

11-30-1993

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "11/30/1993 - Off Campus Programming Receives High Marks.pdf" (1993). 1993. 809.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1993/809

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93-338

November 30, 1993

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMMING RECEIVES HIGH MARKS

CHARLESTON, IL--The quality and location of off-campus classes and university personnel are rated highly by adult students at Eastern Illinois University, according to a recent survey.

Ninety-eight percent of the 320 adult students surveyed stated that the quality of classes was either "good" or "very good."

At least 90 percent of the respondents also rated location of classes and helpfulness of EIU administrative office staff as "good" or "very good."

Terry Weidner, associate vice president for academic affairs at Eastern, said, "I am pleased to note that the survey findings confirmed my expectations; that is, Eastern's School of Adult and Continuing Education is meeting the needs of the citizens of Illinois in its service area. The improvement in distance education technologies may enable EIU to serve even more students in the near future."

The survey was conducted last spring by Eastern's School of Adult and Continuing Education with assistance from Charles

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OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMMING

Eberly, an associate professor in the Department of Educational Psychology and Guidance, and Homer Pinnell of Kansas, a specialist-degree seeking student from that department.

Will Hine, dean of Eastern's School of Adult and Continuing Education, said, "We are very excited and gratified by the positive results from this survey. The School of Adult and Continuing Education sets high goals to provide high quality academic programs and administrative support services for our off-campus adult students. The results of this survey demonstrate that we are meeting our goals."

When asked why they decided to attend Eastern, the majority of respondents indicated that location of classes and availability of their desired degree program were the most important reasons.

At the time of the survey, most cited an interest in Eastern's Board of Governors Bachelor of Arts degree program, followed by (on the undergraduate level) the Bachelor of Science Career Occupations and Elementary Education degree programs.

Many adult students surveyed mentioned friends, neighbors or relatives as their source of information about Eastern's off-campus courses.

More than half of the respondents also answered favorably to a question dealing with distance learning, stating that they would feel comfortable taking classes at an off-campus video telecommunications site without the instructor being physically present.

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OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMMING

As to suggested improvements in off-campus programming, the majority of respondents cited a need for additional education classes and degree programs, followed by computer science and business classes.

Hine noted that Eastern's off-campus program continues to grow with courses offered at 10 sites, which serve residents in a 35-county area in central Illinois.