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NEWS

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For Immediate Release:

REGISTRATION DEADLINE NEARING FOR FEB. 23 COUNSELING CONFERENCE AT EIU

CHARLESTON – A Feb. 20 registration deadline has been set for those interested in attending “Counseling in the 21st Century,” a spring conference co-sponsored by Eastern Illinois University’s Department of Counseling and Student Development and the Regional Office of Education.

This year’s morning keynote address will focus on “The Changing Nature of Work,” with tips on how to better prepare others for the work world of the future. Presenter Pat Yauch, currently serving as president of WorkTransitions, a career planning company, has career counseled more than 400 individuals, has conducted hundreds of career workshops and teaches career-related classes at the College of DuPage.

She also will present an afternoon session, “Creating Career Awareness Classroom Activities,” a presentation which expands on the ideas presented earlier in the day and turns them into detailed activity plans that can be easily implemented in schools or agencies.

A concurrent session, “Hurting and Healing,” will address the grief process, including stages of bereavement, and suggest techniques on how to help clients heal from significant losses. Presenter Dawn Macke has served as a bereavement counselor with Hospice for nearly 10 years. She also has worked as a youth shelter counselor and supported living arrangements coordinator for developmentally delayed adults.

Later in the afternoon, conference attendees will have a choice between two more presentations – “DCFS: An Educational Perspective” and “School Crisis Assistance Teams (SCAT).”

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Eastern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 10,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern’s pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.

Kittie Moll, a kindergarten through eighth grade guidance counselor in the Shiloh school district, will present a brief preview of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the services it provides. There will be opportunity for school and agency participants to discuss specific situations and brainstorm any problems that have been encountered while accessing DCFS services.

During the second presentation, one will learn why it was determined that there is a need for SCAT in Illinois, why the National Organization for Victims Assistance was chosen to provide the training, how teams are developed, who should be part of a team and who those collaborators are. In addition, attendees will hear from a team coordinator who has been involved in the development of a local team and what that team's experiences has been.

Presenters for this presentation include Carol Wozniowski, director of development and special projects, which includes her ongoing duties as the director of the SCAT Project for the Mental Health Association in Illinois. Joining her will be Dewana Eckstein, regional program developer for the Safe to Learn project through the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority.

The cost of this one-day conference, scheduled to begin at 8:15 a.m. Friday, Feb. 23, is \$55, which includes lunch and materials. The conference will be held in the University Union on the EIU campus, 600 Lincoln Ave., in Charleston.

For information or to register, contact Eastern's Department of Counseling and Student Development (formerly known as the Department of Educational Psychology and Guidance) at (217) 581-2400.

The local Regional Office of Education – one of the conference's two sponsors – serves Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie and Shelby counties.