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news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MCKEE REFLECTS ON YEARS IN CONTINUING EDUCATION

CHARLESTON, IL--Don McKee, director of off-campus academic services in Eastern Illinois University's School of Adult and Continuing Education, will retire this month. For the past 14 years, he has played a key role in expanding Eastern's off-campus adult program.

McKee responds to the continuing education needs of adult learners by assisting in the development of off-campus credit courses at a variety of locations in east central Illinois.

"We try to serve the needs of individuals in our area; and those needs change each semester. What I have seen evolve in my years of experience is the increased desire of teachers to develop activities that will enhance the educational experiences of their students. This interest has resulted in an increase in the number of workshops and special programs offered in certain areas," McKee said.

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McKee points out that the School of Adult and Continuing Education not only offers a wide variety of credit workshops and courses off-campus, but also holds some of these activities on-campus, if the equipment at a particular site does not adequately support the program requirements.

McKee assists in the development of all off-campus credit programs, including field camps and international programs.

He also works closely with educational service region superintendents, local educational agencies, and other educational, business and governmental agencies to develop off-campus credit courses to meet their immediate needs and special requests.

McKee says he values his relationship with these educational administrators and believes their cooperation has contributed to the continued success of the off-campus credit programs.

"My greatest satisfaction comes from the positive comments I receive from my associates and from program participants, who tell me how worthwhile our programs are," he said, and adds, "It is also always nice to hear from faculty who say what a tremendous pleasure it is to work with adult learners."

McKee said he has received "immense" support from Eastern administrators, faculty and staff. "It is this support which has enabled the School to continue its development of the off-campus sector."

"One extremely positive effort has been the development of a cooperative partnership between Eastern, Danville Area Community College and Olney Central College where students can receive training in the field of elementary education," he said.

In addition to Danville and Olney, Eastern offers approved credit programs at Millikin University, Chanute Air Force Base and Salem High School. Workshops and special courses are offered at additional sites.

He came to Eastern in 1961 as a French instructor in the Department of Foreign Languages and the Buzzard Lab School and says he will miss the contact with his colleagues, but is looking forward to travelling in the Southeast and West.

McKee; his wife, Gail; and their daughter, Cheryl, are all Eastern graduates. Their son, Kevin, also attended Eastern and his wife, Melanie, teaches Speech Communication at the University.