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For Immediate Release:

EIU GARDEN NAMED IN HONOR OF RETIRED BOTANIST/VP

CHARLESTON -- Two departing vice presidents were paid homage Monday by Eastern Illinois University's Board of Trustees.

Trustees waived the usual two-year waiting period following a person's retirement in order to name one of the university's gardens the "Terry Weidner Garden" after the former provost and vice president for academic affairs who retired a year ago.

Weidner arrived on Eastern's campus in 1964, hired as a faculty member in the Department of Botany. Prior to his retirement nearly 35 years later, funds were donated by friends and colleagues for a garden to be completed in his honor.

EIU President Carol D. Surles, who described the newly named garden as "utterly beautiful," noted that Weidner, who still lives in Charleston, was "very well loved."

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The "Terry Weidner Garden" is located on the North Quad near the northwest corner of Eastern's Student Services Building.

The board also honored Morgan R. Olsen who recently announced his pending resignation as Eastern's vice president for business affairs in order to assume the post of vice president for business and finance at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

Olsen received a Distinguished Service Award in commemoration of "dedicated and distinguished leadership" since his arrival on Eastern's campus in 1995.

According to Surles, a search for Olsen's replacement will begin in early September and end in December. This search will run concurrently with a search for the re-established position of vice president for institutional advancement -- a post that has remained empty since the mid-1990's.

A third search also will take place this fall as a replacement is sought for Lisa Huson, general counsel for the university. Huson, who will be leaving Eastern in August to assume her new position as assistant university counsel at the University of Illinois, has been with Eastern since May 1996.

Surles indicated that this search will begin early next month, with a replacement to be named in November.

In other personnel matters, EIU trustees voted to award tenure to John Oertling and Roger Stoner, incoming chairs of the university's theatre arts and music departments, respectively.

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GARDEN

Stoner comes to Eastern from the University of Kansas where he has served as associate chair of the Department of Music and Dance for the past 12 years. He begins his new job July 20.

John Oertling, who began his new post earlier this month, comes to Eastern from Mars Hill College in North Carolina where he has worked for 12 years (six as chair) in the college's Department of Theatre Arts.