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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
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news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HONORARY DEGREE FOR AREA RESIDENTS

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University President Stan Rives will request Board approval at the Board of Governors Universities Board meeting in Chicago Thursday (Feb. 21), to award honorary Doctor of Public Service degrees to Gerald Walden Dunn, Mattoon, and Thelma Keller, Effingham, at Eastern's May 1991 Commencement ceremonies.

Dunn was in the education field for 44 years, serving as Coles County Superintendent of Schools and Regional Superintendent of Schools for 22 years prior to his retirement.

After 22 years as a teacher and public school superintendent, he became Coles County Superintendent of Schools and later Regional Superintendent.

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During this time he initiated a ten-county Special Education district in Eastern Illinois, participated in the activities in establishing Lake Land College, and established the Coles County Reading Council and a Mathematics workshop which are still held annually.

A 1930 graduate of Eastern, he has served on the Eastern Illinois University Foundation Board and is an active supporter of the Foundation through the Dunn Fund for Educational Administration.

Since his retirement, Dunn has been active in volunteer work and was legislative chairman for eight years for the Coles County Retired Teachers Association, which honored him in 1987 as Teacher of the Year. His work was instrumental in bringing about legislation to increase teachers' pensions and to place a retired teacher on the State Teachers Retirement System Board.

Keller is a committed family person and an entrepreneur. Her vision, along with that of her late husband, expanded their business from a one-pump gasoline station in Effingham, Illinois, to the family-owned businesses. These include the Keller Oil Company and the Keller Ramada Inn and Convention Center, and a number of other businesses which are prominently known both in Illinois and nationally, providing employment for over one thousand people.

The most visible example of the impact that she has made on the East Central Illinois area is the Convention Center. Construction began for the Inn in 1963, when it became the first Ramada Inn east of the Mississippi, and it was named the Ramada Inn of the Year in the international competition in 1987.

Today, Keller continues her tradition of service and philanthropy to churches, religious organizations, youth groups and educational facilities, including the Eastern Illinois University Foundation through donations to the Lumpkin College of Business and the Panther Club. She is internationally recognized in the hospitality industry for her accomplishments.

President Rives will also present a report to the Board of Governors on the Stanczak Report. His report will include a written response by Vice President Verna Armstrong, which was invited by the Board.

Among several purchase recommendations, Rives will ask the Board to approve the expenditure of \$143,329 in Revenue Bond Funds to provide the required matching funds for the University Union portion of an Energy Conservation Measures grant project from the U.S. Department of Energy.

The grant is to pay the cost of improving and upgrading the University's Energy Management System by installing sensors and field devices in the Doudna Fine Arts Building, the University Union and the Klehm Applied Arts Building (Klehm Hall) to connect with the computerized energy control center located in the Physical Plant Building to allow 24-hour monitoring and control of energy consumption in those buildings.

The project is being managed by the Capital Development Board (CDB). Contracts will be awarded and payments will be made by the Capital Development Board. The total cost of the project is \$559,153 to be funded as follows: Department of Energy Grant \$237,150; Capital Development Board \$178,674; and University Revenue Bond Funds \$143,329.