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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BRYSON COMPLETES FIRST SIX MONTHS AS OMBUDSPERSON

CHARLESTON, IL--Emily Bryson, a tenured professor at Chicago State University, has completed her sixth month of a twelve month term as university ombudsperson in the Office of the President at Eastern Illinois University.

Bryson came to Eastern in August as part of the Board of Governors Universities Affirmative Action Administrative Fellows Program.

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Her role as ombudsperson involves working with University people who are in conflict and disagreement with an office, department, or individual.

"I enjoy resolving issues for people who have problems or concerns, or feel there are things which have not been settled properly," she said.

When a problem arises, Bryson presents the facts of the situation to the administration so that fair decisions can be made and resolutions found. She serves as an impartial party who will consider all sides of the questions involved.

In addition, she suggests alternative courses of action in the event there are serious delays in certain departments where an issue could be resolved.

The Fellows Program is designed to expand and diversify the pool of leadership talent within the Board of Governors system and to increase minority and female access to top level higher education administrative positions.

Some of the issues Bryson has dealt with range from replacing torn American flags around campus, extending a period of employment for a part-time faculty member, repairing damaged sidewalks and interpreting the smoking policy, to examining storage facilities for chemicals in an academic department.

She added that she also enjoys the variety of her work responsibilities which involve many areas of the University.

"The opportunity to observe and interact with so many different groups and divisions at Eastern is a tremendous learning opportunity that few ever experience," she said.

Bryson said she has received extraordinary support during her fellowship from University administrators, civil service employees, students and faculty. She said she especially appreciates the assistance she has received from Eastern President Stan Rives.

"Dr. Rives has been a marvelous mentor, making sure that I had the professional experience I would need to further my career in higher education," she said.

In continuing her role as ombudsperson, Bryson said she will be spending time with each University vice president, attending meetings with them and their staffs. She may be contacted at the President's Office in Old Main, or by calling 581-2011.