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February 16, 1999

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU HOSTS FIRST TRIO DAY

CHARLESTON -- A panel discussion featuring representatives from companies in Chicago, St. Louis, Terre Haute and Charleston will highlight Eastern Illinois University's first TRIO Day Tuesday, Feb. 23.

"Eastern's TRIO Day coincides with National TRIO Day and is aimed at informing students, faculty and staff, and community members about the program which assists low-income and first-generation students and students with disabilities stay in college until they earn their bachelor's degrees," said Claude Magee Jr., academic advisor for the TRIO program.

TRIO Day begins at 10 a.m. in the University Ballroom in Eastern's student union with greetings from TRIO Director Ann Beck and Director of Minority Affairs Johnetta Jones. All activities are free and open to all EIU students, faculty and staff, and community members.

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A panel discussion will be held from 10:05 to 10:45 a.m. and again from 1 to 1:45 p.m., featuring representatives from Enterprise Car Rental, MG & G (Charleston's Teen Reach Program), Central East Alcoholism and Drug Council (C.E.A.D.) in Charleston, WTWO Television (Channel 2) in Terre Haute, Caterpillar, and others.

They will give participants an overview of their companies and discuss what qualities and skills they seek in prospective employees as well as project future business trends. An hour question-and-answer session will follow both the morning and afternoon panels. Company representatives will set up information tables and will be networking with students and reviewing resumes.

"We want to create a relaxed atmosphere where participants can feel free to network with potential employers, but still encourage students and others to dress professionally. They should also bring their resumes," Magee said.

"While EIU's TRIO Day is designed for the approximately 200 undergraduates who receive support services, any Eastern student is welcome to attend. We are working closely with Eastern's Career Services in planning TRIO Day and are excited to be bringing students yet another opportunity to explore different career fields, to network with other students and professionals, and to prepare for future job interviews," Magee added.

Magee noted that Eastern is one of only 808 colleges and universities nationwide selected to house a TRIO program. Services include tutoring, counseling, study skill enhancement, faculty mentoring, supplemental instruction, cultural activities

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and leadership skill development.

A unique component of the program is the use of faculty mentors to assist students in obtaining internships and in continuing their studies in graduate and professional schools, Magee said.

For more information, contact the TRIO program office at 581-7949.

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