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08/30/1990 - Upward Bound

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

UPWARD BOUND

CHARLESTON, IL--Marijon Stites of Oakland, former student teaching coordinator for zoology and botany at Eastern Illinois University, and Lucinda Horton of Sullivan, EIU botany instructor, played a key role in a unique summer program held recently at Eastern.

The two teachers helped 50 Chicago area high school students better understand the challenge of preparing for college through practical experience supplemented by traditional classroom work in biology.

The freshmen, sophomores and juniors, who participated in the Chicago Ada S. McKinley Educational Services (AMES)/Project Upward Bound college preparatory program at Eastern, received a "hands-on" learning experience through field trips to area historic sites, farms and other points of interest.

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In addition to these participatory activities, the students enrolled in the comprehensive six-week program attended classes that developed academic skills and received individual tutoring and personal, academic, college and career counseling, according to Bonnie Spears of AMES, project director.

"The goal of AMES/Project Upward Bound is to develop the academic skills and personal growth necessary for the student to successfully complete high school and enroll in college," said Spears.

Besides attending classes in math, reading, and English taught by AMES staff and regular study sessions, the students experienced dorm life firsthand and had two former Upward Bound participants as residence hall counselors.

"The program is unique because it takes into account the total individual. Not only do we help the students in the area of academics, but we also enhance their personal growth and development through leadership training and in-house counseling," Spears said.

Following completion of the residential summer session at Eastern, the students returned to their respective high schools and are continuing the program by attending Saturday classes and after school tutorials and counseling sessions.