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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS MONTH

CHARLESTON, IL--More than half of the students enrolled at Eastern Illinois University last year received financial aid to fund their education and even more are expected to apply for aid this year, according to Betty Armstrong, assistant director of financial aid at Eastern.

In 1991-92, Armstrong said 7,282 Eastern students, or 64 percent of the student body, received some type of financial aid, a 4.3 percent increase over the previous year.

To meet the needs of the growing number of Eastern students who receive financial aid, Eastern's Office of Financial Aid will hold a series of evening workshops and information sessions during "Financial Aid Awareness Month" in February.

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The public is invited to the free workshops at 7 p.m. Feb. 1, 9, 18 and 24 in the Kansas Room of Eastern's University Union. Representatives from Eastern's Office of Financial Aid will be available to answer questions regarding application for financial aid and to distribute financial aid applications for Eastern's 1993-94 academic year.

"The workshops, as well as information sessions that will be held in Eastern's residence halls and the University Union, 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," Armstrong said.

Information sessions will be held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on the following dates and locations: Feb. 1 in Triad and Carman Halls; Feb. 2 at Taylor and Lawson Halls; Feb. 3 at Thomas and Andrews Halls; and Feb. 4 at Stevenson Tower and Pemberton Hall. An information table will also be set up in the University Union from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 2 and beginning at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 8 and Feb. 16. For more information, call Eastern's Office of Financial Aid at 581-6405.

Armstrong said, "These activities give students and parents, who may not have time to visit our office during business hours, an opportunity to receive valuable information and to express their financial aid concerns."

In addition to the on-campus activities, a national financial aid toll-free helpline, 1-800-628-7939, will be available during the week of Feb. 8 through 12, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. College financial aid administrators, high school counselors and college admissions counselors will be able to answer questions about financial assistance for college or vocational school and discuss how to choose a postsecondary institution.