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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

TWO HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREES APPROVED BY BGU TRUSTEES

CHARLESTON, IL--At its Feb. 18 meeting held at Chicago State University, the trustees of the Board of Governors Universities approved Eastern Illinois University's request to award honorary doctorate degrees to Josephine K. Oblinger of Williamsville and Richard A. Lumpkin of Mattoon.

The nominations were made by Eastern President David Jorns, upon the recommendation of the Faculty Committee on Honorary Degrees and in accordance with board regulations.

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Oblinger, former director of Senior Involvement for the Illinois Department on Aging, will receive an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree during Eastern's spring commencement May 15. She has served with distinction as state representative, 50th District (1979-82) and 100th District (1983-85). Her earlier career included service with the Legal Aid Bureau of Detroit and the County Board of Supervisors as chairman of the Juvenile Detention Home and co-chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

She was a teacher at Lanphier High School in Springfield (1951-62) and served in various roles in Illinois governmental affairs, including Sangamon County clerk; assistant director, Illinois Department of Registration and Education; director, Governor's Office of Voluntary Action; director, Illinois Department on Aging; and director, Governor's Office of Senior Involvement. She has also served as an adjunct professor in gerontology at Sangamon State University.

Her honors have included honorary doctoral degrees from MacMurray College and Sioux Empire College; Outstanding Legislator for Senior Activities; Senior Legislative Forum Award; Springfield Woman of the Year in Government; Governor's Illinois Partner in Building Better Communities Award; National Association of Social Workers Award; and Springfield Women's Club Woman of the Year Achievement Award.

She has shared her expertise with students on Eastern's campus and in her offices in Springfield. Her efforts on behalf of older persons are monumental; she was responsible for several pieces of legislation which continue to have positive impact on the older citizens of Illinois.

Lumpkin will receive an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree during Eastern's summer commencement August 8. He serves as chairman and director of Consolidated Communications Inc., Illinois Consolidated Telephone Co., Consolidated Communications Directories Inc., Consolidated Network Inc., Central Communications Co., Midwest Fibernet Inc., Consolidated Communications Mobile Services Inc., Consolidated Telemarketing Inc., Consolidated Communications Operator Services Inc., Consolidated Communications Public Services Inc. and Independent Telecommunications Network Inc. He also serves as president and director for BAL Estate Co. and the Lumpkin Foundation.

His other activities have included service as president of the Illinois Telephone Association; director, Illinois State Chamber of Commerce; director and past president, United States Telephone Association; and treasurer and chairman, Internal Finance Committee of the United States Telephone Association.

He is very active in community affairs and has served as a director of Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Systems, the East Central Illinois Development Corporation, the Coles County Economic Development Council and several banking organizations.

Lumpkin has been involved in higher education through his service as a director of the EIU Foundation, founding president and member of the EIU Lumpkin College of Business Advisory Board, trustee of Millikin University and director of the Lake Land College Foundation.

He has regularly sponsored programs in Eastern's College of Fine Arts and activities and projects associated with the Panther Club. His significant contributions to Eastern and to education in general and his leadership and support of a broad range of major community projects have demonstrated his commitment to public service.