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## 12/08/2000 - IBHE Recommends Budget Increase for EIU

University Marketing and Communications

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# NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## IBHE RECOMMENDS BUDGET INCREASE FOR EIU

CHARLESTON – The Illinois Board of Higher Education has proposed a \$4,493,200 or 5.9 percent increase for Eastern Illinois University's general and income funds operating budget for fiscal year 2002, which would bring Eastern's total operating budget to \$80,885,600 compared to \$76,392,400 this fiscal year.

This overall increase recommendation incorporates a 7.2 percent increase in general funds (state tax) – the highest of all Illinois public universities – and a 3.2 percent increase in income fund (tuition and fee) monies.

Proposed increases in Eastern's operating funds would provide funding for a base average salary increase of three percent for faculty and staff. A 3 percent increase for utilities and library acquisitions is also included in the recommendation.

Also included in the IBHE's budget recommendation for Eastern is \$100,000 to hire

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**E**astern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 10,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern's pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.

faculty and staff who will support a bachelor of science degree in computer information systems. Another \$100,000 is recommended to support an alternative teacher certification program that addresses revisions made to the School Code that allow professionals with bachelor's degrees and five years of work experience in the field to intern as full-time classroom teachers.

Approximately \$348,500 is recommended for the development and application of technology to teaching and learning, with an additional \$690,000 earmarked for academic base support which includes the enhancement of instructional equipment to assure that students are appropriately prepared in their disciplines.

The IBHE's recommended capital improvement projects for Eastern for FY2002 total \$44.1 million, including \$40,003,000 for the Doudna Fine Arts Center building project which is the number 7 priority capital project and \$814,444 (the third year of funding) for WEIU-TV to make the conversion to digital television which has been federally mandated.

Capital funding of \$2.5 million is recommended for the extension of a chilled water loop for the south campus which will provide for increased reliability of cooling systems and more efficient use of energy year-round. A total of \$773,300 has been recommended in capital renewal funding to reconfigure space in McAfee Gymnasium to better accommodate instruction and to renovate the plumbing and electrical systems when Booth Library is completed. Library Services is occupying McAfee during the renovation of Booth.

All higher education budget requests will be forwarded to the Governor and Illinois General Assembly for action during the upcoming legislative session.

"The level of funding recommended by the Illinois Board of Higher Education will help

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the university move forward to complete a number of academic initiatives and to enhance technology for teaching and learning. We are pleased that the fine arts project is ranked #7 on the IBHE's capital project priority list," said Jill Nilsen, acting vice president for external relations.