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99-101

June 16, 1999

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

JACOBS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP

CHARLESTON --TaRosa O. Jacobs, daughter of Odesa Weatherford-Jacobs of Belleville and Ambrous Jacobs of Fayetteville, N.C., is the recipient of Eastern Illinois University's 1999 Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship.

The recipient of this award must be in good academic standing at Eastern and must, in thought and deed, be a living example of the ideals and values expressed by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This annual scholarship award is announced each spring on the anniversary of King's death.

Jacobs is a senior honors student at Eastern with double majors in African-American Studies and English. She is recognized for promoting social justice on campus and in the larger community.

As president of the African-American Studies Association, she has programmed workshops and various activities to assist students preparing for the Graduate Record

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Exam (GRE) and intends to create workshops aimed at resolving conflicts in the residence halls.

Jacobs is a student representative on Eastern's African-American Studies Program Advisory Board and has helped recruit students for this program.

As vice president of Indigo, an African-American theatre troupe, Jacobs assisted with play selection, auditions and rehearsal evaluation. In addition, she was co-creator and assistant director for an EIU Department of Theatre's Spring 1998 production, "The Tyrone Muhammed Show," and was the lead in Eastern's "Madam Tinubu."

Jacobs writes and illustrates poetry and short stories. She is currently working on a historical novel that spans the African Diaspora-- from the West Coast of Africa to the United States during the period of enslavement.

As a summer intern with the Missouri Historical Society through the University Consortium Minority Internship Program, Jacobs was the sole researcher on the history of African-American neighborhoods in the St. Louis area. Her research will be the source of a documentary film script, "Through the Eyes of A Child," and, eventually, a book and a play.

Jacobs is the recipient of the ACE (Academic Cultural Excellence) and the African-American Studies Department Award for the past two consecutive years.

She plans to obtain her doctorate in African-American Studies with an emphasis on literature and urban affairs. She plans to teach at the college-level and continue building bridges between academia and the community.

She is a 1994 graduate of Belleville Township High School East.