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For Immediate Release:

FINALISTS FOR EIU PRESIDENTIAL POST TO BE NAMED SOON

CHARLESTON -- Three finalists vying for the position of Eastern Illinois University's eighth president won't likely be identified for another week or more, pending the completion of background/reference checks on each of them.

Search committee members, who spent today and Wednesday at Chicago's O'Hare Airport interviewing each of eight semi-finalists, expect to reduce the field down to three prior to Thanksgiving. Finalists will make on-campus visits during the first two weeks of December, with a new president possibly named as early as Dec. 10 or 11.

Although unable to comment on specific individuals, Tom Johnson, a member of EIU's Board of Trustees and chair of the presidential search committee, said all eight semi-finalists -- three women and five men -- have earned doctorates, both classroom and administrative experience, and are sitting presidents or academic vice presidents

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FINALISTS TO BE NAMED

of higher education institutions.

“We’re very pleased with the quality and diversity of the candidates,” Johnson said. The semi-finalists, chosen from among 52 nominees, arrived in Chicago from locations from throughout the United States -- Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Maine, Michigan, New York and Texas.

The new president will replace retiring David L. Jorns, who came to Eastern as president in 1992. More than a year ago, Jorns announced his plans to retire on June 30, 1999, but recently said he would be willing to leave office prior to that date should a new president be named and willing to take over office earlier.