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NEWS

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January 10, 2003

For Immediate Release:

ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CANDLELIGHT VIGIL SET TO TAKE PLACE AT EIU

CHARLESTON – Community residents are once again invited to join the students and staff of Eastern Illinois University as they commemorate the life and accomplishments of Martin Luther King Jr.

As is customary, the event will begin with a candlelight march across a portion of Eastern's campus. This year's walk, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20, will originate from Thomas Hall, 2120 Seventh St., and end at the University Ballroom, located in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

A short program honoring the memory of King will begin at 7, and will include words from Claude Magee, EIU staff member; video presentations; and several musical interpretations. Admission is free.

The event is being sponsored by Eastern's chapter of the national fraternal organization, Alpha Phi Alpha, of which King was a member. Members of the local chapter invite all interested persons to come out for the two events. Those wishing to attend the program only are welcome to do so.

In addition, the national office has initiated a fund-raising effort to pay for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, scheduled to be built in Washington D.C. Donations may be mailed to Alpha Phi Alpha, P.O. Box 432, Charleston, Ill. 61920.

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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.