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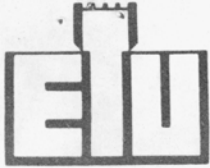
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SHOBE NAMED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

CHARLESTON, IL--Based on his outstanding job performance, Charleston resident Larry Shobe has been named Employee of the Year at Eastern Illinois University.

A grounds worker for the Physical Plant Services since 1987, Shobe is responsible for maintaining Eastern's flower beds, shrubs and trees on the 316-acre campus.

Upon receiving the award, he said, "It was a tremendous honor to have been selected Employee of the Year. I was truly surprised."

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Shobe said his work at Eastern has enabled him to meet a variety of people from the University community, from students' parents to local residents.

A 12-year member of the Royal Horticultural Society in London, England, Shobe has a special interest in British gardening, which he says is evident in his private garden. He also enjoys travelling.

"Gardening for me can best be described as a life style. Initially my great-grandmother taught me how to propagate plants," Shobe said.

Shobe's supervisor, Jon Collins of Charleston, said, "Larry takes a special interest in the flower beds and does an excellent job on them."

Shobe, the son of Leland and Tootsie Shobe of rural Toledo, is a native of rural Greenup where he is active in the Clear Creek Separate Baptist Church.