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(Release 2/8/10)

**DARRYL HUNT TO SPEAK
AT GTCC CAMPUS ON FEB. 16**

JAMESTOWN – Darryl Hunt, who spent nearly 20 years in prison after a wrongful conviction for rape and murder, will speak at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 16, in the auditorium of Koury Hospitality Careers Center at Guilford Technical Community College.

The event is open to the public free of charge. This is the second presentation in the GTCC Speakers' Series sponsored by the Communication and Fine Arts Dept.

Hunt of Winston-Salem was convicted in connection of the death of a 25-year-old Winston-Salem newspaper copy editor in 1984. The crime happened in downtown Winston-Salem where an employee of a hotel falsely claimed that he saw Hunt in the hotel bathroom with bloody towels. In 1994 Hunt was acquitted of the rape charge after DNA tests showed that Hunt was not the person who raped Deborah Sykes.

This came after the DNA evidence was presented by Barry Scheck of the Innocence Project. That organization was founded by Scheck and Peter Neufeld, who were members of the O.J. Simpson defense team when Simpson was acquitted of killing his wife.

Willard E. Brown confessed in December 2003 to the rape and murder of Deborah Sykes, and the murder charge against Hunt was vacated on Feb. 6, 2004.

Hunt, 45, received a \$1,650,000 settlement from the City of Winston-Salem for his wrongful conviction.

Hunt now is trying to help other people falsely accused of crimes. He has started the Darryl Hunt Project for Freedom and Justice that has three major goals:

- To provide assistance to individuals who have been wrongfully incarcerated.
- To help ex-offenders obtain the skills, guidance and support they need as they return to life outside the prison system.
- To advocate for changes in the justice system so innocent people won't spend time in prison.

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