

1-28-1994

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "01/28/1994 - Special Assistant Named.pdf" (1994). 1994. 22.
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94-25

January 28, 1994

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT NAMED

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University President David Jorns has named Jill Nilsen of Charleston as special assistant to the president, following the recommendation of a campus search committee.

Nilsen, who will assume her new duties on Feb. 1, has been serving as associate dean of Eastern's Graduate School and Research since 1990. She has been associated with the university for 17 years, 10 of which have been in administrative positions.

Jorns said, "I feel certain that Dr. Nilsen will do an excellent job as special assistant. She is a complete professional with a thorough knowledge of Eastern and Illinois higher education."

In her new position, Nilsen will be responsible for strategic planning, institutional research, media and community relations, marketing and legislative liaison activities.

Nilsen came to Eastern in 1976 as a member of the communication disorders and sciences faculty. In 1984, she was promoted to department chair and served in that position until 1990 when she became associate dean of the Graduate School and Research.

In 1992, she was appointed EIU's representative to the Board of Governors Universities Strategic Marketing Committee and since

March of 1993 has been serving in a temporary administrative capacity in the university's media relations office.

In addition, she has worked with the president and with the Council on University Planning and Budget on the development of EIU's strategic plan for the year 2000.

She has served on numerous campus committees, including the Council on Academic Affairs, Council on Teacher Education, Women's Studies Council, Union Board, Intercollegiate Athletic Board and Presidential Search Advisory Committee.

Nilsen earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Eastern, and in October was awarded the university's Alumni Service Award. She also has a doctorate in speech and hearing sciences from the University of Illinois.

She and her husband, Hank, an assistant professor of zoology at Eastern, have two sons, Chris, 8, and Jeff, 6.