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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "04/18/1991 - Rives Urges Continuation of Surcharge" (1991). *Press Releases*. 1467.

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
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news

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91-167

[APR 18 1991]

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

RIVES URGES CONTINUATION OF SURCHARGE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University President Stan Rives is urging members of the General Assembly to make the temporary income tax surcharge permanent. "Failure to do so," said Rives, "would have disastrous effects on students and staff at the University."

In his recent state of the university report, Rives stated, "A high priority for us all is support for making the temporary income tax increase permanent. Without that, prospects for education funding next year turn from lean or grim to disastrous."

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ADD 1/1/1/1

SURCHARGE

Of the \$66.9 million Illinois public universities received in the 1990-91 school year from the temporary tax surcharge, Eastern received \$2.8 million.

The additional funds have directly benefitted students by allowing a tuition freeze for both the 1989-90 and 1990-91 academic years. It has also provided students with state-of-the-art classroom equipment needed to educate them for jobs available in the '90s.

Funds were used to purchase much needed equipment and software for science and computer labs and books for Booth Library.

The additional revenue was also used to implement a new Specialist in School Psychology academic program and to enhance high school feedback, designed to provide information to schools on how well their graduates are performing in college.

The expansion of the University's successful Percy Julian High School five-week summer college initiation program to include 9th graders would not have been possible without additional tax dollars, nor would have the initiation of an orientation program for EIU freshmen designed to help them perform better.

Eastern was also able to expand its Peer Helper Program aimed at retaining minority students and hire a full-time Director of Minority Student Affairs and Visiting Professor for Cultural Diversity.

-more-

ADD 2/2/2/2

SURCHARGE

The University's additional tax money was also used to improve faculty and staff salary levels.

Rives noted that with the surcharge, Illinois ranks 41st among states in percent increase in state tax appropriations for higher education over the last 10 years. Without the surcharge, Illinois would have ranked 47th among the 50 states.

He said without the surcharge, some of Eastern's students will be among the 8,500 needy Illinois students who would no longer receive scholarship aid and the 5,000 students who would no longer receive merit scholarship aid.