



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SIU PROFESSOR JEREMY E. DAVIS CHARGED WITH THEFT OF UNIVERSITY PROPERTY

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that Jeremy E. Davis, age 39, of Carterville, Illinois, was charged with one count of Theft of Governmental Property.

The Information alleges that on or about July 1, 2018, the defendant knowingly exerted unauthorized control over governmental property of Southern Illinois University exceeding \$10,000 and not exceeding \$100,000 in value, being a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) machine and a Nano Drop machine, intending to deprive Southern Illinois University permanently of the use or benefit of the governmental property.

An Information is merely a charge and not evidence. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

Theft of Governmental Property Exceeding \$10,000 and Not Exceeding \$100,000 in Value is a Class 1 Felony which carries a potential sentence of from four to fifteen years in prison. It is a probation-eligible offense. The defendant was arrested on March 29, 2019, and later released on bond in the amount of \$30,000 (\$3,000 cash).

On April 16, 2019, he entered a plea of not guilty and waived his right to a preliminary hearing. A jury trial is scheduled for July 15, 2019, in the First Judicial Circuit Court in Murphysboro, Illinois. A final pretrial hearing is scheduled for June 4, 2019, at 8:30 a.m.

The investigation is being pursued by the Southern Illinois University Department of Public Safety. Assistant State's Attorney Jayson Clark is responsible for the prosecution.

A prosecutor has the responsibility of a minister of justice and not simply that of an advocate. This responsibility carries with it specific obligations to see that the defendant is accorded procedural justice and that guilt is decided upon the basis of sufficient evidence. Except for statements that are necessary to inform the public of the nature and extent of the prosecutor's action and that serve a legitimate law enforcement purpose, by Supreme Court Rule, the State's Attorney is not allowed to make statements about pending cases or investigations which would pose a serious and imminent threat to the fairness of the proceeding. Rule 3.8 Special Responsibilities of a Prosecutor. For a list of certain subjects which have been determined to pose such a threat to the fairness of the proceedings and for a list of subjects which do not, please see Rule 3.6 Trial Publicity. For any press release involving a case which has not

yet been tried, please note that: a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of the jury.