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For Immediate Release:

KAUFMAN RECEIVES EIU'S 1999 DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

CHARLESTON -- Susan Kaufman, professor of journalism at Eastern Illinois University, has been named the 1999 recipient of the university's Distinguished Faculty Award.

She will be recognized for her accomplishments at the 9 a.m. commencement ceremony Saturday, May 8, in Lantz Gymnasium.

Kaufman, who joined Eastern's staff in 1986, expressed her pleasure at being named this year's recipient: "This is truly a humbling experience. Being held in high regard by one's peers is the greatest honor I could ever hope to achieve."

This award is presented to a faculty member with at least four years of full-time teaching experience and who excels in teaching, professional development and service. The recipient receives a small monetary award, in addition to a plaque.

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"The best way I can express my gratitude to my colleagues for this honor is to reinvest the award money into EIU's future," she said. "That's why I've decided to donate the \$1,000 to Booth Library as seed money for a special collection of books and multi-media materials aimed at bringing greater attention to our need to teach and foster tolerance and to celebrate diversity and inclusiveness on our campus, in our community, in our nation and our world."

Kaufman's selection was based, in part, on letters submitted by colleagues to the Distinguished Faculty Award Selection Committee. Some of the sentiments expressed in those letters addressed Kaufman's ability to teach "intense and demanding classes that require great competence and awareness in the discipline."

"Dr. Kaufman is a demanding teacher who challenges students to achieve to their full potential, then nurtures and encourages them individually and collectively, which she does continuously and generously," wrote Les Hyder, chair of Eastern's journalism department.

Kaufman is also well-known for her work outside of the classroom. She has held various positions around Eastern's campus, including her current presidency of the university's chapter of University Professionals of Illinois. David Radavich, professor of English at Eastern and UPI vice president, wrote, "I have witnessed on a nearly daily basis her tireless efforts on behalf of the university as president of (UPI). She works long, hard, dedicated hours trying to promote faculty interests on campus, to solve innumerable personnel problems, and to work constructively with administrators for the

betterment of Eastern.”

“Also . . . Sue has represented the university very ably and with a high profile at Illinois Board of Higher Education meetings . . . , as well as at legislative hearings and meetings in Springfield. On all such occasions, Sue Kaufman exhibits an air of genuine professionalism and never fails to promote the good name and public image of our university,” he added.

Journalism colleague Mary Durkin Wohlrabe lauded Kaufman for her work in the field and her inspiration.

“Her leadership . . . inspired me . . . to participate to a much greater extent in research and professional activities,” Wohlrabe wrote. “She has done so many papers and presentations, I cannot recount them here. Two notable contributions, however, include her 1996 book, *Women Transforming Education*, and her television documentary on Auschwitz.

“She does it all: scholarly work, conference presentations and popular newspaper and television pieces ... (And) her scholarship is not ivory-tower abstract; she uses knowledge for the improvement of humanity.”

Before coming to Eastern, Kaufman worked for various newspapers and radio and television stations, including the *Milwaukee Sentinel*; the *Rockford Morning Star*; the *Spirit/Green Bay Register*; WMPL AM-FM, the NBC affiliate in Hancock, Mich.; WGGL-FM, a NPR affiliate in Houghton, Mich.; WAAC-AM, a CBS affiliate in Terre Haute, Ind.; the *Terre Haute Tribune-Star*; and the *Chicago Tribune*. She also was a founding partner of UP MEDIA, an advertising and public relations agency.