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NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MARYLIN LISOWSKI NAMED 1997 DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD WINNER

CHARLESTON -- Marylin Lisowski, professor in Eastern Illinois University's Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle-Level Education, has been named this year's recipient of the university's Distinguished Faculty Award.

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

Lisowski, who joined Eastern's faculty in 1987, expressed her pleasure at being named this year's recipient. "It has been said that 'people can be divided into THREE groups: those who WATCH things happen, those who MAKE things happen and those who WONDER what happened!'

"I would have to say that my work and experiences at EIU have been rich enough that I feel like I fit in all three categories! Initially, one can't help but be an observer or 'watcher' at EIU because the accomplishments and talents of the faculty and staff are extremely impressive and inspiring. These intellectual and professional giants have served as catalysts for my own work and therefore have been instrumental in my ethic of 'making things happen'.

"I am in love with learning, teaching and my discipline of science and this has led me to

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DISTINGUISHED AWARD

develop programs and materials that would reflect the wonder and vast opportunities that these areas offer. There is so much to do in this area and EIU has made it possible for many good things to happen.

"Finally, reflecting on the third type of person.....one who 'wonders' what happened.....I am still wondering and in awe at the awarding of this prestigious honor. This means so much to me, my mother and family, and I thank the entire community of EIU and pledge my continued and escalated efforts to be worthy of this distinction. Thank you all!"

Lisowski has taught graduate and undergraduate methods courses in elementary education, science education and research, incorporating field experiences into her courses. She has provided outreach to Illinois public schools showing teachers how to make science more interesting and relevant to children. This work has been made possible through grants she has secured totaling more than \$500,000. She has worked with the Illinois State Board of Education and the National Science Foundation on issues to improve scientific literacy and has been involved in professional organizations at the state and national levels to raise awareness for the need of enhancing scientific literacy of children in U.S. schools. In addition to being named Illinois Environmental Educator for the Year for 1996, Lisowski is the state coordinator of the National Project for Water Education for teachers, the chair of the governor's Environmental Literacy for Illinois 2000 Plan and a member of the national steering committee for the national Watershed Education Eisenhower Program.

Traditionally, the recipient of Eastern's Distinguished Faculty Award receives his/her award during commencement. This year, however, Lisowski will be unable to attend commencement, scheduled to take place Saturday, May 10.

"It is with overwhelming sadness that I can't be at commencement to receive this

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DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

award, but in my quest to make things happen another event was scheduled that could not be altered. Several months ago arrangements were made to work with educators who share the same desire to learn about and teach others about the environment. So for two weeks I will be in the remote areas of southern Argentina interacting with teachers and concerned community members in developing ways to not only help youngsters learn about the environment but to plan ways that all can work for the betterment of our planet. I will be thinking of all of you at that time and rejoicing long distance," she said.