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University Marketing and Communications

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# NEWS

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**For Release After 5 P.M.**

## EIU PRESIDENT SURLES URGES GRADUATES TO ANSWER CALL TO SERVE

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University President Carol D. Surles first congratulated, then challenged 1,400-plus graduates Saturday to use their talents and education for the benefit of mankind.

"There's no doubt in our minds that you are academically well-prepared to meet the challenges you will encounter," she said. "You already have proven your academic ability. Today is a sweet testimonial to that.

"(But) tomorrow you will work. The call for your service is loud and clear. You will work because there is so much to be done."

Surles charged graduates to "join with other graduates around the world" to solve the problems that plague them all -- disease, poverty, homelessness, crime . . .

"As a graduate of a public university, you must give something of value to your

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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 11,000 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.

communities. Only then is public education a truly worthwhile investment," she added.

Surles also asked graduates to remember Eastern and make the university proud.

"You are fortunate to be a member of the highly respected Eastern family with its rich and cherished traditions," Surles said. "You are privileged, indeed, to follow in the footsteps of men and women who have set high academic, ethical and moral standards and brought honor to this distinguished university.

"One of your first tasks is to pass on to others the knowledge that you have gained. And you must also remember to increase (knowledge) because it is a noble inheritance."

The eighth president of Eastern, delivering her first commencement speech as the university's top administrator, spoke during three separate ceremonies. Graduates of Eastern's Graduate School and College of Arts and Humanities marched at 9 a.m.; the College of Education and Professional Studies and the College of Sciences at 1 p.m.; and the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences and the School of Adult and Continuing Education at 5 p.m.

Also addressing graduates at all three ceremonies were Student Body President Steve Zielinski of Lindenhurst; Alumni Association President Joe Dively of Charleston; and Faculty Senate Chairperson James Tidwell. Representing Eastern's Board of Trustees in the morning ceremony was Chairman Carl P. Koerner of Effingham; in the afternoon, Betsy D. Mitchell of Champaign; and in the evening, Keith D. Branson of Mattoon.

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E. Duane Elbert, professor of history and representing the College of Arts and Humanities, served as Faculty Marshal during the 9 a.m. ceremony. Representing the College of Sciences as faculty marshal in the afternoon ceremony was Edward M. Corley, professor of economics, and Carol J. Armstrong, associate professor of family and consumer sciences, represented the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences during the evening ceremony.

Special recognition was given to five Livingston C. Lord Scholarship recipients. The prestigious scholarships, named after Eastern's first president, are presented annually at commencement to junior or senior students who show promise of outstanding success in their chosen fields. This year's recipients were Timothy Donald Breitzman of Washington; Naomi Janet Lukomski of New Athens; Rebekah K. Spannagel of Hidalgo; Deven L. Duree of Lawrenceville; and Emily M. Patrick of Sullivan.

Special guests at this year's ceremonies included Susan J. Kaufman, EIU professor of journalism, who was named recipient of Eastern's 1999 Distinguished Faculty Award.

And Author E. Hughes Jr., a Hoopeston, Ill., native who graduated from Eastern in 1951, received an Honorary Doctor of Public Service Degree. He is president emeritus of the University of San Diego, and was honored with an EIU Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1973 from Eastern's School of Business (currently known as Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences).