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Feb. 23, 1995

JORNS TO HOLD TOWN MEETINGS

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University President David Jorns on Monday will hold the first in a series of town meetings for EIU students, employees and community members to voice their opinions about the university.

Jorns invites EIU students, faculty, staff and local residents to join him for an informal discussion of campus issues at a brown bag lunch/town meeting from noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 27 in the University Union's Rathskeller balcony.

Two other town meetings are scheduled for March 30 and April 27.

Jorns said he wants to provide the university community and local residents with a forum for voicing their opinions about the university and its impact on community life.

"The town meetings will provide individuals with a platform for discussing anything that is on their minds, such as smoking, parking, or budget and tuition issues, as well as town/gown relations," Jorns said.

In addition to the town meetings, Jorns has initiated, "We're Listening to You," a confidential direct communication program for EIU faculty and staff to direct comments, suggestions, or questions to him.

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Jorns said in the first month of the program he has received more than 70 notes from staff and faculty; he has sent personal replies to all individuals who have signed their names.

A large number of notes have focused on concerns with personal issues and supervisory practices. Some have offered suggestions on how to improve the campus, such as implementing bicycle patrols for university police officers and offering a CPR class for employees.

Others have expressed concern about the state of Eastern's equipment, while some have simply thanked him for providing a forum to voice an opinion.

Jorns said he will continue efforts to keep his finger on the pulse of the university community by visiting departments across the university's four vice presidential areas. He has scheduled 10 departmental meetings this spring semester and will hold additional meetings in the fall.