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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU SELECTS PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH FIRM

CHARLESTON - The Academic Search Consultation Service of Washington, D.C., has been selected by Eastern Illinois University's Presidential Search Advisory Committee to conduct its search for a new president.

The committee chose Academic Search after interviewing their representatives and those of A.T. Kearney of Alexandria, Va. "Both firms presented themselves very well but the chemistry Academic Search had with committee members was the deciding factor," said Robert C. Manion, search committee chair.

Manion said Academic Search specializes in filling the chief executive and chief academic officer positions in higher education, unlike other search firms that deal with a number of positions.

Academic Search's senior consultant, James Appleberry, who has extensive experience in public higher education including service as president of the American

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Eastern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 10,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern's pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.

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Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), will lead the search, Manion said. Besides his service with AASCU, Appleberry served as president of Northern Michigan University and Pittsburg State University in Kansas.

Appleberry will collaborate with 18 of his colleagues on the search. Their collective activities include organizing the search process; analyzing institutional needs and preparing recommendations based on those needs; recruiting a strong candidate pool; identifying the most appropriate candidates; interviewing leading candidates and developing the committee's recommendation to the EIU Board of Trustees; negotiating the employment contract between the finalist and the institution; and assisting with the public announcement of the new president.

Academic Search is currently conducting presidential searches for 29 educational entities including the Illinois Board of Higher Education, according to the service's Web site. Other clients have included Indiana State University, Sangamon State University, Eastern Kentucky University and Southeast Missouri State University.

Since its founding in 1976, Academic Search has successfully completed 532 searches - 426 of them for college or university chief executives. Of the presidents appointed by the service since 1994, nearly 96 percent are still in office.

EIU's presidential search is expected to take six months to complete -- the average for a chief executive, according to Academic Search. A proposed timeline for the search process presented to search committee members calls for Academic Search to begin its work by conducting an institutional needs analysis. Representatives

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PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH FIRM

will visit the campus over two full days to interview internal and external constituents and then prepare a needs assessment that serves as a basis for developing a consensus about priorities and goals for the president. Five to six meetings with the search firm and committee members are expected to take place as the search unfolds.

Manion said advertisements announcing Eastern's presidential vacancy are currently being placed in The Chronicle of Higher Education and other publications, and a presidential search Web site is being developed.

According to the committee's timetable, the first round of preliminary off-campus interviews with its choices of top candidates would not begin until February, after the committee and search firm have had sufficient time to review applications and nominations, which are due by Jan. 7. The most promising of the interviewed candidates will be selected as finalists and invited to campus for interviews, tentatively scheduled in March. Following the Board of Trustees' approval of the committee's recommended appointment, a new president will be named sometime in April.

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