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# NEWS

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July 24, 2001

For Immediate Release:

## HENCKEN NAMED EIU'S INTERIM PRESIDENT

CHARLESTON – Louis V. Hencken, vice president for student affairs at Eastern Illinois University, has been named interim president, effective Aug. 1.

Eastern's Board of Trustees approved the appointment today after President Carol Surles announced that she is leaving the university to pursue her treatment plan for breast cancer.

"Vice President Hencken has been at Eastern for 36 years in various roles and has an unequal breadth of knowledge about the university's history and function. His vast knowledge about Eastern is indispensable at this time," Surles said. "Because he served effectively during my previous absence and has the respect of the university community, I am confident that he will provide the strong leadership Eastern needs to move forward."

Hencken, who is senior among the three other vice presidents, has been vice

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Eastern 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.

ADD 1/1/1/1

HENCKEN APPOINTMENT

president for student affairs since 1992. The EIU education/guidance and counseling graduate began his career in student affairs at Eastern as a graduate assistant and advanced through the housing ranks as a counselor and assistant and associate director, becoming director in 1975. In 1989, he was named associate vice president for student affairs, assuming responsibility for three new student affairs areas besides housing.

His duties continued to expand in 1992 when he was named vice president for student affairs with responsibility for 19 student affairs areas employing 550 civil service and administrative employees and more than 1,500 student employees and a combined operating budget of \$50 million.

"I have very much enjoyed working with Dr. Surles and wish her the best as she attends to her health. She has made a very positive contribution to EIU. I encourage the campus community to join together to provide a smooth transition and to continue to work productively, keeping Eastern's best interests in mind," Hencken said.

Hencken is widely recognized among his colleagues in student affairs and has been honored for his work in the field. He has also been involved in university committee work dealing with affirmative action, undergraduate education, minority student recruitment and new administrative appointments.

He has been president of the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center board of directors for the past four years and has also served on the Credit Union I board of directors.

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ADD 2/2/22

HENCKEN APPOINTMENT

Last year, he was named Southwestern Illinois College's Outstanding Alumni.

He and his wife, Mary Kay, who recently retired as a business education teacher at Charleston High School, reside in Charleston.

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**NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS/DIRECTORS** – Mr. Hencken can be reached in his office this afternoon at 581-3221 or at home, 345-4957, this evening for further comment.