

2-28-1997

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "02/28/1997 - Eastern To Host Annual Academic Challenge.pdf" (1997). 1997. 74.
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97-71

February 28, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EASTERN TO HOST ANNUAL ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

CHARLESTON -- More than 50 Illinois high schools will send some of their brightest students to Eastern Illinois University for the regional level of the Illinois Academic Challenge competition on Saturday, March 8.

Individual students and schools competing in this event qualified for the regional level of competition by placing either first or second at district 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 general meeting conducted by Associate Dean David Ebdon of Eastern's College of Sciences, participants will begin testing at 9:20 a.m. Individual awards and team trophies will be presented by Dean Lida Wall, College of Sciences, and Leonard Storm, chair of pre-engineering studies. The awards ceremonies will be held in Phipps Lecture Hall beginning at

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1:15 p.m. and are open to the public.

Division I teams advancing to Eastern are, Centennial (Champaign), Danville, Effingham, MacArthur (Decatur), Mt. Carmel, Mt. Zion and Paris.

Division II teams advancing to Eastern are Clinton, East Richland (Olney), Georgetown-Ridge Farm, Meridian (Macon), Monticello, Newton, Pana, and Shelbyville.

Division III teams advancing to Eastern are St. Anthony (Effingham), Bismarck-Henning, Chrisman, Maroa-Forsyth, Neoga, Niantic-Harristown, Oblong, Palestine and University High (Urbana).

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

For more information, call Leonard Storm at 581-6342.