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NEWS

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For Immediate Release:

MONAHAN BROTHERS OF ARCOLA TO DISCUSS NAFTA IN LECTURE AT EIU

CHARLESTON – Brothers Tim and Pat Monahan – third-generation operators of The Thomas Monahan Company, located in Arcola – will publicly discuss the North American Free Trade Agreement this week on the campus of Eastern Illinois University.

The talk will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14, in Lumpkin Hall, room 2030. Admission is free and open to the public.

The passage of NAFTA, which went into effect in January 1994, caused the domestic broom industry to shrink, as more and more of the market turned to inexpensive brooms made in Mexico.

However, The Monahan Company, which began in 1922 as a small domestic broomcorn brokerage firm, has continued to grow over the years into a worldwide supplier of all the parts needed to put together a broom, brush or mop. Through its investment in Handles, USA, the Douglas County-based company has become the primary U.S. manufacturer of handles for brooms, mops, brushes and tools.

Brush Fibers, Inc., another Monahan Company subsidiary, provides all the fibers needed for the manufacture of brushes. In recent years, The Monahan Company has reacted to changes in the marketplace by expanding operations and developing into a major O.E.M. manufacturer.

The Monahan Company and its affiliate now have more than 150 employees and 200,000 square feet of manufacturing and warehouse space.

Tim Monahan, who serves as chairman of the board and president of the company, received his bachelor of science in business (marketing/finance) from the University of Notre Dame and his master's degree in finance from the University of Chicago.

Pat Monahan, who received his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Notre Dame and his master's degree in marketing from the University of Chicago, joined The Monahan

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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.

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MONAHAN BROTHERS

Company in 1974. In addition, he has served as Arcola's school board president, chamber of commerce president and chairman of the Economic Development Committee. Currently, he also serves as chairman of the T.I.F. Advisory Committee.