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Local  
Central IL  
Chicago

## 3rd Annual IWU Math Contest Set for March 8, Students from 13 Central Illinois High Schools to Compete

**Editor's Note:** Please check paragraph No. 8 of this story to see if a high school in your area is participating in IWU's Math Contest.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--About 220 high school students from 13 central Illinois high schools will compete for trophies, plaques, and other awards at the third annual Illinois Wesleyan University Math Contest on Saturday, March 8.

Students will take one of two 30-question multiple choice tests. Ninth and tenth graders will compete by taking an exam geared toward pre-algebra and algebra. Eleventh and twelfth grade students will test their math skills in pre-calculus and geometry.

Commenting on the benefits of the Math Contest, Avani Khandhar, a mathematics major and secondary education minor from Elmhurst, Ill., said: "It's a good opportunity for high school students to do math. The more math you do, the better you get at it.

"Math is important," Khandhar explained, "since it provides students a way to learn how to solve problems and that's applicable to anything they will do in life. It also helps them to learn logically and systematically."

Jamie Mills, a mathematics and physics double major from Park Ridge, Ill., said: "The annual math contest helps to expose high school students to a college campus and show them a little about how a college math department operates. It also shows them what college-level math is like.

"The Math Contest," Mills added, "helps students and teachers make comparisons to other schools."

Khandhar and Mills, both juniors, serve as co-president of IWU's Mathematics Society, a student group established in 1992, which organizes, runs, and sponsors the Math Contest each year.

High schools slated to participate in the Math Contest are: University High School, Normal; Taylorville High School, Taylorville; Metamora High School, Metamora; Canton High School, Canton; Normal Community West High School, Normal; Sacred Heart-Griffin High School, Springfield; Ursuline Academy, Springfield; Lexington Community Unit #7, Lexington; Central Catholic High School, Bloomington; Urbana High School, Urbana;

(more)

## IWU Math Contest/2

Bloomington High School, Bloomington; Normal Community High School, Normal; and Divernon Community Unit School, District 13, Divernon.

The March 8 schedule shapes up along these lines:

- Registration--9-9:45 a.m.
- 10-11:15--Math Contest
- 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.--Lunch
- 1-1:30 p.m.--Awards Ceremony

There is a \$3 registration fee, plus a \$3.50 charge for a buffet-style lunch.

IWU President Minor Myers, jr., will award trophies, plaques, and certificates to Math Contest winners.

About 20-30 members of the IWU Mathematics Society are participating in the contest. Their roles include writing the test questions, serving as test proctors and graders, administering the Math Contest program, and working as campus guides.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,900 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$25 million science building opened in the fall of 1995. The \$4.6 million Center for Liberal Arts--a facility housing 60 faculty offices, six classrooms, and other facilities for social science, humanities business and economics, and interdisciplinary studies' faculty--is slated to open next August, as well as a new \$6.8 million residence hall. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 161 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition.

**Editor's Note:** For more information about the Math Contest, contest rules, and registration information, contact: Avani Khandhar, 309/556-2273, or Jamie Mills, 309/827-5724. The Math Contest is open for news coverage, except when the students are taking the exam.