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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

June 17, 1986

Local

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL.--Eastern Illinois University's television station will be dedicated Tuesday, July 1 when it begins over-the-air telecasting.

WEIU, Channel 51, will be licensed to telecast in a 32-40 mile radius of Charleston reaching into nearly 200,000 homes in five east central Illinois counties.

"Previously we've been confined to Charleston's cable system but now we'll be able to serve an expanded area with quality programming," said John Beabout, director of EIU's Radio/TV Center. "We're also hoping to be included on cable systems in the area communities."

The July 1 dedication ceremony will be transmitted live beginning at 1 p.m. that Tuesday. Official speakers include EIU President Stan Rives, former President Dan Marvin, Board of Governors Chair Evelyn Kaufman, BOG Chancellor Tom Layzell and Beabout.

State and U.S. government officials, general managers and station managers of area commercial, cable and public radio/television stations have been invited to attend the ceremony.

WEIU Channel 51 will be on the air from 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Programming will include the Financial News Network which also has sports programming and a sports trivia show, film classics, the Learning Channel which is a series of instructional/cultural programs, and EIU Connection focusing on interviews with campus and area personalities.

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"This fall the nightly news program, NewsScan 51, will return along with Coaches Corner, the weekly show highlighting EIU football and basketball," said Beabout.

"We've been in contact with TV Guide to be included in its area edition, and that would be a big plus for us."

The Radio/TV center has nine fulltime employees with production/programming operations predominantly staffed by students.