

3-10-1997

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University Marketing and Communications, "03/10/1997 - Local EIU Student Finalist In Scholarship Competition.pdf" (1997).
1997. 84.

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97-80

March 10, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

LOCAL EIU STUDENT FINALIST IN SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University student Kimberly Harris of Tuscola has been selected as a finalist in the 1997 national Truman Scholarship competition. She will be interviewed shortly for the \$30,000 scholarship for her senior year and up to two years of graduate study.

Harris, a junior political science major, was one of 717 candidates from 369 colleges and universities nominated. Of those nominated, 202 students from 147 institutions were selected as finalists. They will compete for 65 scholarships.

Harris was chosen as a nominee from EIU on the basis of a campus competition that began last spring. Applicants had to have a high grade point average, a record of volunteer and government involvement and a commitment to a career in public service. In addition, students prepared an essay on a public policy issue, and demonstrated leadership ability and a potential to be change agents.

Eastern emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal

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arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 11,000 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.