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January 15, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

TWO VETERANS RECEIVE HONORS FROM EIU EDUCATORS-IN-TRAINING

CHARLESTON -- Michael Muren, principal of Sunset Elementary School in Pekin, was a principal who "knew all of his students by name and did not yell."

Sister Kathryn Anderson, a staff member of Nazareth Academy in LaGrange Park, is "truly a good person who sets an example for all people."

These attributes -- plus others -- resulted in recent honors from Eastern Illinois University's Beta Psi chapter of Kappa Delta Pi.

Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society in education, implements the program, "Honor An Educator," which promotes and honors excellence in education by recognizing and honoring outstanding educators.

Muren and Anderson, nominated by former students who are now Kappa Delta Pi members, were named as two deserving educators and both attended a special banquet/pinning ceremony held on the university's campus.

Muren, principal of Dirksen Elementary School in Pekin at the time nominator Carlie L. Rettke was a student, said he was truly appreciative of the

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HONORED EDUCATORS

honor bestowed upon him. He remembered Rettke, he said, and her nomination was an indication to him that his efforts at being a caring and accessible administrator were, indeed, working. Muren said he had often wondered whether or not his actions had an impact on the students in his school. A teacher can develop close relationships with only 25 students in a classroom; administrators responsible for 300 to 400 students aren't always that lucky.

In her nomination, Rettke wrote, in part, that the learning environment at Dirksen was "so very rich and exciting. Mr. Muren had a highly effective discipline plan where students wanted to make him proud . . . Now that I am in school to be an educator, I constantly read learning models that remind me of Mr. Muren. He has always inspired me to do my best and work with kids -- not just teach."

Susan Sulin, a student of Anderson's, wrote in her nomination letter that "Sister Kathryn was someone I could trust during my high school years. As a teacher she encourages all her students to express themselves and welcomes all her students' differences. I know that Sister Kathryn positively affected all of the students that passed through her classroom and will continue to do so in the future."

Although pleased with her honor, Anderson said the nomination has set her

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HONORED EDUCATORS

aback; she never thought about being honored for doing her job to the best of her ability. "It's caused me to stop and think about the wide-range impact my job has. A person never really knows whose lives are touched by his or her actions," she added.