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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS CONSIDERING MORNING OFFERINGS, MORE OFF-CAMPUS SITES, MORE INTERNET CLASSES.

CHARLESTON – The latest survey of adult students enrolled in Eastern Illinois University's School of Adult and Continuing Education shows a growing demand for more courses, varying class times and more options to learn over the Internet.

The more than 1,000 students responding to the survey indicated that they are interested in having the option of attending morning classes. To date, off-campus courses have been scheduled in the evenings and on the weekends at the school's six east central and southern Illinois locations.

In response, the school is considering adding morning class times, as well as increasing the number of web-based Internet classes.

“As adult learners become the majority instead of the minority of students enrolled in higher education, the demand for more degree programs and class delivery options will increase,” said William C. Hine, dean of the school. “This school alone has grown by over one-third since 1991 and shows a steady 4 to 5 percent growth each year. In the U.S., it's estimated that by the year 2000, 60 percent of those enrolled in higher

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education will be adult learners. The 18- to 21-year-olds will become the 'non-traditional' students."

Hine attributes the growth at Eastern, in part, to the school's growing reputation for quality. The survey showed an increase in the number of students who enrolled after hearing about the programs through word of mouth. The survey also revealed a strong message about student satisfaction with the quality of the school's off-campus degree programs.

Ninety-nine percent of students rated the quality of the programs "very good" or "good." While the nearly 100 percent rating sets a record, surveys from the past 10 years show a consistent pattern of satisfaction. In 1993, 98 percent of respondents rated the quality programs "very good" or "good." In 1988, the percentage was 97 percent.

"We feel very good about the basic numbers and the fact that they are consistently high over the years," said Hine. "We attribute this to Eastern's commitment to adult learners in Illinois. Almost 80 percent of our off-campus courses are taught by Eastern's full-time faculty. I greatly appreciate Eastern Illinois four colleges' interest in and support of the School of Adult and Continuing Education's off-campus programs."

The school, in conjunction with the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences, recently added a new degree program -- the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at Parkland Community College in Champaign. "I greatly appreciate Dean Ted Ivarie's support of meeting the business education needs of the off-campus

adult students,” Hine added.

Other findings of the survey included positive ratings on classroom facilities, location and helpfulness of staff at the off-campus offices.

The School of Adult and Continuing Education offers courses at six major off-campus locations, many other sites and through interactive distance learning and the Internet.