

2-9-1986

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "02/09/1986 - Federal Cuts Result In Elimination Of 926989 Dollars In Student Financial Aid At EIU" (1986). 1986. 120.
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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

February 9, 1987

L/A/M

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Proposed federal cuts would result in elimination of \$926,989 in student financial aid at Eastern Illinois University, according to President Stanley Rives.

The figure was included in a letter from Rives to Illinois senators Alan Dixon and Paul Simon and Rep. Terry Bruce protesting what Rives termed as "gutting federal aid to college students."

According to the letter, student and budget proposals by Secretary of Education William Bennett would have the following impact by category of U.S. aid:

\$484,590 eliminated in Pell grants with 526 of the 1,569 Eastern students currently participating no longer eligible;

\$257,777 eliminated in College Work Study Program funds with 608 now in the program no longer eligible;

\$121,872 eliminated in Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants, affecting 412 students;

And, \$62,750 eliminated from National Defense Student Loans, involving 652 students for the total impact of \$926,989.

Rives told the legislators in the letter he knew they opposed the administration's proposals, but "I write to provide you with some specific information of the effect. . .on students at Eastern Illinois University."

Rives also said the proposals were coming "at a time when this nation most needs an investment in the development of human resources."

Rives urged college students and their parents not to plan on such reductions as have been proposed by Secretary Bennett. He said "Congress has not approved such cuts in the past and is not likely to do so in this session."