

3-26-1996

03/26/1996 - Holmes To Direct English Language Center.pdf

University Marketing and Communications

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1996

Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "03/26/1996 - Holmes To Direct English Language Center.pdf" (1996). 1996. 67.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1996/67

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 1996 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

96-87

March 26, 1996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HOLMES TO DIRECT ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER

CHARLESTON -- Rita Holmes has joined Eastern Illinois University's international programs staff as the faculty assistant in the English Language Center.

Holmes comes to Eastern from Central Missouri State University where she helped develop and manage the English Language Institute and was a member of the English faculty. She has 13 years of experience in higher education as an English as a Second Language (ESL) instructor and is a former high school French teacher.

She will develop and administer Eastern's English Language Center (ELC), a unit of international programs. The ELC is open to prospective university students, professionals and others wishing to become more proficient in the English language.

"Rita, who was selected from a national search, has extensive experience teaching English as a Second Language at a university similar to Eastern. She helped start the Intensive English Language Program at Central Missouri and is very knowledgeable about the recruitment of students," said Roger Beck, acting associate director of the Graduate School, Research and International Programs, to whom Holmes reports.

-more-

FILE COPY

"Since Rita has been hired, Eastern will be able to build a more comprehensive, year-around program of intensive English instruction for international students with regularly scheduled eight-week sessions that will be organized and taught by Rita," Beck noted.

The ELC offers a full-time program of intensive English instruction for international students who wish to improve their language skills for undergraduate or graduate study at American universities or for career or personal reasons.

Coursework includes grammar, oral communication, writing and reading. Students have access to a state-of-the-art language lab to develop their listening skills and pronunciation and pattern drills.

About 60 to 70 percent of the students who complete the language program at an ELC choose to enroll at the university where it is located, in this case Eastern, Beck said.

Holmes said she is looking forward to developing Eastern's ESL program and working with international students. "I like working with international students and hope that I can develop a program of academic integrity that meets their needs and the requirements of the American university system. Most importantly, I want to prepare international students to succeed at the university level," Holmes said.

"I believe there's a real need to internationalize the campus. International students add a dimension to the university that can't be duplicated without their presence. They create a global awareness among American students and faculty as

well," Holmes added.

Holmes said she will be traveling abroad to recruit students to Eastern's ESL program. "My contacts in Eastern Europe, the Pacific Rim and the Middle East also will help in recruiting students."

"Interestingly enough international students are attracted to Eastern because it is located in a rural, quiet setting and is a safe campus. They are particularly impressed by the wide, open spaces in and around Charleston," Holmes noted.

Holmes earned bachelor's and master's degrees in French from Montclair State College in New Jersey and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, respectively. She also has a master's degree in the Teaching of English as a Second Language from Central Missouri State University. She is fluent in French, Polish and Spanish.

She completed foreign language study in Canada and has lived abroad in Poland and Hungary. She also has traveled extensively in Eastern and Western Europe.

At Central Missouri State University, Holmes helped develop a model program for Japanese students in the Intensive English Language Institute and supervised students in the Teaching English as a Second Language master's degree program. She has taught English as a Second Language at two universities in Poland and been on the French faculty at the University of North Carolina and the University of Pittsburgh.

She has a special research interest in ethnicity, specifically Polish Americans,

ADD 3/3/3/3

HOLMES

and is currently co-editing an anthology of scholarly essays and representative literary works on "Women Writers of Polish Descent."

Holmes is a member of the National Education Association, South Atlantic Modern Language Association, European Studies Association and the National and Midwestern Associations of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.