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November 2, 1990

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BOG PROGRAM FOR ADULTS WINS NATIONAL AWARD

CHARLESTON, IL.--A degree program at Eastern Illinois University that provides an opportunity for adults to earn credit for college-level learning outside the classroom has won the National Distinguished Program Award for 1990.

In its 18 years, the Board of Governors Bachelor of Arts Degree Program systemwide has graduated over 8,500 students. In addition to Eastern, it is offered at the other four BOG universities: Chicago State; Governors State; Northeastern Illinois; and Western Illinois.

The award, presented by the Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE), is one of the most prestigious prizes in adult and continuing education programming.

"We are honored to receive this recognition for our efforts," said Vice Chancellor Robert A. Pringle, founder of the program. "It has made a tremendous difference for students trying to better their lives while still fulfilling responsibilities on the job and at home."

Eastern's program received national attention most recently when one of its graduates, Hattie Paulk of Champaign, received the American Association of Adult and Continuing Education 1989 Outstanding Adult Learner of the Year Award.

"Hattie represents one of the many motivated, success-oriented and capable adult students who took advantage of a unique opportunity to earn a college degree," said Martha Brown, Acting Director of Eastern's BOG/BA Degree Program.

With a national reputation of excellence, the BOG/BA Degree concept has been used as a model for other colleges and universities nationwide and is uniquely characterized by its flexibility and evaluation of college-level prior learning.

A student can also earn credit by taking course work at any of the five BOG universities or through independent study and telecourses.

In addition, two thirds of the students enrolled in the program systemwide since 1983 have reported that they are employed in fields that are projected to be growth industries by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The ACHE is an international organization made up of over 1,500 members, who are involved in adult and continuing education programming.