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March 5, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU WOMEN'S ADVOCACY COUNCIL TO GIVE AWARDS

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University's Women's Advocacy Council will hold its annual awards reception as part of Eastern's Women's History and Awareness Month celebration at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, at the Tarble Arts Center.

The council will present community women Jackie Bacon and Linda Coleman with the Women of Achievement Award for their work.

Bacon has had a long and distinguished career of public service in Coles County. From 1941 to 1974, Bacon served as deputy county clerk. As the first woman elected to county office in Coles County, she served as coles county clerk from 1974 until her retirement in 1986. She currently is a member of the Coles County Board.

Coleman has been a driving force in support of Women's Studies at Eastern. She is admired by her colleagues in the English department, her students and members of the Women's Advocacy Council for her role in establishing and chairing the Women's Studies Minor.

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AWARDS

The following students will also be honored as winners and honorable mentions in the women's essay contest: Victoria Poklop of Park Ridge for her prize-winning essay "Female Genital Mutilation in Somalia;" Jonathan Moore of Heyworth for his essay "The Women of Kenya: Muted by Gender and a Language Not Their Own;" Amanda Davis of Mount Vernon for her essay "Steel in Silence: The Lives of Incarcerated Women;" and Amy Rupiper of Henry for her essay "A Voice of One's Own: George Eliot and the Epic Tradition."

The awards reception will also include poetry reading by area writers. The reception is free and all are welcome to attend.