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news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

RIVES VISITS POLAND

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University President Stan Rives recently attended the 20th Anniversary of the Agricultural and Teachers University in Siedlce, Poland.

Since Eastern established the first international exchange agreement with the university, Rives was asked to speak for the other visiting delegates representing universities in Bulgaria, Canada, East Germany, the Soviet Union, and the United States.

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RIVES VISITS POLAND

Rives used the occasion to discuss the importance of education, particularly international education. He said, "In his book, The Outline of History, H.G. Wells noted 'Human history becomes. . .more and more a race. . .between education and catastrophe.' Wells wrote that in 1920, but it is still very much true today. And if 'human history is more and more a race between education and catastrophe,' education must win the race if we humans are to have a future history.

"Winning the race," said Rives, "requires international cooperation. When a former governor of Illinois, Adlai Stevenson, was the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, he said: 'We travel together, passengers on a small spaceship (Earth), dependent upon its vulnerable supplies of air and soil. . .pre-served from annihilation by the care, the work, and the love we give our fragile craft.'

"If we bring together the thoughts of Wells and Stevenson," said Rives, "we can only conclude that the purpose of education must ultimately be the betterment of the human condition, that true scholarship is not national but international in character, and that we must forge international educational partnerships if we are to use the wisdom of the people of all nations to bring knowledge to bear on the betterment of the human condition of all the people of all the world."