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March 16, 1992

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN PROBATION

CHARLESTON, IL--Investigations by the Internal Auditor and the Human Resources office at Eastern Illinois University into problems with the administration of the Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program have been completed.

As a result, a decision has been made to place Mike Strader, Director of the Peace Meal Program, on three months probation. During this period, an administrative evaluation will be conducted to determine if Strader should continue as Director beyond that time.

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INVESTIGATION RESULTS

This decision was made jointly by Eastern President Stan Rives in consultation with Vice President for Academic Affairs, Barbara Hill; and Vice President for Business Affairs, Charles Colbert, following completion of the investigation by Jim Pacino, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, and an internal audit conducted by Jeff Cooley, Chief Internal Auditor for the University.

The report of Pacino's investigation is available in the office of Human Resources. Internal Audits are not available for public inspection.

The administrative evaluation will be conducted by Joyce Crouse, Assistant Dean/Chair of the School of Home Economics; Larry Helsel, Acting Dean of the College of Applied Sciences; and Vice Presidents Hill and Colbert.

The Internal Audit investigated 50 separate allegations and identified 18 findings for corrective action which the University will implement.

These findings related to fiscal management, records retention, personal use of property by employees, travel, purchasing, reporting employee time and benefits, and hiring practices.

The Internal Audit did not disclose any mishandling of Peace Meal funds, but recommended strengthening internal controls.

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INVESTIGATION RESULTS

While Pacino's report did not find evidence to support allegations of nepotism or favoritism in hiring practices, it did indicate that procedural safeguards were not in place to avoid the appearance of nepotism or favoritism. Pacino made four recommendations to strengthen the Program, which the University will implement.

Eastern's School of Home Economics sponsors the Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program which provides a vital public service by providing meals, nutrition education, transportation, and outreach to senior citizens (60 and older) at 55 sites in 14 counties in Illinois.