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## 02/05/1998 - Jessie Voigt Allhands and Genelle Voigt Jackson Scholarships in Mathematics and English

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# EASTERN

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## EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

### JESSIE VOIGT ALLHANDS & GENELLE VOIGT JACKSON SCHOLARSHIPS IN MATHEMATICS AND ENGLISH

The Eastern Illinois University Departments of Mathematics and English are the recipients of two gifts made to the Eastern Illinois University Foundation by Mrs. Jessie Voigt Allhands. The two \$250,000 gifts, will fund the Jessie Voigt Allhands Mathematics Scholarship, established in 1996, and create a new scholarship, the Genelle Voigt Jackson English Scholarship, in memory of Mrs. Allhands' sister, Genelle, who died in 1995.

Genelle and Jessie, born in 1902 and 1904, respectively, grew up in Edwards County, Illinois. Three years later, a brother, Chesney was born. Raised in the loving Christian home of their parents, Chas and Estella Voigt, Genelle and Jessie both eventually attended what was then known as Eastern Illinois State Teacher's College. Quite the opposites in temperaments, Genelle talkative, outgoing, and a great reader; Jessie unusually shy and studious; both became teachers. Genelle taught English. Jessie taught her own hardest subject: mathematics. Jessie remembers telling her father of her choice of study and watching his sparkling eyes express his supportive "that's the stuff" response. The then EISTC Vice President, Edson Taylor, was her mathematics teacher.

Graduating in 1930, Jessie traveled to Tucson, Arizona, where she began her teaching career and met and fell in love with an Indiana native who would be her husband for over 40+ years, Tyler Allhands. During the war years, Ty and Jessie traveled the country, teaching mathematics to reservists and cadets from Washington State University to Cornell University in Ithica, NY, and finally settled in the midwest, both teaching mathematics at the University of Illinois. Ty, also an expert homebuilder, crafted over 60 homes during his lifetime. The melding of arithmetic and building would suit the couple well throughout their lives. Both retired from the University of Illinois in 1973. Ty, stricken with cancer, died in December of 1980, at the age of 75.

Genelle, a 1929 graduate of EISTC, studied English at the college and went back to her hometown to teach grade school, where she quickly became superintendent. Following her marriage to Shelbyville resident Harry Jackson, the couple moved to Winona, MN where Harry was a professor at Winona State University and Genelle substituted in English for over 35 years. Genelle and Harry retired back to their hometown where Genelle loved working in her garden. Her husband died at the age of 77.

After their husbands died, Genelle and Jessie, the girls of Edwards County, once again shared a home. Sorrowfully, Genelle died in 1995 at the age of 91, but, Jessie, 93, still lives by herself in the house that Ty built. She focuses her energy on helping others achieve a college education at the school that started her on her way, Eastern Illinois University. Jessie now shares her love of Eastern, reaffirms the past, and assures a solid future for generations of EIU mathematics and English students. As Jessie says, "Life has been good."

**NOTE TO THE EDITOR:** Mrs. Jessie Voigt Allhands has asked that this announcement be published “as is” if possible. Also, Voigt is spelled **without an “h.”** If you have any questions, please contact Shelly Flock, EIU coordinator of public information, at (217) 581-7650.