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12/12/1986 - Verna Armstrong Speaks At Commencement

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--A diploma from Eastern Illinois University signifies a broadly-educated person, graduates were told Sunday by Dr. Verna Armstrong, Vice President for Administration and Finance.

Armstrong, in delivering the charge to the class at fall commencement ceremonies, said Eastern's goal has been to prepare students to lead "fulfilling and productive lives as broadly-educated, responsible citizens in a free society."

Approximately 470 graduates participated in the ceremony. Armstrong told them "to be alert and look for opportunities." She told the graduates "you will have to take risks," but urged them "to realize the difference between taking risks and being foolhardy."

Armstrong asked the graduates to not let fear of failure paralyze them into inaction because "the only people who don't make mistakes are those who aren't doing anything."

President Stan Rives presided over the ceremony, conferred degrees and awarded diplomas. Bringing greetings to the graduates were Mrs. Evelyn Kaufman, of LaSalle, immediate past chair of the Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities; Mike Madigan, Longview, student body president; and John Dively, president of the Alumni Association.