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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
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news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MACLAREN PLANS RETIREMENT

CHARLESTON, IL.--Finding Chicago city schools where Eastern Illinois University students can student teach has been one of Fred MacLaren's most interesting duties during his 30 years at the University.

He retires in August as one of Eastern's student teaching coordinators for the Chicago area, but will continue working part-time in that capacity as part of Eastern's early retirement program.

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MacLaren, who maintains residences at Lake Charleston and Oak Park, became Eastern's first student teaching coordinator in Chicago in 1965. Now he is one of three individuals who services that area. Initially he came to Charleston to teach fifth grade at Eastern's Laboratory School.

"I have been responsible for locating excellent classrooms for Eastern's student teachers. Once the students are placed in a school, I visit them and assist them in any way I can. I want their student teaching semester to be a huge success," MacLaren said.

"I have been very impressed with the outstanding reputation Eastern has with the Chicago city and suburban schools. I believe Eastern needs to maintain and expand its presence and involvement in the large metropolitan area of Chicago, including the recruitment of students, especially minorities," MacLaren noted.

MacLaren said his job has been made easier because Eastern enrolls high-caliber students in its teacher certification programs and gives them classroom training beginning in their freshman year.

His work at Eastern has extended beyond his student teaching assignment. For many years, he has taught reading education courses in the Department of Elementary and Junior High School Education. On several occasions, he directed the annual reading conference, one of the largest conferences hosted by Eastern.

MacLaren has taught dozens of extension courses in numerous communities in the region served by Eastern's School of Adult and Continuing Education and conducted in-service workshops and institute day programs for area public school districts, including Mattoon and Sullivan. He also has served as a reading consultant to various school systems.

He has been a member of virtually every major university, college and department committee and has served in several leadership positions, including chairman of the Faculty Senate and the University Personnel Committee.

MacLaren said his reduced work schedule will allow him and his wife, Libby, director of political action for the Clothing Workers Union in Chicago, more time to travel. They already have planned a two-week narrow boat tour of Western England.

They also will be spending time at their 1840 farmhouse in Vermont where their daughter, Gretchen, and her husband, Jim, operate a catering business near Montpelier.

"Another privilege of retirement that I am looking forward to is spending more time with my father, Ralph, who lives out in the country up on the Canadian border in New York state," MacLaren added. "He is 91 years old and fun to be around. He can still teach me a great deal."