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February 9, 1995

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

NCA DELIVERS POSITIVE NEWS TO EIU

CHARLESTON -- An eight-member reaccreditation team from the North Central Association (NCA) has made a preliminary recommendation to reaccredit Eastern Illinois University for another 10 years.

In an exit interview on Wednesday that culminated a three-day site visit, team members told Eastern President David Jorns they would recommend to the NCA governing board that Eastern be reaccredited for a 10-year period -- the maximum allowed-- without imposing stipulations.

"The lack of requirement for additional reports or focused visits indicates that the team, in general, is very satisfied with the programs at the university," Jorns said, adding that he is "extremely pleased" with the team's findings.

He said the NCA reaccreditation team will submit a written report to the university within 30 days of their visit and that the institution will have the opportunity to respond to the report.

"That response, along with the report, will be provided to the NCA governing board, and they will make an official reaccreditation decision in late summer or

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early fall," Jorns said.

In the exit interview, Jorns said team members cited numerous university strengths and some weaknesses and noted that most of the concerns expressed in the NCA's reaccreditation site visit in 1984 had been addressed or were being met.

"They commended the university on its undergraduate education program and its ability to attract a competent and capable student body, noting that Eastern's well-above average graduation and retention rates speak for themselves. They also said the university is making progress in addressing and supporting graduate education and adult education," Jorns said.

He said team members reported that scheduled meetings with Eastern students, faculty, staff, and community members were highly successful, as were personal, informal visits with various members of the campus community. They also found the NCA resource room in Eastern's Booth Library to be very effective, Jorns said.

Jorns said the team did express concern about inadequate funding, but was quick to applaud the university's efforts to redistribute existing funds, cautioning that this process should be reoccurring.

He said the NCA reaccreditation team also mentioned the university's deferred maintenance needs as an area of concern. Furthermore, they suggested that the university continue its efforts to create greater cultural diversity among students, faculty, and staff and included comments relative to community

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involvement in enhancing cultural diversity.

"Team members also said they are hopeful and expectant that the initial stages of the university's assessment plan to evaluate the quality of academic programs would continue to be developed and expanded," Jorns said.