

April 23, 2001

For Immediate Release

Eric Norton to be awarded President's Medal at USI Commencement

Eric Norton, 22, of Bloomington, Indiana, is this year's recipient of the President's Medal, the highest honor bestowed on a graduating senior at the University of Southern Indiana. He will receive the award at the USI Commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 6, at Roberts Stadium. Over 1,300 graduates will be eligible to receive degrees in the ceremony.

Norton will graduate magna cum laude with a major in English. He holds a 3.8 grade point average. He is a member of Sigma Tau Delta English honorary society, Golden Key national honor society, and Alpha Chi national honor society. For the past year he has been a member-at-large of the Student Honors Council.

Norton has participated in many university committees and co-curricular programs. He has been managing editor of *Aerie* student literary magazine and has acted in student plays produced by the Theatre department.

A Habitat for Humanity volunteer, Mr. Norton also served as vice president of the USI Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. During summer 1998, he was a summer staff member in the Appalachia Service Project, organizing and overseeing the work of 800 volunteers who provided emergency home repair assistance to the poor near Brenton, West Virginia.

Norton is the son of Bruce and Rachael Norton, 2152 Bent Tree Drive, and is a 1997 graduate of Bloomington High School South.

After graduation, Norton plans to work for Teach for America, a program in which recent college graduates commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools. He has requested an opportunity to be assigned to inner city Chicago. The program encourages our nation's most talented graduating seniors to expand educational opportunity to our nation's most disadvantaged students.

The other finalists for the President's Medal are Jill Bertke, Fredericksburg, Virginia; Ryan Helzerman, Newburgh, Indiana; Melissa Lindley, Orleans, Indiana; Kimberly Schwindel, Mt. Vernon, Indiana; and Kelly Sergesketter, Evansville, Indiana.

Sent to: *Bloomington Independent*; *The Herald-Times* (Bloomington); WBWB FM, WFHB FM, WGCL AM/WITS FMWVNI FM (all in Bloomington); Barb Berggoetz, *Indianapolis Star*; Pat Swanson, *Evansville Courier and Press*, *The Shield*