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7-25-1991

### 07/25/1991 - McKinney Scholarship

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#### Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "07/25/1991 - McKinney Scholarship" (1991). *Press Releases*. 1610.

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
Charleston, Illinois

# news

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91-292

July 25, 1991

**FILE COPY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MCKINNEY SCHOLARSHIP

CHARLESTON, IL.--Pamela Parker-McKinney of Charleston, Director of Alumni and Community Relations at Eastern Illinois University, and the University's Housing Office have established an endowment fund in honor of the late Sean R. McKinney, Pamela's husband and former residence hall Complex Director at Eastern.

The Sean R. McKinney Memorial Scholarship, created with donations from former colleagues, family, and friends will be awarded annually to a freshman or transfer student who lives in the residence halls and is involved in making other students' lives better. Recipients will be selected based on participation and leadership in residence hall work at Eastern.

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"Sean was devoted to helping students and cared deeply for the many students and staff he worked with at Eastern. He knew of and supported my idea of establishing a scholarship in his name for new students because he wanted to give something back to Eastern and the students it serves," said Parker-McKinney.

McKinney, son of Alan and Judy McKinney of Olney, earned his bachelor's degree in business in 1984 and master's in guidance and counseling in 1987, both from Eastern. He worked as a campus residence hall director while earning his master's degree.

After graduating from Eastern in 1987, he joined the housing staff at Texas Tech University, and a year later returned to Eastern as Complex Director of Carman Hall, which houses approximately 900 students, most of whom are first-time Eastern students.

As Complex Director, he counseled students, supervised staff and completed various administrative duties. He also chaired several departmental housing committees.

Lou Hencken, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of Housing at Eastern, said, "Sean was an excellent role model and certainly had a positive impact on the many students and fellow staff members with whom he worked. Because he was a Complex Director, he was a member of the central housing staff and offered many positive suggestions concerning residence hall living."

McKinney was diagnosed with bone marrow cancer (leukemia) in April 1990 while he was engaged to Pamela Parker, daughter of Dale and Rebecca Parker of Olney. They were married June 30, 1990.

In spite of more than a year of extensive chemotherapy and other treatment, McKinney lost his battle with cancer June 29, 1991, one day after his 29th birthday and a day before their first wedding anniversary.

Individuals wishing to donate to the scholarship fund may call the EIU Foundation Office, (217) 581-3313, or write to the EIU Foundation, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL 61920.