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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BETA GAMMA SIGMA RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University's Beta Gamma Sigma honorary business society has been named "Outstanding Chapter" for 1996 from among 300 chapters nationwide.

National Beta Gamma Sigma President Jack Wentworth said, "Beta Gamma is extremely pleased with our 1996 Outstanding Chapter. Although the Eastern Illinois University chapter was only installed in November 1993, they have already received several recognitions at the national level. To be named Outstanding Chapter in the chapter's second full year of existence is unprecedented. We congratulate Dean Ted Ivarie, Faculty Adviser Mike Wilson and all the members of the Eastern Illinois University chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma on this significant achievement."

The award provides Eastern's Beta Gamma Sigma chapter with a \$2,500 scholarship and recognition at the annual BGS national honoree luncheon in California in April. In addition to the chapter award, EIU senior Mark Koon of Monticello was among a select group of students from BGS-member institutions across the country

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to receive a \$2,500 scholarship from the national chapter.

"We had a good feeling about this going in. We put in a lot of hard work for this award. To be named the Outstanding Chapter from 300 member chapters is a great achievement," said Chapter Adviser Mike Wilson.

Wilson said the chapter was commended for its outstanding programming coordinated by current and past chapter officers. Activities included a food drive, cultural diversity forum and essay contest. The group also has had very successful membership drives, Wilson said.

In congratulating the chapter, Eastern President David Jorns noted, "Beta Gamma Sigma has consistently exemplified the professionalism, pride in accomplishment and commitment to excellence that has typified the university's business curriculum for the last decades. We are very proud of the young people who make up its membership and their accomplishments."

Ted Ivarie, dean of the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences, echoed Jorns' remarks. "As a new chapter, recognition as 'best of class' is especially significant. We are pleased that the outstanding leadership skills and academic accomplishments of our students and faculty have been recognized in this manner."