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## 07/28/1992 - Grant to Fund Purchase of Chemistry Equipment

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July 28, 1992

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

GRANT TO FUND PURCHASE OF CHEMISTRY EQUIPMENT

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's chemistry department has received a \$38,114 grant from the National Science Foundation to purchase a Gas Chromatograph-Mass Spectrometer.

The laboratory equipment will be used for instruction in undergraduate laboratory courses taken by chemistry and life science majors. It also will be available for student and faculty research in chemistry. The NSF and Eastern are sharing the cost of the \$76,229 instrument.

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David Buchanan, chair of Eastern's chemistry department, said the Gas Chromatograph separates molecules into different components, which are analyzed by the Mass Spectrometer. This "finger print of a molecule" is then matched by a computer to determine what type of molecule is being tested.

Buchanan said, "The instrument will replace and significantly upgrade a mass spectrometer purchased in 1972, which is increasingly unreliable and uses technology no longer common in chemical or biological laboratories.

"New experiments utilizing the capabilities of the instrument have been written and will replace experiments utilizing older technology."

He added, "This purchase supports the University's goal of providing up-to-date laboratory instruction for undergraduate students and keeping faculty abreast of current developments in their area of specialization. It also supports our goal of providing opportunities for student and faculty research."