



## CLASSROOM SPACE OPTIMIZATION LEADS TO \$85,000 IN ENERGY SAVINGS

Eastern Illinois University, like most of its peer institutions, was under pressure to do more with less. Kathy Chancellor, Space Administrator at EIU, decided to do her part to reduce some pressure from their budget crunch.

Chancellor and her team chose Astra Schedule as their campus-wide scheduling tool and configured the room optimization tool to fit activities to spaces while honoring departmental preferences. Next, she set her sights on energy savings.

### Cost Savings

Space is typically at a premium at EIU, yet utilization during the Summer term is relatively light. Chancellor began to study her room inventory looking for buildings that could be shut down during Fridays and Saturdays in the Summer.

While the three primary instructional buildings had non-instructional space that needed to be available all week, Chancellor's team identified several buildings as shutdown candidates and ran scenarios in Astra Schedule to determine if any of those buildings could really be closed.

To their surprise, the room optimization tool was able to place the Summer term classes in appropriate rooms without using rooms from any buildings on the shutdown list. Ultimately, they used Astra Schedule to restrict scheduling to three campus buildings during Fridays and weekends for classes and events.

The surprise got better. Each year, the scheduling office has followed this practice to deliver big savings. "After looking at a variety of scheduling scenarios, we settled on a schedule that we estimate saved the University \$85,000 in energy costs during the first summer alone," Chancellor reports.



FOUNDED: 1895

LOCATED: Charleston, IL

ENROLLMENT: 10,000

OFFERING: 92 graduate and undergraduate degree programs

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—Kathy Chancellor, Space Administrator



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SOLUTIONS THAT FIT.