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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

NEW FUND WILL TAKE THE ARTS TO THE PEOPLE

CHARLESTON, IL--Although Vaughn Jaenike of Charleston has retired as dean of the College of Fine Arts at Eastern Illinois University, his vision of taking the arts to the people will continue.

The family and friends of the Jaenikes have contributed more than \$71,000 to establish the Vaughn and Ruth Jaenike Access to the Arts Award Fund through the EIU Foundation.

The interest from the fund will be used by Eastern's College of Fine Arts to "take the arts to the people of East Central Illinois." It will enable the College to fulfill more requests from area groups to provide arts activities in the greater community.

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"The awards from the fund are intended for those who support performances, exhibitions and arts education projects which reach out to the general public or at least include the general public as a part of the target audience for any such projects," according to Jim Johnson, chairman of Eastern's art department and an Arts Award Fund organizer.

"I don't know of many funds that are set up under the 'taking the arts to the people' philosophy. It is a unique concept and one that will expose many people in East Central Illinois to the arts," Johnson added.

He cited taking an EIU theater production into the public schools, displaying students' artwork in businesses or schools or having the jazz band perform off-campus as examples of how the fund might be used.

Johnson said he is overwhelmed by the number of individuals who have contributed. "More than 100 people from on- and off-campus have donated to the fund, and that number is expected to grow."

Jaenike commented, "Ruth and I certainly are thrilled at the creation of the Vaughn and Ruth Jaenike Access to the Arts Award Fund. It is a wonderful idea and the response, we think, has been overwhelmingly positive."

He added, "My career at the University of Nebraska as special assistant to the president prior to coming to Eastern was totally devoted to 'taking the arts to the people' wherever they lived throughout the state of Nebraska. It was a wonderful goal. When I came to Eastern, it seemed that those who interviewed me were also impressed by that concept. From the beginning of my tenure here at Eastern, I advocated 'taking the arts to the people.'"

Jaenike likened the concept of "taking the arts to the people" to the Snap-on Tool Company's philosophy of "taking the product to the consumer." "The late Newton Tarble, a founding partner and sales manager of the Snap-on Tool Company, and I agreed there was a great parallel in selling automotive tools and promoting the arts. We agreed that the charge to the Tarble Arts Center, when completed, would be to 'take the arts to the people.'"

He remarked, "We believe the fund will do exactly what I have tried to do during my 19 years at Eastern. There is no doubt that we feel strongly that the arts are for all people and that the university is a major source for performances and exhibitions. There is no reason to have these activities limited to those on-campus."