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# EMU Men's Football: Rodney Slater and Ron Johnson Talk With EMU Football Team January 21, 2014

Eastern Michigan University

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# Rodney Slater and Ron Johnson Talk With EMU Football Team

The two spoke briefly to the EMU football team



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**YPSILANTI, Mich. (EMUEagles.com)** – The Eastern Michigan University football team had a pair of special guests meet with them Monday, Jan. 20, as former Clinton cabinet member **Rodney Slater** and former Pittsburgh Steeler **Ron Johnson** stopped by the Indoor Practice Facility. The pair were in town for the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. luncheon in which Slater received EMU's Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award.

EMU annually presents The Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award to a member of the University community or of the broader community who exemplifies the values and ideals of King, specifically in the areas of leadership and service, or to someone who has made a significant contribution to the University and/or broader community.

Slater, a 1977 graduate of EMU and an Arkansas native, served in various positions under then-Arkansas governor Bill Clinton. In 1993, President Clinton named Slater director of the Federal Highway Administration. In 1997, Clinton named Slater secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, where he served until 2001. Slater, a 2001 EMU Athletic Hall of Fame inductee, is now a partner with the Washington D.C. law firm of Patton Boggs, LLP.

Slater, who was voted captain of EMU's football team and made the dean's list, chaired EMU's recent and highly successful comprehensive fundraising campaign. That effort, called "Invest. Inspire. The Campaign for Eastern Michigan University" raised \$56 million, surpassing the goal of \$50 million more than a year ahead of schedule in late

2011. Slater was praised for his efforts in bringing the EMU community together to show such strong support during difficult economic times.

Johnson, a 1979 graduate of EMU, was a two-time All-Mid-American Conference performer who gained third-team All-American honors on the 1977 Associated Press team. Johnson was a four-year starter in the defensive backfield and accounted for 339 total tackles in his career. After finishing his senior season, Johnson played in both the East-West Shrine All-Star Game and also in the Senior Bowl post-season all-star game. He was voted the North squad's defensive MVP in the Senior Bowl.

Johnson was the first Huron ever drafted in the first round of the National Football League draft when he was the 22nd player in the country picked in the 1978 spring draft. Johnson was elected to EMU's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1986, and also was a member in the inaugural class of the Mid-American Conference Hall of Fame in 1988.