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94-30

February 3, 1994

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS MONTH

CHARLESTON, IL--The cost of education or training after high school continues to rise, and it's more important than ever for students and their parents to learn about as many sources of financial aid as they can.

To help individuals become aware of financial aid opportunities, the staff and student employees of Eastern Illinois University's financial aid office will hold information sessions and workshops during February, which has been proclaimed Financial Aid Awareness Month by Gov. Jim Edgar.

The public is invited to the free workshops from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 9, Feb. 15 and Feb. 21 in the Shelbyville Room in the University Union. The workshops will be led by Elmer Pullen, an EIU financial aid counselor.

In addition to the workshops, information sessions will be held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on the following dates and locations: Feb. 7, Triad and Carman halls; Feb. 8, Taylor and Lawson halls; Feb. 9, Thomas and Andrews halls; and Feb. 10, Stevenson and Pemberton halls. Sessions will also be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 8 and Feb. 9 in the University Union.

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During the information sessions in the residence halls, individuals will be available to distribute financial aid applications for the 1994-95 school year and answer questions regarding application for financial aid.

EIU Financial Aid Director John Flynn said the workshops and information sessions are intended for students and parents who want to learn more about what types of financial aid are available and how to apply for them.

"One does not have to be currently enrolled at Eastern or intend to enroll at the university to attend the workshops and information sessions. They are for anyone who wants to find out about student aid," Flynn said.

In addition to the on-campus activities, a state financial aid toll-free Helpline, 1-800-628-7939, will be available during the week of Feb. 7 through 11, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Students and parents may call the Helpline for information about financial aid for college or vocational school and college selection.

Helpline phones will be answered by high school counselors, college financial aid administrators, college admission counselors, lenders and Illinois Student Assistance Commission staff.

Jone Zieren from Eastern's financial aid office and Kathy McSherry from admissions will be among the Helpline volunteers.

Students who plan to enroll at Eastern may also direct inquiries to the financial aid office at 581-3714.