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### 02/06/1991 - Clay Mendez Selected Fellow

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February 6, 1991

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CLAY-MENDEZ SELECTED FELLOW

CHARLESTON, IL.--Eastern Illinois University Spanish Professor Luis Clay-Mendez of Charleston has been selected to participate in the Board of Governors Universities Affirmative Action Administrative Fellows Program.

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The Fellows Program permits a year-long released-time assignment under the direction of a BGU university president or vice president at a site other than the Fellow's home campus.

Clay-Mendez will complete his fellowship at Northeastern Illinois University under the direction of Vice President for Student Affairs Melvin Terrell.

BGU Chancellor Thomas D. Layzell said, "This program offers a tremendous opportunity for growth to our faculty, administrative, and professional staff members.

"After a year of tutelage under our executives, the Fellows leave with valuable experience and are better prepared to progress to jobs in upper levels of higher administration."

A political refugee from Cuba who came to the United States in 1961, Clay-Mendez has a strong academic, linguistic and cultural background, including more than 20 years' classroom instruction.

A member of the Eastern foreign language faculty since 1980, he was instrumental in reorganizing and reactivating Eastern's Spanish Club and generating greater student interest in the Spanish major.

He established a "first" for the Foreign Language Department when he arranged an EIU summer Spanish camp for Illinois high school students.

In addition to teaching a variety of Spanish classes to lower and upper division students, he supervises foreign language student teachers in high schools and is faculty advisor to the Spanish Club.

He is a member of Eastern's Faculty Senate and has served on dozens of University committees, including the College of Education Curriculum Committee, Liberal Arts and Sciences Advisory Committee and BGU Council of Faculties.

Outside the University, he is an interpreter for the Coles County sheriff's and police departments and municipal court. At the state level, he has actively worked with elementary and secondary schools to develop foreign language curriculum.

Internationally, he has directed 11 academic programs in Spain during summers, facilitating an invaluable linguistic, academic and cultural experience for students in area schools.

He received a bachelor's degree in education from Southwest Missouri State University and master's and doctorate degrees in Spanish and romance languages, respectively, from Washington University. He received a second doctorate degree in Latin American literature from Mexico's Interamerican University.

Clay-Mendez said he applied for the fellowship to obtain a better understanding of administrative procedures and relationships. "Ultimately, the program may enable me to secure a high level position, making the administration more culturally diverse and perhaps more responsive and receptive to pluralistic concerns and issues."

His wife, Penelope Clay, is a Spanish teacher at Kansas and Oakland high schools.