Celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2020, Eastern Illinois University (EIU) in Charleston is a traditional regional residential institution that offers a superior education at a relatively low cost. EIU maintains consistently high rankings and distinctions for its affordability, academic program quality, career placement rates, campus safety, online degree options, student support and sustainability initiatives.

EIU focuses on individualized attention and superior student relationships, earning the distinction as the highest-ranking independent public regional university in Illinois, and placing it among the Midwest’s top public regional universities, according to U.S. News & World Report. All students benefit from EIU’s small classes, extensive hands-on opportunities, strong academic advising and quality student services. Selected programs are available both on and off campus in collaboration with community colleges, regional educational offices and districts. EIU’s quality undergraduate and graduate programs are taught by experienced and caring faculty, and its academically talented student body is complemented by record-setting student eligibility in its flourishing Sandra and Jack Pine Honors College. Student graduation and retention rates average above state and national standards. EIU graduates are successful — a fact reflected by consistently high rates of job placement, alumni satisfaction and employer satisfaction.

Responsible stewardship has helped EIU remain the lowest cost-of-attendance university in Illinois year to year. Reasonable tuition, fees, and room and board rates, as well as a unique cost-saving textbook rental system, support EIU’s reputation as a first-choice option in Illinois higher education and an excellent alternative to more costly public and private colleges and universities.

Over the past four years, enrollment at EIU has jumped by 23%, with a fall 2020 enrollment of 8,626 students. The safe, beautifully landscaped 320-acre campus has the capacity to house more than 4,000 students in residence halls, student apartment buildings and a first-of-its-kind Greek Court arrangement.

EIU offers an array of majors and minors within its various academic colleges. In addition to the many traditional programs offered by each area, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences established a newly combined School of Communication and Journalism and offers a diverse assortment of pre-professional advising across a variety of in-demand disciplines. The College of Health and Human Services is home to the new Gail & Richard Lumpkin School of Nursing, while the Lumpkin College of Business and Technology remains on the leading edge of innovation and houses EIU’s longstanding Department of Military Science. EIU’s nationally recognized College of Education is a hallmark of the university, and partnerships with the Golden Apple Foundation and a variety of rural school districts are incentivizing future teachers to stay in Illinois. The Graduate School complements the undergraduate program by providing a cornucopia of master’s, specialist’s and certificate programs. Further, the School of Extended Learning offers an individualized Bachelor of Arts in general studies program for nontraditional students statewide.

The university delivers an extensive orientation program to assist new students, and the student-run university board schedules activities for the student body. The campus is home to more than 20 national fraternities and sororities and approximately 200 recognized student organizations. As part of its service mission, EIU’s Office of Civic Engagement and Volunteerism helps coordinate many of the university’s outstanding volunteer efforts in
Coles County and beyond. EIU also provides hands-on broadcast experience with top-of-the-line equipment at WEIU-FM and WEIU-TV. Student publications include the Daily Eastern News, dennews.com; The Vehicle, a literary magazine; Historia, a journal of historical research; and the Warbler yearbook. The Agency, a student-run public relations organization, provides additional publication opportunities.

Culturally, the Doudna Fine Arts Center provides space for art, music and theatre classes, as well as performance areas that bring exceptional talent and cultural experiences to the region. The 330,000-square-foot building was designed by world-renowned architect Antoine Predock. The Doudna is home to EIU’s theatre, art and music departments, which offer involvement in their productions and performances to all EIU students.

Eastern Illinois University sponsors 19 intercollegiate sports overall, with 17 competing as members of the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC). EIU has received the OVC Commissioner’s Cup, which is awarded for OVC athletics department excellence. Athletes and nonathletes alike use the Student Recreation Center, which includes six indoor basketball/volleyball courts, exercise equipment, a jogging track, a dance studio and the new eSports Arena for competitive gaming. Outdoor facilities include a disc golf course and athletic fields for the university’s many intramural sports.

Board of Trustees: Barb Baurer; Joyce Madigan; C. Christopher Hicks; Dr. Phillip “P.J.” Thompson; Joseph R. Dively; Dr. Audrey Edwards; Martin Ruhaak; and Michael Vincent Perri, student representative.

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Eastern Illinois University’s flagship building, Old Main, welcomes visitors to the campus.