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### 04/04/1991 - EIU Introduces New Student Support Program

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
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# news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU INTRODUCES NEW STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

CHARLESTON, IL.--A new program that teaches University staff members what to do if students come to them with drug, alcohol or other personal problems is being introduced at Eastern Illinois University.

As part of expanded student services at Eastern, a Student Assistance Program has been initiated that trains faculty, staff and students to serve as resources for students with a variety of problems.

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The program does not teach individuals how to be counselors, rather it provides them with the resources they need to refer students for help, said Pat Babich-Smith, coordinator of EIU's Drug Prevention Program and facilitator of the Student Assistance Program.

"It is much easier for a student to approach a professor, advisor, athletic coach or trainer for help than it is for them to walk into a counselor's office or clinic," she said.

The idea for such a program was generated by Eastern's Athletic Department, which joined other faculty and staff in Eastern's first training session. The program is partially funded by the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

A federal grant is supplementing the NCAA contributions so the program can be offered campus-wide instead of just in the Athletic Department.

Heitzinger and Associates of Madison, Wisconsin, conducted the first three-day support program training session and future training sessions are planned, Babich-Smith said. Eventually, a "core committee" of trained faculty and staff will be organized so students have a "resource list" of individuals from whom they can seek advice.