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May 5, 1998

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON NATIVE TO RECEIVE EIU HONORARY DEGREE

CHARLESTON -- As a high school student, Robert A. Ingram saw several of his classmates -- victims of polio -- confined to iron lungs. The days of widespread use of the polio vaccine were yet to be.

After graduating from Eastern Illinois University in 1965 with a bachelor of science degree in business administration, the Charleston native began his career by visiting doctors' offices to talk about medicines discovered and developed by the company that would become Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals. He taught doctors to effectively use those medicines to improve patient health and quality of life.

This Saturday (May 9, 1998), Ingram will return to Eastern as the recipient of the university's 1998 Honorary Doctorate in Public Service. This latest in a series of awards recognizes Ingram's dedication to and concern for others for more than 30 years.

Growing up in Charleston, Ingram learned his first lessons about respect and caring

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CHARLESTON NATIVE

demanding professional schedule, he makes time to serve a wide range of organizations, including -- but not limited to -- the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, the American Cancer Society, Project HOPE and the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education. He also serves on the board of trustees at Guilford College, and the board of visitors at both the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He also recently joined North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt in representing North Carolina at the Governors' National Education Summit and the President's Summit on America's Future, and has testified repeatedly on education issues before the North Carolina General Assembly.

Ingram was honored with an EIU Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1990 and a Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1994. He currently serves on the Dean's Advisory Board for the School of Business at Eastern.