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October 29, 1998

For Immediate Release:

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATOR NAMED ASSOCIATE VPAA

CHARLESTON -- Ferris State University administrator Jeff Cross has been named associate vice president for academic affairs at Eastern.

In making the announcement, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Teshome Abebe said, "I am delighted that Jeff Cross will be joining us as associate vice president for academic affairs. He brings to the position enormous skills in the areas of budgeting, understanding of learning technologies and an understanding and appreciation for collective bargaining. Jeff shares some of my views on higher education and will be an excellent addition to the office in the service of faculty."

Cross was selected for the EIU post following a national search. He begins his new job Nov. 2.

He will work closely with Abebe in the areas of policy development, administration, planning, budget and operations and will provide support in the area of faculty contract management. He will be the academic affairs liaison for institutional research, distance and other

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educational learning technologies and innovative educational delivery systems.

He also will deal with space allocation, remodeling and academic facility rehabilitation issues.

During his campus visit Sept. 22, Cross said he would bring practical experience in several areas of academic administration to Eastern. He also observed that Eastern's mission of quality yet accessible education in a safe community of teaching, learning and open inquiry is enlightening and will serve the university well into the 21st century. Cross said he is committed to facilitating faculty participation and diversity of input.

Cross noted that he is eager to learn more about the culture and traditions of Eastern and to work as part of a team to make meaningful contributions in the areas of his assigned responsibilities.

Cross has served in several administrative roles at Ferris State since 1976, including assistant dean and later acting dean of the Gerholz Institute for Lifelong Learning, associate vice president for academic affairs and senior assistant to the vice president for academic affairs.

He has been active in the Michigan Council for Continuing Higher Education, off-campus outreach education and inter-institutional consortia. He also has taught courses in environmental health, hospital sanitation and epidemiology.

Cross earned a bachelor of science degree in zoology, psychology and chemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a master of arts degree in biology, education from Western Kentucky University. He completed certificates in education management from Harvard University and in distance education from Pennsylvania State University.