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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

ART TATE, Assistant Director, University Relations
Office: (217) 581-5983 - Home: (217) 348-7553

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FILE COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ENDOWMENT A "FIRST" FOR WOMEN'S ATHLETICS

CHARLESTON, IL--Establishment of an endowment fund for its women's basketball coaching position has made Eastern Illinois University a pacesetter in the State, the Gateway Athletic Conference, and perhaps the nation.

Funds for the endowment were provided through the University's Foundation by Eastern's Vice-President for Student Affairs Glenn Williams and his wife Joan.

The Williams' say their objectives are to enhance the image of Women's Athletics and to express that enhancement in monetary terms, to assure that the high level of professionalism that has exemplified Eastern's women coaches will continue.

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ADD 1/1/1/1

WILLIAMS ENDOWMENT

Eastern coach since 1979 Barbara Hilke has the best record in Eastern's women's basketball history, with an 11-year record of 209-115 (64.5 percent). She has directed Eastern to 11 of its 12 consecutive winning seasons, the most among all state schools in Illinois. She collected her 100th career win on January 13, 1990, with a 79-67 triumph over Northern Iowa.

She was a finalist for National Coach of the Year in 1980-81, when she led the Lady Panthers to the quarterfinals in the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) Division II national tournament.

Stephen C. Falk, Eastern's Vice President for Development, praised the Williams' effort. "Through creation of their endowment, Glenn and Joan Williams have paid the highest compliment possible to Eastern Illinois University. They have demonstrated to all interested that EIU is a family and a commitment. We are grateful for their ongoing leadership," he said.

Interest from the fund within the University Foundation will be applied to the head women's basketball coaching salary until it is equivalent to the highest coaching salary at Eastern.

Once that is established, remaining interest will be used to support the women's basketball program, until that support is thirty percent of the program's budget.

Remaining interest will then be applied to provide scholarships through a separate scholarship fund established by the Williams'.

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ADD 2/2/2/2

WILLIAMS ENDOWMENT

Eastern Illinois University's Athletic Director Mike Ryan said, "Both Glenn and Joan have been tremendous supporters of our women's athletic program here at Eastern and their endowment of the head basketball coach position is a dramatic first step toward providing a solid financial base for women's athletics.

"Together, they have been seemingly tireless in their efforts to assist in the advancement of women's athletics and all of us are extremely appreciative of their latest gesture.

"In many respects, it is fitting that a coach of the quality and successfulness of Bobbie Hilke be the first recipient of the endowment as she and the Williams' have forged a strong personal relationship which is now in its second decade. Bobbie is very deserving of this honor and we are equally grateful to her for her dedication to Eastern's athletic program."

The position will be known, in perpetuity, as the Joan & Glenn Williams Endowed Women's Basketball Coach.

