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03-60

March 10, 2003

For Immediate Release:

EIU NO LONGER ACCEPTING FRESHMAN APPLICATIONS FOR COMING SCHOOL YEAR

CHARLESTON – Eastern Illinois University has announced that it no longer will accept freshman applications for the 2003-2004 school year.

As of February 28, applications from freshmen and transfer students stood at 8,041, compared to 6,802 and 5,359 on the same date in 2002 and 2001, respectively.

“Eastern continues to be committed to providing students the best education possible and supporting them fully in their efforts to be successful,” said Dale Wolf, director of admissions. “A basic tenet of this philosophy is the maintenance of an overall university enrollment and individual program enrollments congruent with available resources.

“This allows us to provide appropriate class sizes and other services that promote student success. Therefore, as student demand increases, finite resources create the need to restrict the number of applicants we accept.”

The university had earlier established a Feb. 3, 2003, cutoff for freshman applications to teacher certification programs in early childhood, elementary, middle level, secondary and special education.

Wolf said the cutoff will not affect former students applying for readmission, transfer students, graduate students, students receiving designated scholarships/awards, students applying to the Honors College or Gateway Program, and students in off-campus programs.

Eastern reported a Fall 2002 enrollment of 11,163 – an increase of 632 from 2001's figure of 10,531. The total included 2,751 freshmen, making it the largest freshman class in the university's history.

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FRESHMAN APPLICATIONS

Further breakdown of the numbers was as follows: undergraduate students, 9,528 – freshmen, 2,751; sophomores, 1,743; juniors, 2,164; and seniors, 2,870; and graduate students, 1,635. (The number of graduate students attending Eastern increased by 220 students over 2001's fall enrollment of 1,415.)

Interim President Louis V. Hencken said Eastern will concentrate efforts on managing enrollment so that the numbers of students are more evenly distributed among class levels. Toward this effort, the university is looking at making some changes in the admission process for those students entering Eastern in Fall 2004.