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February 3, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU SPRING ENROLLMENT SETS RECORD

CHARLESTON -- A new spring enrollment record has been set at Eastern Illinois University with 10,990 students enrolling in on- and off-campus classes, an increase of 252 over spring 1996.

This year's total includes 1,860 freshmen, 1,833 sophomores, 2,518 juniors and 3,221 seniors. The senior class showed the largest increase -- from 2,918 a year ago -- followed by freshmen who numbered 1,757 in 1996. Graduate students number 1,558, a slight decrease from 1,602 last spring.

"Even with earlier cutoffs for freshman and transfer applications, we are at enrollment capacity every semester," said EIU Vice President for Student Affairs Lou Hencken. "It is a pleasure to be able to effectively plan and budget because of enrollment levels that are consistently stable. It is clear that Eastern continues to be the choice for many students in this state seeking a quality education."

Another source for this year's enrollment increase comes from the university's off-campus programs. Eastern's School of Adult and Continuing

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SPRING ENROLLMENT

Another source for this year's enrollment increase comes from the university's off-campus programs. Eastern's School of Adult and Continuing Education has 943 students -- another record high -- enrolled in off-campus classes. The number represents an increase of 1.4 percent over last spring, said Dean William C. Hine.

In addition, he added, those 943 students are taking a larger number of credit hours -- 11 percent larger. Hine credited Thomas Hawkins, director of Off-Campus and Contract Programs, and his staff, as well as Eastern's various colleges and faculty for the increase.

"This demonstrates again the strong demand for off-campus credit programs by the adult citizens of the State of Illinois," Hine said. "If we can provide the appropriate programs off campus, I have every confidence that we will be able to achieve additional growth in our off-campus programs into the future."

The number of minority students at Eastern decreased slightly -- from 843 to 811, as did the number of international students enrolled -- 117 from 134.