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NEWS

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For Immediate Release:

EIU GEARING UP FOR 24TH ANNUAL ILLINOIS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

CHARLESTON – Sixty Illinois high schools will send some of their brightest students to Eastern Illinois University for the sectional level of the Illinois Academic Challenge competition to be held Thursday, March 10.

Individual students and schools competing in this event 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 a brief opening ceremony by EIU President Lou Hencken and Godson Obia, associate dean of Eastern's College of Sciences, participants will begin testing at 9:40 a.m. Obia and Leonard Storm, chair of the university's pre-engineering program, will present individual awards and team trophies. The awards ceremonies will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union, beginning at 1:40 p.m.

Division 1500 and division unlimited teams advancing to Eastern include Charleston, Decatur MacArthur, Mahomet-Seymour, Mattoon, Mt. Zion and Rantoul.

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ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

Division 700 teams advancing to Eastern include East Richland, Georgetown-Ridge Farm, Newton, Paris, Robinson, Shelbyville, St. Joseph-Ogden, St. Teresa, Teutopolis, Tolono Unity, Warrensburg-Latham and Westville.

Division 300 teams advancing to Eastern include Atwood-Hammond, Central A & M, Cisne, Dieterich, Edwards County, Heritage, Lutheran School High School Association, Neoga, Oakwood, Palestine, Rossville-Alvin 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 24th year that Eastern has co-sponsored the competition.

Competition day results will be posted at <http://www.eiu.edu/~pre-eng/>.