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BULLETIN

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

Vol. 18, No. 10
September 22, 1987

Members of the University Community:

While Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville has become a comprehensive multi-faceted institution, distinguished by its accomplishments in research, creative activity, and service, its primary commitment remains the education of its students. The beginning of the academic year, as we welcome new students and faculty members, provides an appropriate occasion to acknowledge and reassert this commitment.

The occasion has particular significance this fall, however, because I believe the academic year now under way offers a particular opportunity for the further exploration and strengthening of our dedication to excellence in education. In order that this growth may be both systematic and widely participatory, I have distilled from the goals of the University five discrete but closely related objectives.

First, I am asking that all academic units define more clearly their respective missions, objectives, and measures of quality. Before we can assess fully the quality of our achievements as educators and as students, we must understand in more precise and measureable terms the achievements we seek.

Second, I think it important that we define and articulate clearly the institutional values which guide our actions and decisions. All parts of the University community will play important roles in this process.

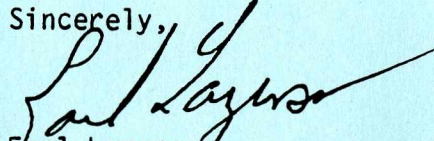
Third, in pursuit of one such value, I believe we must find and implement ways in which to humanize more fully the teaching and learning environment. Here, too, the University community will take an active part.

Fourth, in order that the benefits of our community may become more fully accessible, it is vital that we strengthen our ability to attract and retain qualified students. By providing better information about the University, by improving the services we provide prospective and current students, and by enhancing the teaching and learning environment, we can continue to educate a growing (and increasingly well qualified) share of the student population in our service area.

Finally, we must not only redouble our efforts to attract and retain minority and women students, faculty, and staff, we must develop and implement new and more effective strategies. The commitment to equal opportunity and affirmative action requires imagination and resourcefulness no less than dedication.

In these objectives, you will sense my conviction that this year offers exceptional promise for institutional growth. I hope that you will support the pursuit of these objectives and assist in the realization of this promise.

Sincerely,



Earl Lazerson
President