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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "03/13/1986 - Improving Relations May Help Provide Quality Education" (1986). 1986. 244.

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

March 13, 1986

Local

HARRY READ, Director of Information and Publications (217) 581-2820

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University President Stan Rives, in his State of the University address today (March 11), stressed improved relations with the Illinois Board of Higher Education should help the University accomplish its mission of providing quality undergraduate education.

By meeting the Board's enrollment target of 9600 fulltime equivalent (FTE) students," Rives said, "the University has actively worked to eliminate the source of tension between the IBHE and Eastern.

Rives also praised the board's efforts for improving the quality of undergraduate education in colleges and Universities.

"I applaud the leadership Executive Director (Richard) Wagner is exercising in this area as well as the process being employed, which closely involves the institutions and affected parties in the development of recommendations to be considered by the IBHE later this year.

"Quality undergraduate education is the special strength of Eastern but we should not become complacent or assume that Eastern's strong undergraduate program cannot be improved," he said.

Rives said that Governor Jim Thompson's proposed eight percent increase for Eastern's FY87 budget would be broken down as follows: 6 percent for tuition, 6.5% for salary increases, 7% for library costs, 4% for general price increases and 5.7% for utilities.

"The current budget proposed by the Governor puts almost all new funds into elementary, secondary and higher education. We are receiving preferential treatment compared to the rest of state government," he said.

State of University

add 1

Rives expressed concern on the "uncertain level of Federal support for student financial aid." With proposed federal cuts under Gramm-Rudman, the University and state are currently seeking methods to offset this reduction "but we can only partially recover the potential losses."