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## 04/12/2005 - Spring 2005 Commencement To See Changes.pdf

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For Immediate Release:

SPRING 2005 COMMENCEMENT TO SEE CHANGES

CHARLESTON – Unless one frequently attends Eastern Illinois University's commencement ceremonies, the subtle changes planned for this year's spring event might not even be noticed.

Organizers, however, will know that the podium – proudly bearing the official university seal – is new, and splashes of color will liven up Lantz Arena's northernmost lower wall where, for the first time, the flags of Eastern's international students will hang.

And there'll be other changes, as well. Only time will tell, though, whether those changes will be permanent or not.

"It's a pilot program," said Julia Abell, director of planning and institutional studies. "After the spring commencement ceremonies, we'll evaluate the feedback and decide whether to continue or not."

Tentative changes will include the look of the Commencement Program that attendees receive. As is customary, the program will include a welcome, a history, the order of events and listings of the platform party, commencement marshals, faculty marshals and Lord Scholars. Introductions of this year's honorary degree and distinguished faculty award recipients will also remain, as will Eastern's Alma Mater and explanations of academic customs and academic colors.

The programs will not list the names of all students who are eligible to graduate or who are marching by exceptionality. Instead, each student planning to participate in the ceremonies will receive a souvenir program with his or her name and degree inserted. This special program will be presented to students at the same time they pick up their guest admission tickets.

Then, approximately six to eight weeks after commencement, each student who participated in commencement ceremonies and those who were eligible to graduate will receive a free memory CD from Eastern's Alumni Association.

This CD will include a letter from EIU President Lou Hencken; a tab for the Alumni Association; a section about EIU, with photos of campus, student life, athletics and Greek life; general commencement photos; a tab for students who attended the ceremonies (with two photos of themselves); and a listing of each student who was eligible to graduate or who marched by exceptionality.