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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

January 11, 1985

L/A

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University has been recommended unconditionally for reaccreditation "with distinction" and for the maximum allowable 10-year period by a North Central Association evaluation team.

The favorable report was the result of a three-day visit to the campus November 12-14 by a five-member team, according to President Stanley G. Rives.

The evaluators said: "On the basis of the data provided, observations of the team, and the strong support from students, alumni and community leaders, it is the judgment of the team that EIU is accomplishing its mission and doing so with distinction."

Final action on the evaluation team's recommendation will be taken March 17-20 by the North Central Association in Chicago. The reaccreditation means that Eastern's credits continue to be transferrable to all other institutions.

Four areas of institutional strength were singled out by the team's report. They were:

1. "a stable and well-qualified faculty" committed to excellence in teaching and with a higher percentage of doctorates;
2. "students who score above state and national test score averages" and whose general attitude is 'I like it here';
3. "an attractive campus" with well-kept buildings and grounds, and
4. "an administration "which has the confidence of faculty and students."

President Rives, expressing pleasure with the report, said, "We are extremely pleased not only because the report confirms the basic strengths of Eastern, but also because it points out some areas where we can do some things still better."

"The team's recommendation for reaccreditation for the maximum allowable period is a credit to the faculty, staff, and students of Eastern," he said.

In its consultative capacity, the evaluators recommended that Eastern strengthen its Faculty Senate, reorganize the Council on University Planning and Budgeting, further strengthen its affirmative action program and build on existing strong community support through increased private fund raising activities.

Other strengths noted, said Rives, were that the University is making very effective use of resources assigned to it, is providing quality academic programs, is maintaining a stable enrollment and is committed to good teaching and attention to students as individuals.

The NCA team also suggested that Eastern:

1. intensify recruitment of minority students to "create greater cultural and ethnic diversity;"
2. continue efforts to upgrade salary levels of faculty and civil service staff;
3. improve sources made available to support faculty research;
4. seek funds to provide "a more adequate facility to house the College of Business," and
5. institute a centralized follow-up system on placement of graduates.

Eastern was also given high marks by the team, said Rives, as a mature institution which can be expected "to continue accomplishing" its mission.

The report concluded, according to the EIU president, that Eastern has effectively organized its human and financial resources in accomplishing its mission.