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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

ART TATE, Assistant Director, University Relations
Office: (217) 581-5983 - Home: (217) 348-7553

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EASTERN REQUESTS \$5.4 MILLION FOR BUZZARD REMODELING

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University President Stan Rives has requested that Representative Mike Weaver and Senator "Babe" Woodyard introduce amendments to the 1991-92 capital appropriation bill for Illinois to provide \$5,380,000 toward a \$10.7 million remodeling and expansion of the Buzzard Building on the EIU campus.

The total \$10,730,100 project was earlier approved by both the Board of Governors and Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). In January, the IBHE identified the project as its ninth highest priority among higher education capital projects for 1991-92. The project, however, was not included in the Governor's capital budget for next year.

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EASTERN REQUESTS \$5.4 MILLION

"The project is desperately needed to support quality instruction in teacher education," said President Rives, "as well as for other programs housed in Buzzard, including the Journalism program, student publications, and the radio-TV center. We are pleased that Representative Weaver and Senator Woodyard have agreed to helping us get the project at least partially funded next year."

Rives indicated that, at the University's request, Champaign architect Robert Gruber had broken the project down into two phases--\$5.4 million for 1991-92 and the remainder the following fiscal year. The project would totally renovate and expand the Buzzard Building, which was constructed to serve as a laboratory school.

"We need to make the building energy efficient," said Rives, "and convert the old elementary-secondary classrooms into an instructional facility that will serve the needs of higher education students and faculty. The project was high enough on the IBHE priority list that it deserves to be funded next year."