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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HENCKEN, OLSEN BEGIN THREE-YEAR CONTRACTS

CHARLESTON -- Two of Eastern Illinois University's current top administrators are expected to help usher the university into the 21st century.

Both Lou Hencken, vice president for student affairs, and Morgan R. Olsen, vice president for business affairs, began three-year contracts this week. The contracts -- in effect until May 10, 2001 -- will help ensure some continuity at a time when Eastern will see both its president and provost/vice president for academic affairs retire.

President David L. Jorns has announced his plans to retire at the end of June 1999. A search recently got underway to determine his successor.

Teshome Abebe of Big Rapids, Mich., has been named the new provost and vice president for academic affairs at Eastern. He will begin the position July 1, 1998, replacing retiring incumbent Terry Weidner.

"I am delighted they will be able to continue to serve this institution," Jorns said of Hencken and Olsen. "These contracts are a definite sign of the board of trustees' faith and trust in their administration. They are both fine men who have made significant contributions to the university."