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January 23, 2003

For Immediate Release:

LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM GIVES EIU SUPERVISORS THE "EDGE"

CHARLESTON – Ten Eastern Illinois University employees recently graduated from "The Leading Edge," a voluntary one-year development program especially designed for EIU supervisors.

The program includes workshops and programs on everything from creating the respectful workplace to how to use the University Processes Guide. Monthly sessions take one morning to complete and are presented by professionals from both on- and off-campus.

Graduates of the program recently participated in ceremonies in which Louis Hencken, interim president, presented the commencement address and awarded diplomas.

This year's graduates include:

Julie Benedict, personnel assistant III, Office of Training and Development. Benedict has been at EIU since 1995 and was a supervisor for four years. She started in the Business Office and joined the Office of Training and Development in March 2002. She hails from the state of Kansas and is working toward her bachelor of arts degree.

Mike Carter Jr., roofer foreman, Facilities Planning and Management. Carter has been at EIU for 13 years, starting as a roofer, and has been a foreman for three years. He is certified in first aid and CPR, and begins teaching courses for employees this month. Carter, from Mattoon, is working toward his bachelor of science degree in career occupations.

Joy Craft, personnel officer IV, assistant director, Human Resources. Craft began at EIU in 1975 as clerical extra help in the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs; soon after, she moved to the testing area. In 1994, she became Eastern's employment/examinations manager and, in 2001, she also became the assistant director of Human Resources. Craft has her master of science degree in education.

Melissa Gordon, office systems specialist II, School of Business. Gordon has been with the university for six years and has served as a supervisor since March 2002. She started as a cashier in the Business Office and worked in ROTC for one year. She has an associate degree in math and computer science.

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John Henderson, user services director, Information Technology Services. Henderson began at EIU as a supervisor in 1998. After a seven-month hiatus in 2001, he returned to EIU. He has worked in Maine and Florida, but prefers EIU where he finds that the faculty and staff are great and easy to work with. Henderson is finishing his doctorate in higher education administration.

Margaret Messer, associate director, Honors Program. Messer has been with Eastern's Honors Program since 1992, and has served as a supervisor for seven of those years. She also spent 13 years in a social services grant program. Originally from West Virginia, Messer is working toward her doctorate in educational administration.

Gary Reed, superintendent of utilities, Facilities Planning and Management. Reed has been a supervisor at Eastern since May 1989. He also served the university as a mechanical engineer. Reed, who graduated from the University of Illinois with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering, resides in Effingham County.

Cindy Starwalt, financial aid advisor, Office of Financial Aid. Starwalt has been at Eastern since 1994 and has been a supervisor for three years. She spent one year in the Business Office. Originally from Greenup, Starwalt is working toward her bachelor of arts degree.

Phyllis Stewart, account technician III, Business Office. Stewart has been at Eastern since August 1984 and has been a supervisor for three years. She is from the Charleston area and has an associate's degree in accounting.

Carol Strode, acting director, Facilities Planning and Management. Strode started at EIU in 1967 as a secretary in the Counseling Center, and has been a supervisor for the last five years. She earned her bachelor of arts degree through the Board of Governors Program (now Board of Trustees Bachelor of Arts Program) from EIU in 1987.

The first monthly session for "The Leading Edge" program for 2003 will take place from 8 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Jan. 29. EIU supervisors interested in participating should contact Sandy Bowman, training coordinator, at (217) 581-6402 for information.