tradition of doing this kind of research," he said. "We've been doing work in this area for some time."

Kaufman said the new center allows student teachers at the University to be on the "cutting edge" of techniques for improving children's literacy.

"This is a result of several decades of faculty research," he said.

He said a faculty proposal to the Oregon Department of Education made Oregon one of the first states to receive Reading First funding last year when the state was awarded about \$48 million.

The College of Education, which is ranked second in the nation by U.S. News and World Report, has established several research centers over the past few years, including the National Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, which serves about 4,000 schools across 35 states, he added.

"In both of these centers you get a sense of the impact we make," he said.

Contact the higher education/student life/student affairs reporter at chelseaduncan@dailyemerald.com.

MLK

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corporate America often presents black culture in inaccurate or romanticized ways, adding that he thinks Rose will present a more critical and honest analysis.

Rose is also author of "Black Noise: Rap Music and Black Culture in Contemporary America," which was awarded the American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation in 1995 and made The Village Voice's top 25 books of 1994.

Mojica explained that the book is important because it "intellectualizes" rap music and has been accepted by the intellectual community.

Hanif Panni, a student and hip hop performer on campus, said the material in the chapters he read was very accurate.

"I thought that a lot of the things in that book were right on," he said.

The Diversity Education and

Support Office, the Multicultural Center and the Black Student Union are all sponsoring and organizing tonight's event.

The speech kicks off two weeks of celebrations at the University, which include a unity celebration with a candlelight vigil Wednesday evening and a speech by lecturer and human rights activist Yuri Kochiyama on Jan. 31, Mojica said.

The candlelight vigil will start at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 28 in the Gerlinger Lounge. The procession will then go on to Agate Street, to East 13th Avenue and back up to the EMU Amphitheatre.

The Oregon Students of Color Coalition conference on Jan. 31 will feature Kochiyama's address at noon in 129 McKenzie. Kochiyama was a friend of Malcolm X and lived through World War II and Japanese-American internment camps.

Contact the people/culture/faith reporter at jaredpaben@dailyemerald.com.



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