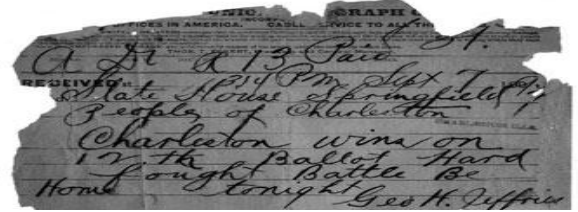


Our Legacy

Our history....

January 1895 At a county teachers' meeting held at Mattoon on January 26, 1895 Professor Charles A. McMurray of Illinois State Normal University discussed the need for additional normal schools to qualify more teachers. After much discussion Eastern Illinois University was designated to open in Charleston, Illinois.



George H. Jeffries' Telegram, sent when the Board of Trustees made their final decision on the site: "To the People of Charleston: Charleston wins on the twelfth ballot. Hard fought battle..."

1895 - 1921 A "Model School" for elementary school age children provided the practicum experiences for training teachers from 1899 to 1913. Learn more from Booth Library Exhibit (2010) - [Teachers Tame the Prairies](#)

Eastern Illinois State Normal School



First Graduating Class of Eastern Illinois State Normal School (1900). From left to right: Marion Nelson Beeman (Robinson), Lloyd Goble (Westfield), Guy Jink Koons (Oakland), and Bertha Volentine (New Douglas).



Model School c. 1900, EIU Archives

1914 A new building (later became Blair Hall) was opened to house the children, and it became known as the "Training School."

Role Playing in the Second Grade of the Model School, Second Floor of Old Main 1912 before Model School moved



1920 The teacher education program offered by the Normal School was recognized by the North Central Association as an accredited four-year school for the first time. Since then the accreditation has always been there.

1921 - Eastern Illinois State Teachers College - EIU became a teachers' college as opposed to just a normal school. The Training School consisted of a grade school (grades 1-8) and a high school for the higher grades (9-12.)

1944 The term "Laboratory School" began to be used to refer to the elementary and high school programs.

Want to know more? Check out the [Laboratory School Scrapbook](#) put together by Dale Downs (1975).

1947 Eastern Illinois State Teachers College became Eastern Illinois State College, which now also offered non-teaching bachelor degrees.

1957 Another change in name and mission occurred and Eastern Illinois State College became Eastern Illinois University.

Graduate programs in education began.

1958 The brand new Buzzard Laboratory School building was opened to house the various grade levels.

President Robert Guy Buzzard At The Unveiling Of His Portrait (Picture on the right)



1974 The Laboratory School programs were abolished, by action of the Illinois Board of Governors. After that, student teaching was done off campus at elementary and high schools throughout the state.

1974 onwards Department Name changes:

- 1974-75 - The Department of Elementary and Junior High
- 1975-1979 - The Department of Elementary, Special Education, and Junior High
- 1979-1997 - The Department of Elementary and Junior High
- 1998-Present - The Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Middle Level Education

What we are proud of.....

Faculty and students have been recognized at local, state, and national levels for their excellence in teaching, research and service. Listed are some from recent years:

- Dr. Russell and Dr. Reven received a Graduate School Leadership Award in 2013 for establishing the 2010 Graduate Certificate in Reading Instruction and earning recognition for graduate assessment achievements (i.e., 2012 Provost's Award for Achievement in Academic Assessment).
 - Two members of the graduate faculty have been recipients of Achievement and Contribution Awards (ACA) for Research/Creative Activity during this time period (i.e., Dr. Sham'ah Md-Yunus in 2009 and Dr. John Bickford III in 2012).
 - Dr. Reven received the 2012 Illinois Reading Council Educator of the Year Award, the first college professor to do so.
 - Dr. Russell received the Outstanding Department Chair Award in 2012.
-

The department has collected student performance data on all undergraduate students enrolled in its core professional education courses including Student Teaching. Among other positive reports are highlights such as:

- 100% of graduates responded that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their decision to become a teacher
 - 93% responded that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall quality of the teacher preparation program.
 - In excess of 93% of candidates are achieving Level 4 or 5 (Level 5=Exceeds Standards) on all assessments and relative to all standards assessed.
 - EIU teacher candidates have a 100% pass rate on content test and APT.
-

Elementary Education majors continue as one of the largest majors on the EIU campus, encompassing nearly 10% of the total student enrollment. Members of underrepresented ethnicities (up 39 % since 2007) continue to rise in elementary education.

A long legacy of preparing future educators in a program inclusive of the core components of integrated learning (intentionality, reflection, problem-solving, collaboration and meta-cognition.). Through programs such as:

- [Department-led study abroad/study away programs \(initially implemented in 1999\)](#)



Study Abroad Opportunities

- [School/community partnerships](#)



- [Impacting children near and far](#)



EC/ELE/MLE promotes life-long learning and personal development through participation in [professional organizations](#) and integrative learning experiences throughout the program.



The department has a legacy of service. The [Gateway Program](#), serviced by the [Reading Center](#) in the department, is designed to provide access for disadvantaged students such as: first generation college students; students that attended high schools in economically depressed areas; students living in a low-income household; students who are members of an ethnic minority.



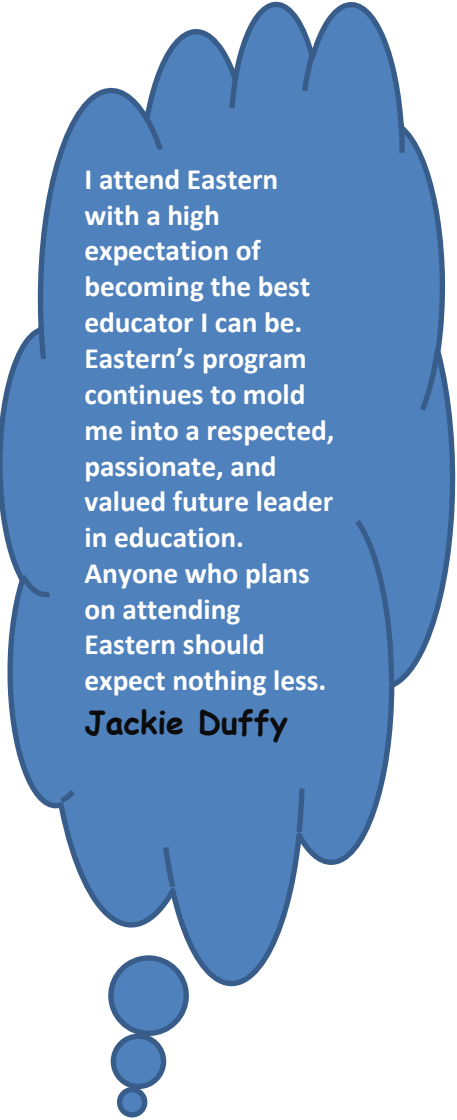
Our students develop and practice their skills beyond what they learn in the classroom through service learning, tutoring, student organizations, and school/community/agency partnerships.

While we have many dreams for future plans, our efforts currently are focused on the following.....

Because of the current demand for highly qualified teachers with knowledge of English Language Learners, the Educator Certification Requirements for the English as a Second Language (ESL) Endorsement is being pursued.

Partnerships are being developed with the hopes of expansion with the State Golden Apple Organization. Last summer 26 Education majors with Junior Status attended a 4 week institute on EIU's campus.

What our students are saying.....



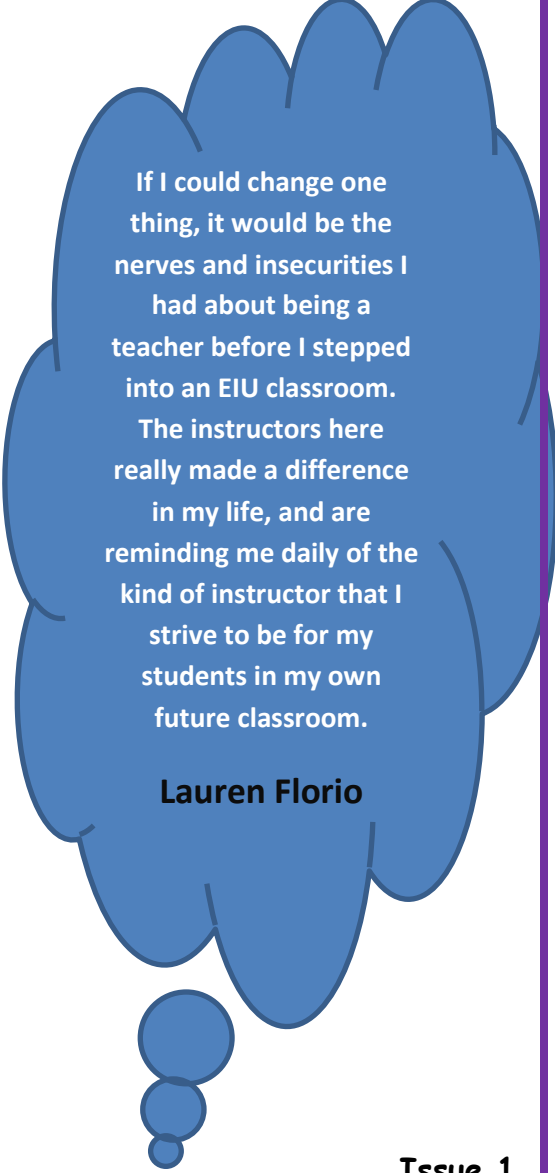
I attend Eastern with a high expectation of becoming the best educator I can be. Eastern's program continues to mold me into a respected, passionate, and valued future leader in education. Anyone who plans on attending Eastern should expect nothing less.

Jackie Duffy



If you have the passion, this program has the training and the tools to make you a great teacher.

Ashley Minton



If I could change one thing, it would be the nerves and insecurities I had about being a teacher before I stepped into an EIU classroom. The instructors here really made a difference in my life, and are reminding me daily of the kind of instructor that I strive to be for my students in my own future classroom.

Lauren Florio