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November 19, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

THREE EIU EMPLOYEES HONORED WITH OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS

CHARLESTON -- Extraordinary dedication to their fellow man links **James Quivey, Ron Leathers** and **Ruth Dow** as the 1997 recipients of Eastern Illinois University's highest service awards.

James Quivey, recently retired chairperson of Eastern's English department, received the university's Livingston C. Lord Distinguished Service Award in light of his "record of truly noteworthy service to Eastern."

"I know of no administrator who has spent longer days and nights, for a greater number of consecutive years, working for the benefit of others," wrote one English faculty member in his nomination letter on Quivey's behalf.

A second one wrote, "Jim consistently has worked above and beyond his job description. For him, being chairman of the English department at Eastern has been more a calling than a career. It has been a 10-hour day, seven-day-a-week effort . . . He visits faculty, both current and retired, in the hospital, attends funerals, makes condolence calls, has driven retired faculty to medical appointments, and has helped so many individuals in so many ways for so many years that he epitomizes for me what the Livingston C. Lord Distinguished Service Award is all about."

A third faculty member offered a more personal glimpse into Quivey's service: "It is the spring of 1989 and I am on leave from Eastern for a year, living with my family in a small village north of Manila,

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SERVICE AWARDS

half an hour from the nearest phone, half a day from the airport . . . Then a letter arrives, with the alarming news that the tenants to whom we have sub-let our house have disappeared, stopped paying rent, and left our dogs locked in the garage. Whom do we call?

“We call Jim -- my boss, remember, with 60-some other employees to worry about, his own deadlines to meet, his own busy spring schedule. Jim does the following: goes by my house, collects the dogs, and makes arrangements for them to stay with a friend; sends a short, reassuring letter to us; goes back again, fixes our riding mower (broken by the renters) and spends a Saturday harvesting what is, by then, a two-foot high crop of hay; returns with wife and daughter in tow and cleans up the worst of the mess the renters have left, making sure the property is safe from further damage; discovers the whereabouts of the renters and makes preliminary contact on our behalf; sends a longer, infinitely reassuring letter, bringing us up to date on the whole situation; and checks up on the property regularly for the next three months, till we return to Charleston.”

Ron Leathers, recently retired assistant dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies, was named this year’s recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for administration. He, too, is much admired by his peers as demonstrated through his letters of nomination.

“I’ve never heard negative comments about Ron as a professional or as a person. However, I have visited with those . . . who are quick to point out his fairness, compassion and great integrity. I’m aware of his skillful lobbying for and administration of significant research/service grants providing millions of dollars to EIU . . . His diligence, patience and expertise are well-known within the College of Education and Professional Studies and throughout the state,” wrote one colleague.

Another used this example to make a point: “The Persian Gulf conflict began and Ron’s son, Lee, was sent to the Gulf with the 82nd Airborne. Ron and his wife, Sue, of course, were very concerned, as all of us were. Television was broadcasting the war and every scud missile explosion broadcast was a horror

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to each American but particularly to those with family in the conflict. Our NCATE report was due . . . Ron was to author the report and pull it all together. This was the task before him in January while the Gulf War raged. Ron worked Saturdays; he worked Sundays; he patiently dealt with reports his group leaders were late in submitting. He never said, "Woe is me;" he never snarled about those who hadn't done their share; he just methodically, with his own personal trials and worries tucked inside, got the report done. As with all Ron's tasks, the report was high in quality and complete in its thoroughness."

Ruth Dow, recipient of this year's Distinguished Service Award for faculty, was nominated for the honor because she "epitomizes the ideal of a highly successful professional woman who has dedicated her life to the good of humanity through education and service to Eastern and the immediate and international community."

In addition to her teaching career in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences at Eastern, Dow participates in many community and public service activities, including serving as a board member of the Charleston Food Pantry and a consultant/volunteer interpreter at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site providing historical research related to foods and food preparation. She also belongs to the Charleston League of Women Voters and is director of programs, board member and a nutrition education consultant for Alfalit, an international literacy organization.

Dow recently spent five weeks in South America as a nutrition educator/consultant and was recognized for her international nutrition education contributions by the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos in Lima, Peru. For many years she has provided nutrition education, adult education, program development and done volunteer service in food preparation and literacy programs in the Acetin, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Panama, Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador.