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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

August 26, 1985

Local/Area

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--The cost of attending Eastern Illinois University in 1985-86 will be \$356 lower than the national average cost of attending a public university, according to EIU President Stan Rives.

Total costs at Eastern for this year will be up 5.9 percent, 2.1 percent lower than the national average of 8 percent for all four-year colleges and universities. Making up total college costs are tuition and fees, room and board, books, supplies, transportation, and personal expenses.

The College Board, a non-profit association of colleges in New York, announced last week that a survey of 3,087 of the nation's colleges showed the national average increase for four-year public institutions will be 8 percent.

It put the total annual costs of attending four-year public colleges, like Eastern, at \$5,314 for students who live on campus. The total cost of attending Eastern for the year is \$4,958, or \$356 less than the national average.

Eastern is able to offer its undergraduates a lower-cost education due to two primary factors, Rives said. The chief one is Eastern's textbook rental policy. Instead of having to spend more than \$150 per semester for books, the EIU student pays a textbook fee of \$32 per semester.

The low room and board costs at Eastern are the second factor, he said. Students living in EIU residence halls will pay \$2,148 for 1985-86 room and board, the lowest cost among the state's public institutions.

"We are able to offer outstanding academic programs for undergraduates at a lower cost to the student because Eastern is the most cost-effective public four-year institution in Illinois," Rives said.

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EIU costs

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"As the North Central Report noted," said Rives, "Eastern is accomplishing its mission and doing so with distinction."

EIU students and their parents do not, however, pay the entire total costs. Approximately 67 percent of Eastern's 9,800-plus students on campus receive some type of financial aid, Rives said.