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NEWS

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October 2, 2002

For Immediate Release:

EIU TO HOST 27TH ANNUAL PANTHER MARCHING BAND FESTIVAL; 21 BANDS TO COMPETE

CHARLESTON – Twenty-one Illinois high school bands will participate in the 27th annual Panther Marching Band Festival this weekend on the campus of Eastern Illinois University.

Bands ranging in size from 35 to 150-plus members will compete for awards from 8 a.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, at O'Brien Stadium. (In case of inclement weather, the competition will take place in the field house, located in nearby Lantz Building.)

Admission is \$5; \$3 for students/Eastern students with PantherCard ID; and free for those children who are five and under. The public is welcome to attend.

Bands will perform at 15-minute intervals, beginning at 8:15 a.m. The day's schedule is as follows:

1A Class: Casey-Westfield, 8:15 a.m.; Bismarck-Henning, 8:30 a.m.; Iroquois West, 8:45 a.m.; Watseka, 9 a.m.; Niantic-Harristown, 9:15 a.m.; El Paso, 9:30 a.m.; and Atwood-Hammond, 9:45 a.m.

2A Class: Blue Ridge, 10:15 a.m.; Okaw Valley, 10:30 a.m.; East Richland, 10:45 a.m.; Ridgeview, 11 a.m.; Mater Dei, 11:15 a.m.; Robinson, 11:30 a.m.; and Newton, 11:45 a.m.

3A Class: Streator Township, 1 p.m.; Charleston, 1:15 p.m.; Belleville West, 1:30 p.m.; and Centralia, 1:45 p.m.

4A Class: Alton, 2:15 p.m.; Marion, 2:30 p.m.; and Centennial, 2:45 p.m.

The Marching Blue, Eastern's own marching band, will present an exhibition performance at 3 p.m. The day's awards are expected to be presented at approximately 3:15 p.m.

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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 10,000 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.