

1/25/2011

Dean Izadi,

I would like to start by stating that I am honored to have been nominated by my colleagues for the Chair position in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences. Having earned both my B.S. and M.S. in Home Economics–Dietetic Option from Eastern Illinois University, I know first-hand that the education I received at EIU was exemplary, providing numerous opportunities for a successful career. I have enjoyed teaching as an annually contracted, adjunct and most recently as tenured faculty, while also serving as the Dietetic Internship Coordinator and the Assistant Chair. The possibility of becoming the Chair is very appealing to me and I look forward to participating in the interviewing process.

Through the years, I have been employed within Illinois at Passavant Area Hospital-Jacksonville, St. John's Hospital-Springfield, University of Illinois-Champaign and Eastern Illinois University-Charleston. In each job position that I've had, including my current responsibilities on campus, part of my assignment involves leadership and management responsibilities. Working with diverse groups of people requires use of numerous leadership styles, such as Democratic or Coaching approaches. The same is true for management styles. A contemporary description of my leadership and managerial style includes a supportive approach, a positive work environment and open communication. I expect others to be responsible, accountable and respectful of each other. I also appreciate and value input from faculty and staff and encourage others to engage in leadership opportunities.

Administration, faculty and staff from the College of Business and Applied Sciences, Academic Affairs and the University collaborate and contribute in the development of University priorities. Some of the priorities center around: integrative learning across campus, recruitment, retention, student admissions, strategic planning, promoting research and student scholarship for both undergraduate and graduate students, focusing on efforts in philanthropy and development and students participation in Study Abroad. As I reflect on the priorities, it is clear that our priorities continue to focus on providing EIU students with a "first-choice" program and education. Each priority is significant and reflects a positive vision for the University. I feel that our priorities are in line and as we work to fulfill the priorities, we will strengthen the University.

My vision for the School of Family and Consumer Sciences is that we will continue to be a strong School within the University, even during the current financially challenged times. We will diligently work to support and meet the University and Provost goals and priorities, such as being a showcase for teaching and learning. In addition, we will provide and maintain service to the University through the new dining room. In our efforts to support "sustainability" on campus, we will work to minimize waste and increase efforts to recycle within the School. Knowing the importance of financial management, we will also work to create a Financial Management Center on campus to meet the needs of students.

Thank you for your assistance in setting up the interviews.

Karla Kennedy-Hagan, PhD, RD, LDN