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NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU ALUMNUS APPOINTED TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHARLESTON - Eastern Illinois University alumnus Julie Sullivan Ward, 43, of Springfield was appointed Wednesday by Gov. George Ryan to serve on Eastern's Board of Trustees.

Ward, assistant director of governmental affairs for the Illinois Association of REALTORS in Springfield, replaces the late Mack W. Hollowell, who resigned from Eastern's Board of Trustees last August.

"I am looking forward to working with Eastern Illinois University and its Board of Trustees. As a student in 1979, I was honored to serve as a student representative on Eastern's former governing board, and I look forward to serving as a member of the Board of Trustees. Eastern is a special place to my family. Four of my brothers and I attended Eastern, so it is indeed an honor to become a trustee and carry on the good work of the board," Ward said.

—more—

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.

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She graduated from Eastern with honors in 1978, earning a bachelor of arts degree in history and political science. She was active in Student Senate and was named "Senator of the Year" in 1977.

At the time she served as student representative on the former governing board, she earned her master of arts degree in political science from Eastern. She recently completed a two-year term on the EIU Alumni Association Board.

Ward has served as assistant director of governmental affairs for the Illinois Association of REALTORS since 1989 and is responsible for assisting in the implementation of legislative programs and policies of the 37,000-member state real estate trade association. Her duties include representing the association before the Illinois General Assembly and other elected officials and interest groups. She previously was a legislative and policy analyst for the Illinois House of Representatives.

She has served on former Gov. Jim Edgar's Task Force on Land and Water Resources and the Blue Ribbon Commission on Property Tax Reform and is a member of Illinois Women in Government.

Gov. Ryan also has reappointed BOT member Betsy D. Mitchell, 47, of Champaign, a longtime lobbyist and director of public affairs for Coldwell Banker Devonshire Realty in Champaign. Mitchell, board secretary, has served as a trustee since the board's inception in 1996. She is an Eastern alumnus, having earned bachelor's and master's degrees in 1975 and 1980, respectively.

Both Ward and Mitchell will serve six-year terms ending Jan. 15, 2007. Members

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of Eastern's Board of Trustees are paid expenses only. The appointments require Senate confirmation.

The governor has yet to announce replacements for former BOT Chair Carl Koerner, who passed away in January, or trustee Keith Branson of Mattoon, whose term expired in January. Legislation provides that current trustees continue to serve in their positions until the governor has made new appointments, and Branson has agreed to do so.

In addition to Ward, Mitchell and Branson, the board is comprised of Nate Anderson of East St. Louis, interim chair; Roger Dettro, D.D.S., of Mattoon; and Jeffery Lezotte of Chicago, whose terms end in 2005. Student Trustee Joe Crocker of Mt. Vernon is serving on the board through June 30, 2001.

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NOTE TO THE EDITOR: A photo of Julie Sullivan Ward is downloadable at <http://www.eiu.edu/~pubaff/JulieWardBOT.htm>.