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12/22/1986 - Mike Madigan Looks Forward To Politics

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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Select

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--(Special to Champaign News-Gazette)

Mike Madigan, of Longview, takes an occasional moment from a tight schedule to look at a plaque hanging on a wall at Eastern Illinois University.

That plaque is titled "Eastern Illinois University Student Body Presidents." One of the names on a small metal plate draws Madigan's undivided attention. The name is Jim Edgar, followed by a year, 1967.

And if certain visions spiral up from that name...well, why not? That's because the current name on the list is that of Mike Madigan. The year is 1986. And since political lightning struck Edgar, might it also not hit Madigan?

Edgar graduated in 1968 and his political career has carried him to the Secretary of State's office. Madigan will graduate in August 1987 and his goal is political involvement with the intent of seeking elective office along the line.

Madigan assumed the presidency of the student body in July (he was elected in student balloting) and will hold it until July 1987 (the term corresponds to the University's fiscal year). Although his main concern is being the voice for 10,000 students to administration and faculty, there's been a personal sidebar benefit.

Administering the office has added a practical side to his course work in his major of political science. And, parenthetically, Edgar has publicly maintained that his term as president helped lay a

foundation for his political success.

In mid-December Madigan was among speakers at the fall semester commencement ceremony. He urged the graduates to maintain "open, unbiased and intelligent minds" and to "set your goals high and go non-stop for them."

And, he said, "if you come within sight of those goals, set them even higher."

Madigan, a graduate of ABL high school, is looking beyond graduation from Eastern. He's applying for a staff position with several members of the General Assembly. This past summer he was an intern in the Illinois Department of Registration.

In March Madigan will participate in a model Illinois Governor's Conference involving 250 delegates. Simulated legislative sessions will be conducted and Madigan will serve as house speaker.

Being student body president has entailed "lots of work, but challenging and rewarding at the same time."

There's an air of quiet confidence about this young man and one has the distinct impression that he has, as he urged graduates, set his goals high and will go for them non-stop.