

2-18-1994

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University Marketing and Communications, "02/18/1994 - Alcohol Related Safety Problems In Higher ED To Be Discussed.pdf" (1994). 1994. 41.

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94-53

February 18, 1994

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ALCOHOL RELATED SAFETY PROBLEMS IN HIGHER ED TO BE DISCUSSED

CHARLESTON, IL -- As the city of Charleston -- home to Eastern Illinois University -- and other Illinois college towns debate the issue of raising the bar entry age from 19 to 21, more than 200 college administrators, counselors and others will convene in Springfield on Feb. 28 for a two-day conference that addresses student alcohol and safety issues.

Gov. Jim Edgar, Lt. Gov. Bob Kustra and Illinois Board of Higher Education Director Richard Wagner are among the invited guests.

Eastern Illinois University's Office of Safety Programs is co-sponsoring the conference which will give representatives from both two- and four-year institutions a chance to discuss problems, strategies, barriers and successful programs on alcohol and safety prevention.

Becky Markwell, a conference organizer, said, "I think it's important for university personnel to share these ideas and realize they're not working in a vacuum out there."

George Obermeier, an educational humorist who is nationally recognized for

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ALCOHOL

his work in student assistance programming, will present the keynote address the second day of the conference.

A grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Traffic Safety is funding the conference. The grant will cover conference fees and two nights of hotel and parking in Springfield for all participants.

For more information, call the Hilton Hotel in Springfield at (217) 789-1530 or Eastern's Office of Safety Programs at (217) 581-2019 and reference the Campus Alcohol and Traffic Safety or "CATS" conference.