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June 2, 1995

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HITCH NAMED DEAN OF COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

CHARLESTON, ILL. -- Elizabeth Hitch, director of teacher education for the College of Education, Health and Human Services at Central Michigan University (CMU), has been named dean of Eastern Illinois University's College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS).

Hitch, who begins her new position on Aug. 1, replaces Charles Joley who retired as dean in February. Ronald Leathers, assistant dean in the college, has been serving as acting dean.

James Johnson, chair of the search committee and dean of EIU's College of Arts and Humanities, said, "Eastern is indeed fortunate to have Dr. Hitch as the new dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies. Dr. Hitch clearly emerged as one of the top candidates for the position and is uniquely suited to meet the diverse needs of the college."

As the new dean, Hitch will provide leadership for the nine department chairs and 150 faculty in the college during the \$11.3 million renovation of the Buzzard Building which houses the college.

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"Dr. Hitch is arriving on the scene at a very exciting time for Eastern and the College of Education and Professional Studies. Her arrival in August coincides with the beginning of the Buzzard remodeling and the completion of the Human Performance Laboratory. Her strong background and previous experiences will enable her to meet the challenges and opportunities provided by the new physical facilities as well as the many reform movements underway in education," said Terry Weidner, EIU's acting provost and vice president for academic affairs.

The university's largest college with some 2,500 undergraduate majors and almost 200 graduate majors, CEPS offers bachelor degree programs for those who would like to teach at the elementary, junior high, or senior high levels. In addition, the college offers degrees in special education, health studies, physical education, recreation, athletic training, community health and driver education. Graduate degrees in educational administration, educational psychology and guidance also are available to students.

The college recently established the Stockman Institute, a "think tank" designed to address contemporary issues in education and in 1994 created Professional Development Schools, an outreach project that joins the university and public schools in a collaborative education effort.

"Eastern Illinois University is well known for its high quality programs in education and professional studies. I look

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HITCH

forward to working with the faculty as we make the college's excellent programs even better and develop new programs to meet emerging societal needs," said Hitch.

As director of teacher education at CMU, which graduates over 1,000 students annually, Hitch has been responsible for one of the largest teacher education programs in the nation.

She coordinated the activities of the 28 units on campus that have teacher education preparation programs in relation to curriculum, procedures and policies. Hitch also supervised the director of teacher education student services, the coordinator for clinical experiences and had oversight responsibilities for the Science/Math/Technology and Instructional Materials Centers at CMU.

From 1989 to 1990, Hitch served as CMU's liaison to the Michigan State Department of Education and to the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

Prior to 1990, Hitch was the associate dean for CMU's School of Education, Health and Human Services. As associate dean, she was the senior academic officer for the school's 250 faculty and staff in nine departments, 14 centers and special programs. She established and co-chaired a university-wide State/NCATE Steering Committee to assess the teacher preparation program in relation to accreditation standards; and established, edited and published *The Professional*, a college newsletter for communicating with alumni.

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Hitch earned bachelor's and master's degrees in home economics education and family ecology from Michigan State University in 1971 and 1972, respectively. She received a doctorate in educational psychology from the University of Michigan in 1980 before joining the faculty of CMU's department of human environmental studies as an assistant professor in 1981.

She has written numerous articles for professional journals and has developed brochures, videos and curriculum guides for the Michigan Department of Education.

Hitch has served on a number of committees at the university, state and national levels. Most recently, she served on CMU's Charter Schools Advisory Committee and its North Central Association Self-Study Committee. She has served on the Michigan State Department of Education Task Force to Develop Standards for Home Economics Education and as a Consumer Home Economics Peer Review Team Member for a number of Michigan schools.

On the national level, Hitch was CMU's representative to the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE) and served as a discussant on student teaching for AACTE in Chicago in 1994.

An avid cyclist, Hitch was the 1994 state time-trial champion for Michigan in her age group. She and her husband, Keith Hitch, have two daughters, Meredith (Mimi), 17 and Greer, 13. Hitch's family will join her in Charleston as soon as Mimi finishes her senior year of high school.

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Eastern, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 1994-95, is a comprehensive university with more than 10,500 students and 46 undergraduate and 27 graduate degree programs. It is a teaching institution which prides itself on the quality and affordability of its undergraduate program.