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For Immediate Release:

FOSTER NAMED CHAIR OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT AT EIU

CHARLESTON – Gary S. Foster has been named chair of Eastern's Department of Sociology/Anthropology, replacing Robert Whittenbarger, who retired earlier this year.

Foster, who received his doctorate from Kansas State University, joined Eastern's faculty in 1981. During his tenure at EIU, he has been elected to four terms on the faculty Senate, serving three times as executive recorder, twice as vice chair and once as chair. He was promoted to full professor in 1989.

His research interests include ethnicity, rural sociology and historical demography, as well as folklore/folklife and anthropology. He has made more than 40 conference presentations and has had more than 25 works published in journals such as "Rural Sociology," "Southern Folklore Quarterly," "Journal of Leisure Research," "Sociological Spectrum," "Markers," "Sociological Quarterly," "Appalachian Heritage," "International Journal of Sport History" and "The American Sociologist."