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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

JOHNSON NAMED ACTING DEAN OF FINE ARTS

CHARLESTON, IL--Jim Johnson of Charleston, professor and chairman of Eastern Illinois University's art department since 1978, has been named acting dean of the College of Fine Arts.

He replaces Vaughn Jaenike who retired in January after 19 years of service.

Johnson was appointed by EIU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Barbara Hill, upon the recommendation of the College of Fine Arts Search Committee, chaired by Ted Ivarie, dean of the Lumpkin College of Business.

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Johnson said, "As chairperson of the art department at Eastern, it has been my philosophy to serve as an advocate of the faculty and students by assisting them in achieving their personal and professional goals. I have found the experience to be both challenging and rewarding and feel a true sense of achievement through the accomplishments of the department. As acting dean of the College of Fine Arts, I plan to bring to the position the same level of commitment that I have given to the art department."

Hill said, "I am confident that Mr. Johnson's familiarity with the College of Fine Arts will contribute to the current and future development of the College and that he will establish viable working relationships with other administrative units and agencies on- and off-campus and effectively communicate to these groups the needs and concerns of the College."

Johnson earned a Bachelor of Science in Art degree from Emporia State University and Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Kansas. Prior to joining Eastern's art faculty, he was an associate professor of art at Arkansas State University.

In addition to his administrative responsibilities at Eastern, Johnson has taught an average of two courses per semester. During his tenure as chairman, the art department received accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, annual funding for scholarships more than tripled, a new art studio hall was built for use by faculty and graduate students, and an annual Christmas art sale, all-student exhibition and state-wide summer art camp were established.

He has served on many university committees and councils, including the Council of Chairs and College of Fine Arts Curriculum Committee, and been involved in planning Eastern's annual Celebration: A Festival of the Arts. He has also participated in more than 60 regional and national juried and invitational exhibitions.