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February 4, 1993

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU SURVEYED IN CONTINUING EDUCATION STUDY

CHARLESTON, IL--A survey of Eastern Illinois University School of Adult and Continuing Education's off-campus graduate and undergraduate students and graduate students at other selected public universities in Illinois shows that more than 75 percent of students consider off-campus credit courses high quality, especially in the area of instructor expertise.

The survey's findings clearly indicated that students who take off-campus credit classes not only find the quality comparable to their on-campus credit classes, but also rate their off-campus class experience more favorably than on-campus except for library resources.

"The survey, supported by Eastern's School of Adult and Continuing Education, points to the quality of our off-campus programs," according to Will Hine, dean of the School of Adult and Continuing Education.

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The seven critical factors of quality identified for on-campus students revealed a 74 percent commonality with those critical factors of quality identified by off-campus students. Instructor expertise was ranked highest on both lists. Other critical factors identified were instructor enthusiasm, curriculum relevance, adult learning environment, physical parameters, instructional methodology and resource materials.

Results of the study, conducted by Linda A. Kersten of the College of St. Francis and Joan T. Lund of Elmhurst College, were presented at the National Issues in Higher Education fall conference.

Kersten and Lund found that critical factors identified for both off-campus and on-campus classes resulted in a high correlation to the rankings for relevancy and quality. They found no significant difference based on the variables of age, gender, G.P.A., and major when the ratings for the 20 instructional dimensions were compared for off-campus and on-campus classes.