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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU SPRING ENROLLMENT UP; NEW RECORD SET

CHARLESTON -- A new spring enrollment record has been set at Eastern Illinois University with 11,028 students enrolling in on- and off-campus classes, an increase of 38 over spring 1997.

This year's total includes 1,826 freshmen, 1,929 sophomores, 2,450 juniors and 3,361 seniors. The senior class showed the largest increase -- from 3,221 a year ago -- followed by sophomores who numbered 1,833 in 1997. Graduate students number 1,462, a decrease from 1,558 last spring.

"Our goal has been to maintain stability in our enrollment while preserving high academic standards. We are proud that Eastern continues to attract academically talented students and that our graduation rate is among the highest in the nation," said Lou Hencken, vice president for student affairs.

A look at the figures also indicates that student recruitment must remain one of Eastern's priorities.

"The number of seniors -- many of whom will be graduating in a few months -- represents well over a third of our undergraduate population," Hencken said. "Sophomores, juniors and seniors combined represent 81 percent of our undergraduates. We've always done our own recruitment and will continue to do so, seeking students from throughout the state who want a quality education."

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Eastern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 11,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern's pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.

Spring enrollment figures also reflect another all-time high for enrollment in Eastern's off-campus programs. Eastern's School of Adult and Continuing Education has 948 students -- an increase of five -- enrolled in off-campus classes. More significant, however, is the increase (approximately 10 percent) in credit hours that those students are taking.

"This demonstrates again that life-long education is with us," said William C. Hine, the school's dean. "We will continue to comply with the wishes of the ever-growing number of adult students who desire perpetual learning. The School of Adult and Continuing Education will continue to offer high quality off-campus classes to meet the increasing educational needs of adult students."

Hine noted that Eastern now offers off-campus programs at 15 sites throughout the state of Illinois, including new and/or expanded sites in Peoria, Springfield and Decatur.

The number of minority students at Eastern increased -- from 811 to 826 -- while the number of international students enrolled decreased from 134 to 123.