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July 19, 2002

For Immediate Release:

EIU RECEIVES \$40,000 GIFT FROM STATE FARM FOUNDATION

CHARLESTON – With its donation of \$40,000, the State Farm Foundation recently became a corporate member in Eastern Illinois University's 2000 and Beyond campaign.

The campaign, developed as a strategy to ensure that Eastern's accountancy program would not only survive, but thrive in an ever-changing business environment, began in the spring. Funds generated through the "future-focused" campaign will be placed in an endowment fund, and earnings from that fund will be used to fund designated projects in perpetuity.

Some of the areas designated for funding include scholarships, an enhanced curriculum, guest speakers, the purchase of CPA exam-specific review materials and other resource materials, student organizations/activities support, technology renewal, instructional improvement, recruitment events, capital projects and faculty development.

These projects will strengthen and support Eastern's accountancy program by continuing to provide students with sound, relevant instruction; the tools they need to achieve essential certification; and experiences and opportunities designed to develop problem-solving and leadership skills.

State Farm employs more than 400 EIU graduates, and 40-plus of those are accounting majors. John Coffey, a retired State Farm vice president, serves on Eastern's Business Advisory Board, while Jeff Coughlin serves as State Farm's representative to the EIU Accountancy Advisory Board.