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February 27, 1986 Local/HT

HARRY READ, Director of Information and Publications (217) 581-2820 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

> CHARLESTON, IL--Twelve central Illinois high schools with over 160 participating students will compete in the 8th Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS) regional contest at Eastern Illinois University Saturday (March 8).

The 12 schools, who advanced by winning district tournaments, are Oblong, St. Joseph-Ogden, Shelbyville, Warrensburg-Latham, and Hoopeston-East Lynn in Class A; Urbana University HS, Decatur MacArthur, Mt. Carmel, Mattoon and Danville in Class AA.

The TEAMS competition is sponsored by the Illinois branch of the national Society of Professional Engineers and by the Junior Engineering Technical Society.

The national organization decided a few years back it would stimulate and reward academic excellence in high schools with this nationwide testing competition," said Dr. Bill Cloud, EIU professor of physics and pre-engineering advisor.

"We'll test in six subjects, biology, chemistry, English, engineering graphics, mathematics and physics. As you can see only a fraction of this is actually in engineering...it's really a cross section of several academic areas."

Besides the district champions, there are also two top individual scorers in each of the six subjects areas competing. Those two may or may not be part of competing teams.

Class A and AA team champions and the top two scorers from Saturday's regional will advance to the state finals at the University of Illinois on Tuesday, March 25 for Class A and Wednesday, March 26 for Class AA.

"Since the test is identical for each state, the national champions are determined by comparing the winning scores," said Cloud.

Trophies will be awarded to the top three regional teams in each class and medallions to the top three students in each subject.

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