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NEWS

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March 4, 2003

For Immediate Release:

COMPETITION TO BRING STUDENTS FROM 60+ ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOLS TO EIU

CHARLESTON – More than 60 Illinois high schools will send some of their brightest students to Eastern Illinois University for the sectional level of the Illinois Academic Challenge competition.

Individual students and schools competing in the event, set to take place Thursday, March 6, qualified for the sectional level of competition by placing either first or second at regional competitions held in February.

The Academic Challenge is an academic tournament with competition for individuals and schools. Students demonstrate their abilities in two of the following areas: biology, chemistry, computer fundamentals, engineering graphics, English, mathematics and physics. The exams have been compared to the Advance Placement tests that qualify high school students for college credit, and were drawn up by college professors from various universities around the state.

After brief opening remarks by Lou Hencken, EIU's interim president, and Mary Anne Hanner, dean of the College of Sciences, participants will begin testing at 9:20 a.m.

Hanner and Leonard Storm, chair of Eastern's pre-engineering program, will later present individual awards and team trophies. The awards ceremony will begin at 1:15 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Division 1500 and division unlimited teams advancing to Eastern include: Champaign Centennial, Champaign Central, Charleston, Danville, East Richland, Effingham, Decatur, Eisenhower, Mt. Zion, Rantoul and University High (Urbana).

Division 700 teams advancing to Eastern include: Clinton, Georgetown-Ridge Farm, Mt. Carmel, Paris, Robinson, St. Joseph-Ogden, St. Teresa, Teutopolis, Unity and Westville.

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ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

Division 300 teams advancing to Eastern include: Argenta-Oreana, Atwood-Hammond, Bismarck-Henning, Heritage, Hutsonville, Jamaica, Niantic-Harristown, Neoga, Oblong, St. Anthony and Windsor.

Eastern's sectional competition is sponsored by Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering, based at the University of Illinois, and Eastern's Pre-Engineering Studies Committee. This is the 22nd year that Eastern has co-sponsored the competition.

Competition day results will be posted at
<http://oldsci.eiu.edu/physics/Pre-Engineering.html>.