

3-10-1999

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "03/10/1999 - EIU to Host 'Academic Challenge' for High School Students" (1999).
1999. 67.

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March 10, 1999

For Immediate Release:

EIU TO HOST 'ACADEMIC CHALLENGE' FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

CHARLESTON -- More than 50 Illinois high schools will send some of their brightest students to Eastern Illinois University for the sectional level of the Illinois Academic Challenge competition, scheduled for Thursday, March 11.

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 advance placement tests that qualify high school students for college credit, and were drawn up by college professors from various universities around the state.

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After a brief opening ceremony, participants will begin testing at 9:20 a.m. Individual awards and team trophies will be presented by Dean Lida Wall from Eastern's College of Sciences and Leonard Storm, chair of the university's pre-engineering studies program and Academic Challenge coordinator. The awards ceremonies will begin at 1:15 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Division 1500 teams advancing to Eastern include Danville, Rantoul, Mt. Carmel, East Richland, MacArthur, Mt. Zion, Effingham, Champaign Central and Urbana.

Division 700 teams advancing to Eastern include Oakwood, Georgetown-Ridge Farm, Newton, Robinson, Meridian, Clinton, Shelbyville, Teutopolis, University High, Monticello, Mahomet-Seymour and Unity High.

Division 300 teams advancing to Eastern include Rossville-Alvin, Schlarman, Palestine, Edwards County, Maroa-Forsyth, Niantic-Harristown, St. Anthony, Neoga, Altamont and Atwood Hammond.

Eastern's sectional competition is co-sponsored by Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering based at the University of Illinois and Eastern's Pre-Engineering Studies Committee.