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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "06/04/1991 - Dickerson Honored" (1991). *Press Releases*. 1561.

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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91-229

June 4, 1991

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EARL DICKERSON HONORED

CHARLESTON, IL.--The first faculty member of Eastern Illinois University's Department of Commerce (now the Lumpkin College of Business), Earl Dickerson of Charleston, was honored recently by the Lumpkin College of Business for his contributions to the College. Seven other emeriti faculty attended the event.

Dickerson, who celebrated his 90th birthday March 27, came to Eastern in 1935 after teaching seven years in the country schools near Marshall, three years at Casey High School and two at Marshall High School.

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At Eastern, he began as an instructor and worked his way up to a full-time professorship, retiring in 1965 after 30 years. He then completed his career as a visiting professor at California State University.

During the reception honoring the business emeriti faculty in the new Lumpkin Hall, Dickerson said, "This is a marvelous building. It's beyond my wildest imagination how far we have come."

He and James Thompson made up the Department of Commerce when it was established in 1937. "About 25 students were enrolled in business classes the first year and about 50 the following year, so if they weren't in my class they were in Thompson's," Dickerson said.

Dickerson served as acting department head from 1941-45 and oversaw the "Bits from Business" student publication, which kept business students who had to go to war informed about College activities and also contained soldiers' letters. He was also involved with Pi Mega Pi business organization for undergraduates and the Commerce Club.

"I was a classroom teacher and never aspired to be a department chair," Dickerson said. "I loved it for the students. All my years in teaching would have amounted to nothing without them."

Dickerson still enjoys hearing from former students and follows many of their careers, some of whom are currently on Eastern's staff.