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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU RECEIVES GRANT TO TRAIN HIGH SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY TEACHERS

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University has received a grant, with total funding of \$467,789, from the National Science Foundation to establish a Psychology Institute to train high school teachers how to teach psychology using scientific methods.

The three-year grant will allow the university to develop an on-campus laboratory equipped with computers and other training devices used in psychology to measure individuals' emotions, personality, perceptions, creativity and skills in learning, problem-solving and memorization.

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Fred Yaffe, chairman of Eastern's psychology department, and Eleanor Midkiff, associate professor of psychology, wrote the grant, which provides funding for two summer institute workshops for 25 high school psychology teachers who will be selected by an EIU review committee each year. They will both teach the workshops.

The program will be evaluated by follow-up visits, telephone calls to the teacher participants and several one-day, on-campus workshops, according to Yaffe.

A portion of the grant money will be used to give stipends to the participating teachers and pay for their travel, housing and tuition costs.

Yaffe explained that while the teaching of psychology courses is expanding in high schools throughout the country, the courses tend to emphasize mental health and personal adjustment aspects rather than more scientific and experimental content areas.

He said, "With this grant we hope to be able to acquaint high school teachers, and ultimately their students, not only with a more balanced view of the entire scope of psychology, but also with the sense of enthusiasm, excitement and delight that is generated from being involved with active scientific discovery."

Midkiff commented, "The grant will allow Eastern to provide a service that will enhance the skills of teachers throughout the state. High school psychology teachers will have the opportunity to come in contact with current researchers in psychology and to learn about ways of conveying the principles and methods of the science of psychology to their students."

Eastern's psychology department consists of 20 full-time faculty and has 500 majors. A bachelor's and master's degree in psychology are offered, as is a Specialist in School Psychology degree.