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08/02/1989 - Downsizing temporarily halted

University Marketing and Communications

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DOWNSIZING AT EASTERN TEMPORARILY HALTED

CHARLESTON, IL--In August 1988, Eastern Illinois University announced a plan to downsize the institution by approximately 200 students a year over a five year period. If the plan had been fully implemented, Eastern's on-campus enrollment would have declined from 10,500 in the Fall of 1988 to 9,500 in the Fall of 1993. The downsizing plan was designed to protect the quality of the academic programs, which had been threatened by inadequate appropriations over a several year period. Undergraduate admissions for the Fall semester of 1989 has been closed since late fall 1988.

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DOWNSIZING

"Passage of the temporary income tax increase," said President Stan Rives, "provides a significant increase in the University's budget. This increase allows us to suspend temporarily the downsizing plan. The University's objective for the immediate future will be enrollment stability at approximately 10,200 on-campus students for the Fall semester of 1989 and 1990."

"Enrollment targets," said Rives, "will continue to be established on a year-to-year basis, depending upon the appropriation provided the University. The temporary nature of the income tax increase supporting education does not allow certain determination of enrollment targets beyond the Fall of 1990."

"When the downsizing plan was announced last year," said Rives, "I indicated that it was subject to future modification depending upon the resources made available to support quality education for the students we serve. The University will continue to manage its enrollment so as to balance access and quality."

Eastern's 1989-90 appropriation as approved by the General Assembly and Governor Thompson is \$50,563,400, an increase of 13.4 percent or nearly \$6 million over the \$44,592,100 appropriation for 1988-89.

To complement public funds Eastern Illinois University will continue to seek private sector funding opportunities.