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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MORRISEY TO RETIRE AFTER 29 YEARS AT EASTERN

CHARLESTON, IL--Although John Morrisey plans to begin a six-month administrative leave in March and retire from Eastern Illinois University in August after 29 years, the city of Charleston will continue to benefit from his services.

Morrisey, Eastern's budget officer for the last 25 years, currently serves as treasurer of both the Charleston Rotary Club and the Charleston Trojan Booster Club and says he'll spend even more time helping the community when he leaves Eastern.

"I have enjoyed my career at the university, but I feel it is time to move on and do something else," he said. "I'll especially miss my association with colleagues at Eastern and the other Board of Governors' universities."

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But Morrisey's departure from his career doesn't mean Eastern will become just a memory. He credits much of his success to support from family members who also work at Eastern. His wife, Caroline, has been a cashier in the university Business Office since 1983, and his daughter, Julia, is employed at the University Union central office. Four of his six children are Eastern graduates.

"The university setting is always exciting. My family likes this area, and we're comfortable with it," he said.

Morrisey's responsibilities as EIU's budget officer include organizing the university's annual budget of \$100 million. He served as chief accountant in the Business Office for four years prior to becoming the university's first budget officer in 1968, a position established by then-President Quincy Doudna. Before Morrisey's position was created, the budget was prepared by the President's Office.

During his tenure at Eastern, Morrisey has served under five presidents and five vice presidents. He has seen enrollment double from 5,000 to more than 10,000 students and the appropriated budget grow from \$5 million to \$52 million. "It was exciting to see the total university budget pass \$100 million in 1992-93," he observed.

He has seen some years in the 60s and 70s when the state appropriated double-digit percentage increases to Eastern. "That hasn't happened recently, and the future doesn't look too promising for those kinds of increases to happen again," he said.

According to Morrisey, computers have made all the difference in the world of business. He can recall when John Walstrom, professor of computer and operations management, started Eastern's Computer Center with a key punch machine, a sorter, and a printer. "After that, we started using personal computers," Morrisey said. "I don't know how we were ever able to complete the budget without computers."

Morrisey received both his bachelor's degree (1958) and a master's degree (1963) from Eastern. He taught high school business education in Peoria and Decatur before returning to Eastern in 1964 as an employee.

Morrisey said, "Eastern has been a very good place to work, but I am looking forward to retirement."