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NEWS

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For Immediate Release:

VISITING SCHOLAR TO DISCUSS WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP, WOMEN'S HEROISM

CHARLESTON – A leading authority on gender roles will make two presentations this week when she visits the campus of Eastern Illinois University.

Alice Eagly, professor of psychology at Northwestern University, will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 24, on "Women's Quest for Leadership: Solving the Problem of Role Incongruity," and at 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 25, on "The Heroism of Men and Women."

Both talks are free and open to the public.

"Women's Quest for Leadership," set to take place in Eastern's Physical Sciences Building, room 3040, will explore a social-role theory of prejudice toward female leaders. In this theory, this prejudice takes the form of a) perceiving women as possessing less leadership ability than equivalent men and b) evaluating leadership behavior by females more negatively when men engage in exactly the same behavior.

However, women are rising into leadership positions in many industrialized nations. Role congruity theory suggests that a) many leadership positions have become less distinctively masculine, b) expectations about women as leaders are changing, and c) female leaders have found ways to lead others with leadership styles that are neither masculine nor feminine.

"The Heroism of Men and Women," set to take place in Eastern's Physical Sciences Building, room 1131, will examine heroism by women and men in two extremely dangerous settings: the emergency situations in which Carnegie medalists rescued others and the Holocaust in which the righteous among the nations rescued Jews.

Three risky, but less dangerous prosocial actions, including living kidney donations, volunteering for the Peace Corps and volunteering for "Doctors of the World," also will be discussed.

Eagly, who also is a recipient of the Donald Campbell Award for Distinguished Contribution to Social Psychology, the Distinguished Scientist Award of the Society of Experimental Social Psychology and a citation as Distinguished Leader for Women in Psychology, is being sponsored by Eastern's College of Sciences' Visiting Scholar Program and EIU's Department of Psychology.

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