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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DRAKE NAMED DIRECTOR

CHARLESTON, IL--Now in her third month as Eastern Illinois University's director of orientation and coordinator of AIDS, Alcohol and Drug Information, EIU graduate Lynette Drake has a good idea of what she would like to accomplish with Eastern's orientation program and award-winning alcohol and drug prevention education program.

"I'd like to continue the development of a model orientation program, especially for first year students, and work with other offices, departments, and organizations toward a comprehensive orientation process," said Drake, a member of Eastern's Office of Student Housing central staff.

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Prior to joining Eastern's housing staff, Drake was area complex director at the University of North Dakota, also a central housing staff position.

Among the programs Drake oversees as Eastern's director of orientation are EIU Debut, a summer pre-registration program for new students enrolled in the fall, and Panther Preview, a fall orientation program designed to help students make an easier transition into college.

She also directs Panther PALS/Rookie Runners, a student-run program where volunteers help new students move into University housing and are available to answer questions. Other programs administered through Drake's office are spring orientation targeted to transfer students and ongoing orientation programs, such as crime prevention and bicycle registration, coordinated with the University Police Department's Crime Prevention Office.

In her role as coordinator of AIDS, Alcohol and Drug Information, Drake and her staff are involved in planning and executing awareness week campaigns relating to AIDS, alcohol and drug use, such as National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week recently held on the Eastern campus.

Two student groups that work closely with Drake and her staff are BACCHUS (Boost Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students) and GAMMA (Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol). Drake said she hopes to continue expanding resources available to students relating to drug, alcohol, AIDS, and date rape issues and encouraging student leaders to participate in campus presentations and programs.

Drake and her husband, Michael, consultant geologist for Drake Geological Services, live in Charleston.