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NEWS

Contact: Vicki Woodard (csvns@eiu.edu)
Melinda Matthews (csmem2@eiu.edu)
217-581-7650
217-581-8444 (fax)

Office of Media Relations
600 Lincoln Avenue
Room 2142 Old Main
Charleston, IL 61920-3099
(www.eiu.edu/~pubaff/omr.htm)

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For Immediate Release:

NATIONAL REPORT LAUDS EIU FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY EFFORTS

CHARLESTON – Eastern Illinois University has been named by the national Safe Energy Communication Council** as one of 22 Illinois businesses, organizations and institutions that are saving more than \$10 million annually by using energy more efficiently.

According to “Power Boosters: Illinois Energy Efficiency Success Stories,” a SECC publication, Eastern “has achieved valuable operating savings by upgrading the lighting systems throughout its campus, allowing it to spend more on its students and less on energy bills. The university is now saving \$250,000 a year while improving the learning environment for its students as the result of a comprehensive, campus-wide lighting upgrade.”

The report goes on to explain that the lighting upgrade was part of a major infrastructure improvement program launched in October 2001 that also upgraded heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, as well as water systems.

Energy Investments, LLC, an Illinois-based energy services company, conducted the lighting portion of the upgrade, which benefitted Eastern by standardizing outdated lighting throughout campus, simplifying future maintenance and inventory requirements. The primary objectives of the project were to save energy, increase light levels and improve the quality of light in EIU facilities.

Gary Reed, EIU utilities manager, says in the report that he “could not have been more pleased with the execution of the project or the results. . .

“Based on the sheer economics of the project, pursuing an upgrade of this nature was a ‘no-brainer’ for Eastern Illinois University,” he said. “The upgrade reduces our deferred maintenance needs and the savings generated by the project assure us the funds to support future repairs, allowing the university to reallocate resources to other priorities.”

The full report can be found at <http://www.safeenergy.org/powerb.htm>.

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***Formed in 1980, the Safe Energy Communication Council is an energy policy coalition of public interest environmental, consumer and media organizations.*