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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MEETING THE NEEDS OF NEW TEACHERS

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's Beginning Teacher Program is helping new teachers in Coles County and surrounding areas get their careers off to a good start.

Eastern's program coordinator Mary Clement said it is important for beginning teachers to have access to a support system that helps them to not only survive, but to grow as professionals.

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"Eastern's Beginning Teacher Program provides support and encourages professional growth in beginning teachers in school districts in a 25 county area in east central Illinois through a variety of programs, which could include monthly regional seminars, Saturday seminars or mentor programs," Clement said.

Eastern's College of Education, the second largest producer of certified teaching personnel in Illinois, administers the Beginning Teacher Program.

Tom David, assistant superintendent of Mattoon Community Unit School District #2, said, "We received invaluable assistance from Mary and Eastern's College of Education when we initiated a mentor program for our beginning teachers."

Charles Joley, dean of the College, said, "Since 1985, Eastern's Beginning Teacher Program has helped Eastern graduates and other beginning teachers throughout central Illinois to succeed during their first and second years. The positive feedback we receive from the students reinforces the program's strengths."

Clement said that the program exists to collaborate with school districts to help their new teachers. She is available for consultation with school districts about establishing special programs that meet the needs of beginning teachers in that district.

For more information about Eastern's Beginning Teacher Program, contact Clement at 581-6601.