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 $\label{lem:challenge.pdf} University\ Marketing\ and\ Communications, "02/24/2006 - Academic\ Challenge.pdf"\ (2006).\ 2006.\ 83. \\ http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_2006/83$

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NEWS

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06-51

February 24, 2006

For Immediate Release:

25th ANNUAL ACADEMIC CHALLENGE PLANNED AT EIU

CHARLESTON – Nearly 60 Illinois high schools will send some of their brightest students to Eastern Illinois University for the sectional level of the Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering Academic Challenge competition to be held March 9.

Individuals and teams qualify for the sectional level of competition by placing either first or second at regional competitions held in February.

During the Academic Challenge, 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 authored by college professors from various universities around the state.

After a welcoming ceremony by Jeff Cross, Eastern's associate vice president for academic affairs, participants will begin testing at 9:40 a.m. Cross and Leonard Storm, chair of pre-engineering studies, will present individual awards and team trophies, beginning at 1:40 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, Charleston, Decatur Eisenhower, Decatur MacArthur, Mahomet-Seymour, Mattoon, Mt. Zion, Rantoul and University High in Urbana.

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

Division 300 teams advancing to Eastern include Armstrong, Atwood-Hammond, Central A&M, Heritage, Hutsonville, Jamaica, Kansas, Lutheran School High School Association, Neoga, Palestine and St. Anthony.

Eastern's sectional competition is sponsored by WYSE, based at the University of Illinois, and the Pre-Engineering Studies Committee at Eastern. This is the 25th year that Eastern has co-sponsored the competition.

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

-30-

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