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12/13/1992 - EIU Holds Fall Commencement

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU HOLDS FALL COMMENCEMENT

CHARLESTON, IL--"We want you to leave the world a better place than you found it," Eastern Illinois University President David Jorns told nearly 650 graduates participating in Sunday's (Dec. 13) commencement ceremony.

In his first commencement address since becoming president in September, Jorns said, "Today in your life, you're restless, you're ready for this to be over with. Tomorrow in your life, you'll be busy, but ultimately, I hope that you will be able to say you left your corner of creation in better shape than you found it. I believe that's one of the obligations, by the way, of receiving a good education."

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He added, "And now as you go forward, it's your obligation, I think, to see that the institutions, like this one, that helped you fulfill yourselves, are preserved, and remain for the next generation."

Jorns emphasized that, "Life is always worth the effort. And the betterment of life for those who succeed you is, I believe, the ultimate achievement."

Also bringing greetings to the graduates were Board of Governors Universities Trustee Dr. Mack W. Hollowell of Charleston; EIU Student Body President Brian Riordan, a senior political science major from Chicago; and EIU Alumni Association President Lyndon Wharton of Springfield, a 1957 Eastern graduate.

EIU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Barbara Hill conferred degrees on the graduating class.

During the ceremony, Jorns also gave special recognition to Maurice Shepherd, associate professor of chemistry and student teaching from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, who led the procession as faculty marshal. Shepherd has been on the Eastern faculty since 1967.

The pre-program concert was performed by Eastern's Wind Ensemble, directed by Bruce Moss. Father Gregory Stevens of the Episcopal Campus Ministry in Charleston gave the invocation and benediction. Susan Crane of Arthur sang the National Anthem.

Some 950 students earned degrees this semester from Eastern's six undergraduate colleges, the Graduate School and School of Adult and Continuing Education.