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February 3, 1994

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU HELPS STUDENTS FIND WAYS TO FUND THEIR EDUCATION

CHARLESTON, IL--While the process of applying for college financial aid can be time-consuming and sometimes frustrating, help and guidance are available from Eastern Illinois University's financial aid office.

Given that more than half of the students enrolled at Eastern during 1992-93 received some type of financial aid to fund their education, EIU Director of Financial Aid John Flynn and his 14-member staff are well-versed in acquainting prospective and current students about the major sources of funds available, the procedures for applying for them and the costs of attending EIU.

Flynn said the rising cost of a college education makes it more important than ever for students and families to be aware of financial aid opportunities. To aid in that process, Eastern's financial aid office is offering a series of workshops and information sessions for students and parents during February, which has been proclaimed Financial Aid Awareness Month by Gov. Jim Edgar.

"I encourage students and parents to get an early start

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searching and applying for financial aid, to follow correct procedures when applying for aid and to meet application deadlines," Flynn said.

He added that students and parents should bear in mind that federal and state formulas for student aid differ and that rules used by the Internal Revenue Service don't necessarily apply to federal student aid programs.

In addition to offering financial aid information sessions to the public during Financial Aid Awareness Month and giving talks at high schools throughout the year, Flynn and his staff provide one-on-one financial aid counseling.

The financial aid office also publishes a brochure which has a complete listing of institutional, state and federal scholarships/grants, loans, special programs and student employment opportunities. Eligibility, value, duration and when, where and how to apply for the various forms of aid are included.

Eastern also makes available to students a 54-page Student Guide to Financial Aid, published by the U.S. Department of Education, which informs them about federal aid programs and how to apply for them.

For more information, call Eastern's financial aid office at 581-3713.