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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EARL DICKERSON REMEMBERED

CHARLESTON, IL--Although Earl Dickerson died Monday, future generations of Eastern Illinois University students will benefit from the proud heritage he left.

Not only did he devote decades of his life to serving the University, but in 1991 he established the Earl S. Dickerson Award given to a senior who shows potential for success as a professional accountant.

Ted Ivarie, dean of Eastern's Lumpkin College of Business, said, "Earl always put his students first. Our business program would not be what it is today without his many contributions. He was a devoted teacher and a special friend to his many students and colleagues at Eastern. He will be missed."

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Dickerson, the first faculty member of Eastern's Department of Commerce (now the Lumpkin College of Business), came to Eastern in 1935 after teaching seven years in the country schools near Marshall, three years at Casey High School and two at Marshall High School.

Dickerson was honored last year by the Lumpkin College of Business at a reception to celebrate his 90th birthday and recognize his contributions to the college. During the reception, he said, "I was a classroom teacher and never aspired to be a department chair. I loved it for the students. All my years in teaching would have amounted to nothing without them."

At Eastern, he began as an instructor and worked his way up to a full professorship, retiring in 1965 after 30 years. He then completed his career as a visiting professor at California State University.

Dickerson earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Indiana State Teachers College, Master of Science from the University of Illinois and Doctorate in Education from the State University of Iowa.

He and James Thompson made up Eastern's Department of Commerce when it was established in 1937. From 1941-45, Dickerson served as acting department head and oversaw the "Bits and Business" student publication, which kept business students who had to go to war informed about college activities and also contained soldiers' letters. He also was involved with Pi Omega Pi business organization for undergraduates and the Commerce Club.

Up until his death, Dickerson maintained close associations with his former students, many of whom are currently on Eastern's staff.