

## **F. Honorary Degree**

The Honorary Degree Committee unanimously recommended to President Glassman that the University bestow an Honorary Degree to Louis Hencken (EIU '66 and '67).

This recommendation has the full support of President Glassman and the President's Council. We ask consideration of Louis Hencken for the Honorary Degree of **Doctor of Public Service**.

### BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF LOUIS HENCKEN

Louis Hencken, Class of 1966 and 1967, joined the EIU family as a transfer student in 1964 and soon after began one of the most remarkable careers in the history of higher education. "From student dishwasher to University President," Lou's career at EIU included 41 years of consecutive professional service to Eastern Illinois University.

Lou Hencken's administrative career began in 1966 as a graduate assistant hall counselor. In 1967, he accepted his first full-time position with EIU, serving as Douglas Hall counselor. In the early 1970's Lou was promoted to assistant dean of housing and later associate dean of housing. In 1975 Lou Hencken was appointed as the director of the newly merged department of Housing and Dining Services. In 1989, Lou was promoted to the role of associate vice-president for student affairs. In 1992 Lou became the vice-president for student affairs. During this time Lou Hencken also served as interim director of athletics in 1996-1997. In 2001 Lou was tabbed by the EIU Board of Trustees to serve as interim president upon the sudden and unexpected retirement of Carol Surles for health reasons. Lou remained President until retirement in 2007.

Once retired, Lou Hencken continued to serve the University with distinction. He has served on numerous advisory boards and committees, contributing his advice and wisdom in support of the university and its philanthropic efforts. In his retirement, Lou gave another decade to EIU, serving as part-time faculty in the department known today as Counseling and Higher Education, quietly donating his stipend back to the University. When asked in 2013, Lou generously agreed to serve as interim director of admissions at EIU. Even today, Lou serves on the advisory board for the College of Education.

Lou Hencken's legacy at EIU is firmly grounded in the generations of students and administrators who have benefitted from his mentorship and guidance. Alumni spanning nearly five decades will testify to Lou's significance in their own growth and development. Lou Hencken is recognized as a mentor by hundreds of individuals both from EIU and around the world. Lou and his wife Mary Kay have made significant contributions to EIU through their personal philanthropy. In his work at EIU Lou Hencken has successfully solicited numerous philanthropic gifts to the university.

### EXCERPTS FROM THE NOMINATIONS/MATERIALS FOR LOUIS HENCKEN

"It's been an honor to know and work with you during my tenure as head football coach. You have always been our No. 1 fan. Regardless of the final score, I always appreciated that you were

## **F. Honorary Degree (continued)**

there for a post-game handshake. I'm indebted for your support of our student-athletes and for me personally."

"I always took note of the fact that Lou acknowledged everyone, and I admired that trait. It costs so little but meant so much to those acknowledged."

"Lou Hencken is the reason so many have come to and moved through EIU. He is a person who sees the potential in others, invests in them as people, and supports them as they create the experiences and opportunities that have advanced EIU for over five decades."

"Lou was a master at creating a team environment. It was extremely rare to hear him use the words 'me,' 'my,' or 'mine.'"

"Probably the most important lesson I learned from Lou was his fervent belief that students' well-being and academic pursuits should always be the center of our work."

"...one Friday afternoon, parents and a prospective student entered Old Main at 5:00, not realizing that the offices closed at 4:30. As they were disappointedly leaving the building, a man came out of an office to head home and asked the visitors if he could help them. As soon as he understood their situation, he turned around, took out his keys, opened the Office of Admissions, and spent the next hour with them, talking them through the admission process and then taking them on a private tour of campus. The family was very appreciative and, as they prepared to leave, they asked the name of the president as they wanted to thank him for his dedicated staff. Not surprisingly, the man looked at them and said, 'That would be me.' Needless to say, the young man enrolled as a freshman the next fall."

"Lou has the amazing ability to make everyone feel like they are the most important person to him...It was our strong feelings of gratitude for all that Lou has done for us, others like us, and for EIU in general that we created the Louis V. Hencken Housing Services Scholarship Fund."

**It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve this item.**

### **C. Sarah Bush Lincoln Contract Approval**

- Contract Item:** Professional Services Agreement to operate Student Medical Clinic
- Description / Explanation:** Approval is requested to enter into a professional services agreement to provide medical health services for the students of EIU to include primary care, and select pharmacy, laboratory, and radiology services.
- Term:** The term of the agreement is May 22, 2023 – June 30, 2026
- Cost:** Annual base fee of \$980,000 plus reimbursement for point of service charges billed to students (Pharmacy, Radiology, Laboratory Services).
- Provider:** Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, Mattoon, IL
- Fund Source:** Local funds
- Rationale / Justification:** The University seeks to partner with a not-for profit, accredited health system to administer health care services for our students. This agreement allows EIU to ensure medical provider continuity, specialized expertise, bring ancillary services under a single contract, control expenses, and provide continued patient centered care.

**It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve this agreement.**