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October 8, 1998

For Immediate Release:

EIU HISTORY CONFERENCE DESIGNED TO IMPROVE HISTORY TEACHING

CHARLESTON -- Those who teach or plan to teach history or social studies, as well as anyone with a general interest in those areas, are encouraged to attend the 19th annual History Teachers Conference on the campus of Eastern Illinois University.

Titled "A Margin of Excellence: Tools and Techniques for Improving History and Social Studies Teaching," the event will take place Friday, Oct. 23. The purpose of the conference is to bring history and social studies enthusiasts together in order to share new information on teaching. It is an event where innovative ideas related to history are welcomed and where networking is encouraged.

Presentations this year will include sessions on the use of films as instructional devices in the classroom; the incorporation of brain-based learning to increase student interest; the creation of a "toolbox" of teaching skills that will increase student learning; and ways in which to mentor new members of the profession.

Keynote speaker Heidi Roupp, president of the World History Association, will present two sessions. In her discussion titled, "Keeping Time," she will share a "comparative lesson on how different societies have conceptualized time" and how this relates to their world views.

During a luncheon presentation, Roupp will also discuss, "History As A Verb,"

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focusing on how history classes can be a laboratory -- how history can be a verb through active learning rather than passive memorization. She will also focus on the difference between world history as to state and national histories.

Other scheduled speakers include F. Delaine Donaldson, Effingham High School's departmental chair of social studies; Richard Hansen, social studies teacher at Mt. Zion High School; Susan Hanfland, teacher/administrator involved in training teachers in brain friendly teaching techniques for the past five years; and Diana Glosser, special projects coordinator at the Eastern Illinois Education for Employment System.

Anne Pool, a history teacher at Paris High School, will facilitate the annual "Swap Shop of Ideas, Methods and Materials" sessions where attendees get an opportunity to exchange and discuss favorite lesson plans and successful teaching techniques.

The cost of the conference is \$30 which includes all presentations, a continental breakfast and a luncheon. Participants are asked to register by Oct. 13. To do so, or to receive more information about the conference, phone the School of Adult and Continuing Education at (217) 581-5116 or (800) 446-8918.