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For Immediate Release:

KARBASSIOON NAMED EIU BOSS OF THE YEAR

CHARLESTON -- Ebrahim Karbassioon -- a "genuine good-will ambassador for the university and the community by his friendly, helpful attitude toward others" -- has been named Eastern Illinois University's 1998 Boss of the Year.

"It is rewarding to be recognized by your colleagues -- a group of people whom you enjoy working with," the award recipient said. "This recognition reflects the caliber of the people I work with. Peer recognition is tremendously treasured."

Karbassioon received his official Boss of the Year plaque during Eastern's annual Boss Appreciation Luncheon held earlier this month. It was presented by last year's recipient, Thomas Hawkins, director of off-campus and contract programs.

Other past recipients include Terry Weidner, academic affairs (1996); James Johnson, College of Arts and Humanities (1995); James Quivey, English (1994); Larry

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Williams, Graduate School (1993); Sandi Ramsey, payroll (1992); Ron Leathers, College of Education (1991); David Doss, testing (1990); and Elmer Pullen, financial aid (1989).

Karbassioon, who came to Eastern in 1980, has served as chair of the university's economics department for the past eight-and-a-half years.

"Members of the economics department were pleased by this year's Boss of the Year award," said Patrick Lenihan, professor of economics. "We think we are a difficult bunch to control, but Dr. Karbassioon manages us with good humor and good sense. In spite of our pulling lots of different directions, we all wind up where we need to be because of his leadership."

Edward Corley, also of Eastern's economics department, added, "(Dr. Karbassioon's) door is always open, literally. I have never had him fail to discuss something with me immediately, no matter how busy he was at the time.

"He operates in a highly democratic way by listening to all views in a situation before rendering a decision. He communicates expeditiously and to everyone involved.

"His strongest point, in addition to being a very capable administrator, is his concern for the feelings of others. He 'gets the job done,' but simultaneously does so by making the people involved feel good about themselves. These actions by our "boss" are responsible for the high morale in our department."