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02/26/1992 - Thornburgh Begins Leave

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

THORNBURGH BEGINS LEAVE MARCH 1, RETIRES AUGUST 31

CHARLESTON, IL--Dr. Daniel Thornburgh, Director of Centennial and Special Events at Eastern Illinois University, has unilaterally announced in the student newspaper his plans to withdraw his retirement request, which is effective August 31, 1992 (following a six-month approved administrative leave beginning March 1).

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ADD 1/1/1/1

THORNBURGH BEGINS LEAVE

Eastern President Stan Rives issued the following statement today to clarify the situation:

"On February 26, 1991, Dan Thornburgh wrote to me requesting a six month paid administrative leave for March 1 until August 31, 1992, to be followed by retirement. Such administrative leaves are approved by the Board of Governors. I recommended approval of his plan and the Board approved the request on April 4, 1991.

"On January 20, 1992, Thornburgh wrote to me requesting to withdraw his administrative leave. On January 29, I provided Thornburgh reasons in writing for not granting his request.

"Since Dan Thornburgh's leave and retirement were approved, the University has systematically reassigned his duties to other administrators. Responsibility for Commencement was transferred to the Vice President for Academic Affairs following the Fall Commencement in December of 1991, with Dean Will Hine now having that responsibility. Special events responsibilities have been assumed by University Relations, the Vice President for Institutional Advancement, and the Office of the President. Thornburgh's remaining administrative responsibility is Chair of the Centennial Committee.

"Further, as Dr. Thornburgh has been informed, the administrative position Director of Centennial and Special Events is scheduled for elimination along with several other positions which are or will become vacant as part of the University's effort to reduce administrative overhead. The internal reallocation process mandated by the Illinois Board of Higher Education and its Chair, Art Quern, appropriately require that we examine every opportunity to reduce administrative overhead in order to put limited resources into direct instruction.

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ADD 2/2/2/2

THORNBURGH BEGINS LEAVE

"Since the Centennial Committee has expressed a desire to have Dr. Thornburgh continue as its Chair, I am willing to have him do so on a volunteer basis as do other retired members of the Committee.

"Dan Thornburgh has served the University since 1959, and we wish him well during his earned administrative leave and retirement."