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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

Nov. 27, 1985
Local & Area

HARRY READ, Director of Information and Publications (217) 581-2820

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University and Chicago's Percy Julian High School are heading toward a mutually beneficial partnership.

The planning stage is still exploratory, according to Dr. Glenn Williams, Vice President for Student Affairs at Eastern, and Dr. Edward Oliver, Percy Julian principal.

Two goals of the partnership are to better prepare Julian graduates for academic success at Eastern and to increase the University's minority enrollment.

Williams has been working on the "adopt a high school" project following a recommendation by Silas Purnell, Director of the Ada McKinley Foundation, Chicago, an organization devoted to helping inner city students achieve in colleges and universities.

Purnell and Oliver recently met at Eastern with top administrators, including President Stanley Rives, to develop the program's framework. Eastern officials will go to Chicago on Dec. 3 to meet with Julian faculty and administrators. Representing Eastern will be Rives, Williams, Vice President Edgar Shick and Dr. Charles Joley, Dean of the College of Education.

Williams said the project calls for Eastern's College of Education faculty and Admissions Office representatives to work closely with Julian faculty in preparing Julian students.

Oliver said categories Eastern faculty will discuss with Julian teachers and administrators include expository writing, sciences, mathematics and social sciences.

Recent action by the Illinois Board of Higher Education sets minimum course requirements for admission to the state's public universities.

"By working together now," Williams said, "we can mount that hill (course requirements) in unison. We are most pleased to be entering such a partnership because Percy Julian is an excellent high school.

"As an example, one of its graduates, Floyd Akins, is president of the student body at Eastern. Floyd is a capable young man and is a fine ambassador of Percy Julian."

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Oliver said "Percy Julian is more than pleased to explore with Eastern the possibilities of such a program. We hope to build an effective and beneficial relationship."