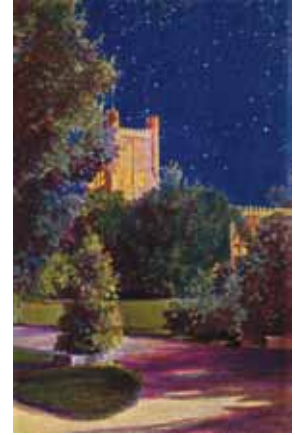


Welcome from the Dean

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our exhibit celebrating the preparation of teachers in Illinois. I hope this will remind you of the importance of teachers in our lives, as well as their joys, challenges, and responsibilities. They go hand in hand with nurturing the child and student, developing curiosity and awareness in others, and educating the populace for the betterment of society.



Warbler, 1932

Teachers have truly helped tame the prairie. From the one-room schoolhouses spread across Illinois at short intervals to the gigantic universities of today, it has been the teachers and professors who have shaped the curriculum, challenged the students to achieve their best, and directed young minds to imagine alternative paths and viable solutions.

The Normal School tradition, of which Eastern Illinois University remains so proud to have been a part, set the pace to influence all things school-related. Where there were no teachers or only untrained teachers, the regional Normal School made advances to remedy the situation. From diplomas and certificate programs to degrees and postgraduate studies, from credit units to continuing education and beyond, the Normal built a solid foundation for the teaching profession by attracting, developing, and training candidates who would lead our schools and spread education throughout the land.

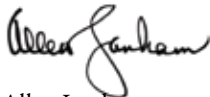
The preparation of this exhibit has led the faculty and staff of Booth Library to review documents and images from the past 150 years of Illinois' educational history. Some of it has been fascinating; some of it has been puzzling. Some accounts were tedious to plow through because of missing or conflicting information or lack of data.

Truly what sticks out in the history of education is the lack of adequate funding to support so many good ideas and hopeful innovations. Ideas for educational improvement and reform teem from every decade—perhaps from every year, while funding has rarely kept pace. Educators seldom lack for what to do; they just seem unable to pay for it all.

The Eastern Illinois State Normal School has come far in its 115 years dedicated to teaching, service, and research. We are justifiably proud of the thousands of teachers who were trained in Charleston and then became influential in the lives of millions of students, one classroom, laboratory, rehearsal hall, or group at a time.

Appreciation is extended to the many persons who had a hand in the development of this exhibit. From the early ideas of President William Perry and Dean Diane Jackman to the bits of journal articles that led us from one wing of the library to another, to the University Archives and Special Collections and beyond, there has never been a lack of what to include in the actual exhibit. Topical vignettes were chosen to provide the viewer the widest possible spectrum of Illinois education. If we have sparked a memory of your school experience, please write it down for us and leave your comments on our website or on the computer stations in the Marvin Foyer. Thank you for sharing.

All the best for teachers and students everywhere,



Allen Lanham
Dean of Library Services

