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**FOR RELEASE ON MARCH 12, 1998:**

EIU WOMEN'S ADVOCACY COUNCIL PRESENT WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University's Women's Advocacy Council held its annual awards reception as part of Eastern's Women's History and Awareness Month March 11 at the Tarble Arts Center.

The Council presented Eastern senior Christina Hardin of Charleston, and community members Margaret Hollowell of Charleston and Cathie Reynolds of Ashmore with the Women of Achievement Awards for their work.

A speech pathology and audiology major, Hardin has been a leader in Eastern's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Allies Union. As education coordinator for the group, she has organized panels that have visited classes and led discussions about issues of diversity and human rights. She has provided dynamic leadership and contributed her creativity and energy to the meetings.

She was helped LGBAU win prizes in the spirit competition and float categories for

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ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Eastern's homecoming and has participated in many activities on campus in favor of women's rights. She also was a moving force in bringing the AIDS quilt to Eastern.

Hollowell has provided leadership for the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, Charleston's Wesley United Methodist Church, Eastern's Tarble Arts Center and the Little Theater on the Square in Sullivan.

As a member of the Sarah Bush Lincoln Guild Board of Directors, Hollowell has initiated fund-raising activities through the Grand Soiree and Scholarship committee. She has been an advocate for the maintenance and repair of the Wesley United Methodist Church and has been the church representative to the Charleston Community Day Care Center Board.

She has been one of the most enthusiastic supporters of Eastern's Tarble Arts Center, serving on the TAC Advisory Board Steering Committee and administering the docent program at the museum. A member of the Board of Trustees for Sullivan's Little Theater on the Square, she has been instrumental in obtaining financial support for the theater.

Reynolds, director of nursing for the Coles County Health Department since 1979, has provided community leadership in the areas of prevention of child abuse, women's health and AIDS education. She has initiated a number of new programs in these areas and has trained the staff for them. She also has been involved in community education programs, where she is often a speaker.

With her help, the Coles County Public Health Department has grown into one of the leading departments in the state. She has been an advocate for health care for the underprivileged and she has been active in issues of mental health.

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ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The following students were also honored as winners and honorable mentions in the women's essay contest: Kelli Quinn, junior journalism major from Henry, for her prize-winning essay "The Bad Women of the Enchanted Forest: the Historical and Social Origins of the Female Villains in the Tales of the Brothers Grimm;" Amanda Davis, senior English major from Mt. Vernon, for her essay "In Search of the Goddess: Rediscovering Women's Spiritual Center" and Jackie McGrath, senior English major from Oak Forest, for her essay "Excerpts from the Other Half: Gender in Literature and Efforts to Reflect Women's Experiences in an Examination of Five Authors."

The student actresses who performed the roles of women worthy of emulation as part of the living history program in local schools also were honored at the reception.

The reception included a performance by the EIU Dancers.