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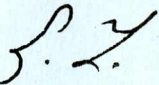
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Edwardsville Bulletin

To the Faculty, Staff and Students of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

Vol. 16, No. 6
September 23, 1985

MEMO TO: The University Community
FROM: Earl Lazerson 
SUBJECT: Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville
Mission Statement

I greet you at the beginning of an academic year which promises to be one of the most challenging in the history of our institution, a year in which we shall conclude three major assessment projects and initiate important new undertakings.

The needs assessment and enrollment management project, begun in early 1984, relied on the contributions of leaders from throughout the University community and has produced numerous recommendations which will aid us in responding to student and regional needs. The five-year institutional report to the Board of Trustees, to be presented in November, summarizes University activities and achievements since 1980. Finally, University Self-Study, which has enlisted the efforts of nearly 400 members of the University community, will reach a climax in April with the three-day visit of a North Central Association evaluation team. The results of each of these complementary processes will be available during the year in the form of discrete reports, and I trust that you will take the opportunity to familiarize yourself with them. Together, they offer a comprehensive analysis of our past efforts and provide valuable signposts for future development.

Development will proceed along several lines during the year. The most important, I believe, is that represented by the new general education program. The product of many years' deliberation, this program is scheduled for implementation in Summer University 1986. It will enable us to strengthen the intellectual skills of our students and to provide them with a broad understanding of liberal learning. In addition, as we implement revised admissions standards, based on recommendations developed by the Faculty Senate, we shall seek to use this opportunity to strengthen the quality of our institution and to preserve opportunities for access. Finally, I look forward to the beginning of a carefully planned enrollment management effort, one which will continue to draw on the advice and participation of the University community as a whole.

For these and other endeavors, the primary guide is the attached Statement of Mission for SIUE, approved by the Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees in their meeting of September 12. The result of

efforts by the University Self-Study Contributing Committee on Mission and Purposes and the University Planning and Budget Council, and the Faculty Senate, this succinct and pointed statement effectively states our enduring institutional priorities. I commend this revised statement to you and urge you to make it available to students, potential students, and members of the community.

The mission statement is, above all, a renewed public declaration of the reasons why we exist. I think of it as well, however, as a private affirmation of the reasons why I am proud to serve as the President of this University.

Welcome back.

Attachment

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AT EDWARDSVILLE

Statement of Mission

Dedicated to the traditional academic pursuits of instruction, scholarship, and public service, the University assigns first priority to excellence in undergraduate education. Through general education, the University endeavors to strengthen the intellectual skills of its students and to provide them with a broad understanding of liberal learning. Through the arts and sciences and through professional programs, the University seeks to prepare its students for successful careers and satisfying lives.

The University provides graduate educational programs consistent with regional needs and institutional strengths. While such programs emphasize advanced instruction sought by those pursuing professional advancement, the University responds as well to demonstrated needs for graduate study in the arts and sciences.

Consistent with its particular commitment to southwestern Illinois and with its pursuit of academic excellence, the University strives to enhance regional access to the educational opportunities it offers. It recognizes an obligation to provide developmental opportunities for the educationally dispossessed; it pursues a commitment to meet the special needs of nontraditional students; and it makes every effort to maintain for all its students admissions standards, fees, schedules, and calendars which will encourage their access and support their progress.

The University further expresses its commitment to educational excellence by encouraging and supporting scholarly research and creative achievement. Such achievement helps to sustain the quality of instruction, the intellectual vitality of the faculty, and the responsiveness of the institution to regional needs. The University regards scope, quality, and promise as its primary criteria in evaluating scholarship and creativity. Moreover, the University strives to maintain a balance between pure and applied scholarly activity.

In pursuit of its commitment to its region, the University endeavors wherever possible to incorporate the activities and results of its instructional and research efforts into programs and services which enhance area development; to work cooperatively in instruction, scholarship, and public service with all other area educational institutions, including the community colleges and the common schools; and to pursue cooperative opportunities beyond its immediate region when there is promise of benefit to the University and its region.