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10/31/1989 - Former EIU Students Win Award

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
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news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FORMER EIU STUDENTS WIN AWARD

CHARLESTON, IL--"An Economic Development Program for an East Central Illinois County," a Small Business Administration case study submitted by two Eastern Illinois University honor students, has won first place in the Small Business Administration Great Lakes regional competition.

Dr. Foster Rinefort of Charleston, associate professor in Eastern's Department of Management and Marketing, was the faculty advisor to Kent E. Melum, son of Mr. and Mrs. Austen Melum of Winfield, and John F. Summers, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Summers of Keensburg, who completed the case study.

Earlier this year, the case won the Annual Outstanding Small Business Institute Case Award at the state level. It was nominated for the regional level competition and won. The case is now on its way to Washington for the national competition.

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The case that Melum and Summers submitted consisted of a comprehensive study of the assets that this particular county has to offer industries that are considering locating in the area. The team compiled a report that presented special target markets for that county to pursue when recruiting new industry to the area. The case included information and data about the services that are available from state and federal agencies.

"This is an outstanding job by two remarkable honor students. Their project could pave the way for that community to do meaningful economic development activity," said Al Messenger, Director of Eastern's Business Development Center.

The Business Development Center is responsible for the administration of all Small Business Institute projects and acts as liaison between SBI clients and the Small Business Administration.

Melum, a 1985 graduate of West Chicago Community High School graduated from Eastern in May 1989 with a bachelor's degree in business and is employed at Caterpillar in Peoria.

Summers, a 1985 graduate of Mt. Carmel High School, also received a bachelor's degree in business from Eastern in May and works for Hyster Corporation in Danville.

The Small Business Institute is a program that divides students into teams and assigns them to a small business client who has a specific need or problem. It also gives the students a chance to work for a small business for a portion of their class credit.

The Small Business Institute is funded by EIU and the Small Business Administration.