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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BLACKWELL RECEIVES MARTIN LUTHER KING SCHOLARSHIP

CHARLESTON -- Deanna Blackwell, daughter of Carolyn and Robert Blackwell of Springfield, is the recipient of Eastern Illinois University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship.

Established by the Eastern Illinois Chapter of the American Association of University Professors in memory of Martin Luther King, Jr., the award is given annually to one or more Eastern students who are "living examples of the ideals and values expressed by Martin Luther King, Jr."

A senior English major, Blackwell was nominated for the award by Michael Loudon, EIU professor of English.

"I have known no other student so deserving of the Martin Luther King, Jr. award in my 10 years at EIU," said Loudon. "She is singular in her compassion for others and in her mature diligence to excel."

In addition to her major in English, Blackwell has completed substantial work toward minors in anthropology and women's studies.

In 1994, she spent the fall semester in a Syracuse University study-abroad program at the University of Harare, Zimbabwe.

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Since her return from Zimbabwe, Blackwell has volunteered to speak to classes as well as campus and community organizations on her experiences. In March, she addressed the local Zonta Club, an international service organization, about women's health issues in Africa.

Blackwell is an active member of the Black Student Union and EARTH (Expanding Awareness and Responsibility Toward Humanity), an ad hoc student group that combines environmental education with cultural concerns.

In 1992, she received first place in EIU's annual Cultural Diversity Essay Contest. Her essay was later published in The Illinois Times of Springfield. Her editorials have appeared in EIU's "Daily Eastern News," and in "Minority Today." She also has published an essay on spirituality in "The Midwest Metaphysician" and an editorial in the Zimbabwean national newspaper, "The Herald."

Eastern, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 1994-95, is a comprehensive university with more than 10,500 students and 46 undergraduate and 27 graduate degree programs. It is a teaching institution which prides itself on the quality and affordability of its undergraduate program.