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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FILE COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EASTERN TO HOST GIRLS STATE

CHARLESTON, IL.--Eastern Illinois University President Stan Rives will welcome nearly 600 American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls Staters to the Eastern campus Sunday (June 16) where they will spend the week learning and participating in the workings of the state governmental system.

The Girls State delegation also will hear from prominent elected state officials, including Gov. Jim Edgar, who will greet them at 7:15 p.m. Monday, June 17, in Eastern's Dvorak Concert Hall. Charleston Mayor Wayne Lanman also will make brief remarks.

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GIRLS STATE

The week will be highlighted with additional speeches in Dvorak Concert Hall by Attorney General Roland Burris at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, June 18, and Comptroller Dawn Clark Netsch at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 19.

Other guests include Piatt County Clerk Judy Greene, Coles County State's Attorney Nancy Owen, Coles County Sheriff James Kimball and Terry Woodburn, assistant director of Americanism and Children and Youth for the National American Legion.

Rasa Forsberg of Chicago, director of public relations for the 51st annual session of the American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State, said the girls will spend much of the week campaigning for state, county and city offices and experience the complete election process from filing petitions for office and holding party conventions to voting in the primary and general elections.

Kevin Cannon, assistant director of housing at Eastern, said Eastern has been selected as the site for Illini Girls State through the summer of 1998. "We are extremely pleased that the American Legion Auxiliary has decided to continue holding Illini Girls State at Eastern. They have held their conference here since 1985 and I am looking forward to the University's extended association with them," Cannon said.

To be eligible for Girls State, a girl must be between her junior and senior years and in the top half of her class. She must also have an interest in government and political science.

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GIRLS STATE

The president of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit, which directly sponsors or obtains sponsors for the girls, works closely with high school principals and counseling staffs to select qualified candidates.