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NEWS

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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 to compete in the sectional level of the Illinois Academic Challenge, set to take place Thursday, March 21.

Individual students and schools competing in this event qualified 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.

Testing will begin at 9:20 a.m., following a brief opening ceremony by Mary Anne Hanner, dean of Eastern's College of Sciences, and Herbert Lasky, director of the university's Honors Programs. Hanner and Leonard Storm, chair of Eastern's pre-engineering program, will present individual awards and team trophies during a ceremony beginning at 1:15 in the Grand Ballroom of the 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 and Rantoul.

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Eastern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 10,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern's pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.

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ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

Division 700 teams advancing to Eastern include: Central A & M, Clinton, Edwards County, Georgetown-Ridge Farm, Hoopeston, Marshall, Robinson, St. Joseph-Ogden, Teutopolis and Unity.

Division 300 teams advancing to Eastern include: Altamont, Atwood-Hammond, Armstrong Township, Greenhouse Home Educators, Heritage, Maroa-Forsyth, Neoga, Oakwood, Oblong, Palestine and St. Anthony.

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 21st year in which Eastern has co-sponsored the competition.

Those interested will be able to check competition results at the following Web site:
<http://oldsci.eiu.edu/physics/Pre-Engineering.html>.