

2-15-1995

02/15/1995 - Merrifield Named EIU Lobbyist.pdf

University Marketing and Communications

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1995

Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "02/15/1995 - Merrifield Named EIU Lobbyist.pdf" (1995). 1995. 60.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1995/60

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Press Releases at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1995 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

95-50

February 15, 1995

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MERRIFIELD NAMED EIU LOBBYIST

CHARLESTON -- Christine Merrifield of Springfield, former deputy director of the Illinois Community College Board, has been named governmental relations liaison for Eastern Illinois University.

Merrifield, who began her new job on Wednesday, was selected for the newly created position following a statewide search.

She will provide state lawmakers with information about Eastern and will monitor pending legislation affecting higher education. She will also work with the director of alumni relations to develop and implement an EIU alumni legislative network.

"We are pleased to have on our staff an individual of Ms. Merrifield's experience and expertise to work with our legislators and alumni," said Jill Nilsen, special assistant to the president, to whom Merrifield will report.

During her nearly 20 years at the Illinois Community College Board, Merrifield was responsible for monitoring state and federal legislation and policies and coordinating the college system's position, among other duties.

-more-

FILE COPY

She received a bachelor's degree in communication from Sangamon State University and is working on a master's degree in organizational communication/public administration.

Merrifield said her lobbying experience with the Illinois General Assembly and the U.S. Congress and her knowledge of policy analysis and development have prepared her well for the role of EIU's lobbyist.

"My lobbying experience in Washington was very worthwhile and gave me a unique perspective on the workings of the Illinois General Assembly," Merrifield said.

Merrifield, whose office will be based in Springfield, said she will be most effective in communicating Eastern's needs to the Legislature if she first becomes more familiar with the university community.

"Initially, I plan to spend several days on campus, observing and talking to students, faculty and staff. I am already impressed with what I have learned about Eastern so far, such as its outstanding academic programs, small class sizes and satisfied student body and alumni. Everything I have read and heard indicates that Eastern is doing a good job -- and that's the message I want to take to Springfield," Merrifield said.

"Although I will be based in Springfield, I want to remain close to the university community. That will mean frequent visits to campus to keep abreast of what is happening," she added.

-more-

ADD 2/2/2/2

MERRIFIELD

When the Legislature is not in session, Merrifield said she likely will be on campus doing research or travelling, her favorite pastime.

She also enjoys spending time with her daughter, Melissa Netznik of Springfield, a sixth grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School, and her 10-year-old grandson, David, of Triangle, Va.