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For Immediate Release:

HIATT RECEIVES GIFFIN AND SWOPE AWARDS AT EIU

CHARLESTON – Kortnie L. Hiatt has been awarded the Elsie and Erson Giffin Scholarship and the Swope Fund for Excellence Outstanding Senior Award through Eastern Illinois University's School of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Dorothy Giffin Dinesen established this scholarship in memory of her parents who were both born in 1884 in rural Coles County. Elsie and Erson Giffin worked hard to establish ownership of their 125-acre farm and provide for their growing family of six. Dinesen graduated from high school, but she was not financially able to go to college.

Dinesen decided that if she ever could afford to help others pursue their desire to obtain a degree, she would do so. Before her death from cancer in 1977, she called her brother Jim, the founding dean of Eastern's School of Business, and told him about her nickel-and-dime savings through the years. She wanted to use this money to assist outstanding students in achieving their goals.

Mary Ruth Swope was dean of what was once known as the School of Home Economics for many years. Upon her retirement, the Swope Fund for Excellence was established with the contributions of family and friends to honor Swope and bring recognition to the HEC/FCS program at Eastern. Recipients of the award are selected annually based on scholarship and evidence of leadership ability.

Hiatt, the daughter of Jason and Lori Thacker of Bridgeport and Terry Hiatt of Paris, is a senior at EIU. She is a 2002 graduate of Red Hill High School in Bridgeport.