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09/20/1999 - EIU Fall 1999 Enrollment Figures

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For Immediate Release:

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University's Fall 1999 enrollment figures indicate the institution is right on mark in its quest to reach its target range.

Eastern's on-campus enrollment totaled 10,448, well within the university's on-campus target range of 10,500, a number which helps ensure Eastern's reputation for small classes and one-on-one attention from faculty. Students also benefit by having continued accessibility to classes they need and/or want, and by the added convenience of less-crowded residence halls.

Official reports taken the 10th day of classes also show there are 11,226 on- and off-campus students enrolled in the university -- a decrease of 509 from Fall 1998's total of 11,735.

In each of the four years prior to the 1998-99 school year, modest increases (on- and off-campus) were reported: 11,301 in 1994; 11,424 in 1995; 11,711 in 1996; and

--more--

11,777 in 1997.

"We're pleased that our endeavors to reduce student numbers to their optimum level have been working," said Lou Hencken, vice president for student affairs. Deliberate efforts to begin enrollment reduction began more than a year ago, and included the "most rigorous admission standards" ever established for incoming students at EIU.

Hencken noted, however, that outside influences have also been at work, including a decrease in the number of Illinois high school students who graduated in the spring, thus reducing the pool of candidates for admission. In addition, the number of students to graduate from Eastern hit an all-time high in May -- more than 200 from the year before.

A breakdown of Eastern's total Fall 1999 student enrollment of 11,226 (with last year's totals in parentheses) is as follows: undergraduate students 9,861 (10,174) -- freshmen, 2,224 (2,446); sophomores, 2,092 (2,085); juniors, 2,450 (2,413) and seniors, 3,095 (3,230); and graduate students, 1,365 (1,561). Of the total, 9,528 are full-time and 1,698 part-time. Also of the total, 4,610 are men and 6,616 are women.

Despite the decrease in the number of incoming freshmen, Herbert Lasky, director of EIU's Honors Programs, was pleased to announce an increase in the number of students enrolled in his area -- 642 from 607 a year ago.

The Fall '99 numbers also reflect an increase -- from 864 to 917 -- in Eastern's minority enrollment.