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## 04/16/1991 - Partnerships for Excellence

University Marketing and Communications

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PARTNERSHIPS FOR EXCELLENCE

CHARLESTON, IL.--A summer program at Eastern Illinois University that helps minority students prepare for college has been extended to assist students in the Decatur, Champaign, Urbana, and Danville school districts.

Beginning in June, each district will send 10 students-- five freshmen and five seniors--to summer courses at Eastern as part of the University's "Partnerships for Excellence" program.

-more-

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PARTNERSHIPS FOR EXCELLENCE

The program is part of a continuing effort initiated by Eastern with schools in Chicago, such as Percy Julian High School, as well as in East St. Louis, according to Charles Colbert, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Eastern and coordinator of the program.

"It is designed to help minority students with college potential gain the training and opportunities they need to succeed at a University," Colbert said.

The seniors will attend five weeks of summer school, earning five to seven hours of college credit.

The freshmen will be invited to a two-week workshop with courses in reading, writing and math. They will earn one unit of credit toward high school graduation.

Colbert said, "The senior program is specifically tailored to enhance students' preparation for entering baccalaureate programs while earning credit-in-escrow for the courses they take.

"The freshman program is designed to improve students' overall academic skills, increase their enjoyment of learning and motivate them to plan on attending college upon graduation."

Colbert noted that Partnerships for Excellence began with 45 Percy Julian High School seniors in 1988. Another 45 were invited the following year, along with 45 freshmen. All of the students have since enrolled in a college or university.

ADD 2/2/2/2

PARTNERSHIPS FOR EXCELLENCE

Eleven students from the original class of 1988 and 13 from the 1989 group enrolled at EIU. Currently there are 45 Percy Julian graduates in Eastern's freshman class.

"The program is unique because it takes a practical approach toward academic enrichment for minority students. It offers them an opportunity to compete successfully in a university environment," Colbert said.

Eastern is funding the program through a grant from the Illinois Board of Higher Education.