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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RIVES PRAISES FACULTY IN FINAL STATE OF UNIVERSITY REPORT

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University President Stan Rives used his ninth and final State of the University Report today (March 17) not only to summarize Eastern's accomplishments during the past several years, but also to bid farewell to his faculty, staff, and students. (Rives announced in December that he will retire in September of 1993. He will begin an administrative leave approved by the Board of Governors in August of this year.)

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Although he discussed progress in Eastern's facilities and fiscal status, he told a large group of faculty, staff and students that neither is as important as the academic program.

"I am proud of the faculty of this University, with the leadership provided in our Study of Undergraduate Education and subsequently by the Council on Academic Affairs, for having developed and approved the new integrated core general education program," he said.

"We took the time necessary to do it right, and the program is scheduled for implementation this Fall. Despite the three percent call-back of funds in our appropriation this year, we have made the funds available which are required to support the new general education courses."

Rives said that he has viewed his nine year presidency as a stewardship responsibility to leave the University "...stronger and better than when I joined you..." and said that with the help of many people that has been accomplished in several areas.

"Our new physical facilities speak for themselves in improving instruction, faculty-staff officing, and the quality of campus residential life for students," Rives added. "It is particularly gratifying to see how fully the new Student Recreation Center is being used."

Rives said Eastern has also improved its funding level compared with the other eleven public universities in Illinois, moving from \$2.5 million underfunded in 1983 to \$600,000 overfunded last year. The relative level of funding is measured by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

He urged more State support for education, noting that Illinois ranks 40th among the 50 states in appropriation for higher education per \$1,000 of income. "...Illinois can and must do better in the level of its investment in the education of its citizens. The alternative is ever higher tuition and limited access to higher education at a time when we desperately need better educated citizens," he added.

However, Rives proudly noted that with the help of alumni and friends, Eastern has made significant progress in attracting private support of the University.

As examples, he noted that between June 30 of 1983 and February 29 of 1992, total assets of the University Foundation grew from \$1.6 million to nearly \$11 million and the University Foundation endowment grew from .8 million to \$6.8 million.

"Put simply," he said, "the Foundation's total assets have increased more than 660% and the Foundation endowment has increased more than 826%. It is now the third largest among Illinois public universities, with only the University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University endowments being larger."

He also told the group that with more than three and a half years remaining in the Second Century Campaign to raise \$20 million for Eastern by the Centennial in 1995, the University has raised nearly \$15.8 million or 78.8 percent of the goal by the end of last month.

He closed by saying: "Last year I issued a plea for greater civility in our academic community, and I am pleased to see increasing evidence that we are moving in that direction. We must cease attacking each other and focus on what we are all about--teaching, research, and public service. Thankfully we are beginning to do just that.

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STATE OF UNIVERSITY

"You and the seventh President of Eastern have all my best wishes as the University approaches its second century of service to the people of Illinois. Please continue to do what you can to assure that Eastern Illinois University remains always a place where students can get a good education at reasonable cost."