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Armstrong Atlantic State University

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Armstrong Hosts Regional Competition of “Battle of the Brains”

(October 1, 2010) Teams of computer science students from Armstrong Atlantic State University and other top collegiate programs will compete in the 2010 Southeast USA Regional of the IBM-sponsored Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) International Collegiate Programming Contest. Teams from 18 universities are coming to Armstrong to compete on Saturday, November 6 from 1:30-6:30 p.m.

Armstrong is one of three sites in the Southeast USA region. The other two sites are the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne and the University of West Florida in Pensacola. The contest, involving teams of three students, will be carried out simultaneously via the Internet and scores are posted instantaneously on a public Web site.

The most prestigious computer programming competition of its kind, the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest involves tens of thousands of students from universities in approximately 50 countries on six continents during its regional rounds through December 2010. The top 100 teams will advance to take coveted spots at the world finals—the ultimate “Battle of the Brains” from February 27 through March 4, 2011 at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

Armstrong’s Department of Information, Computing and Engineering in the College of Science and Technology will host the campus competition. The event will unfold in the Science Center, where 26 teams will huddle over computer screens to solve a semester’s worth of computer programming in five hours.

The contest is designed to challenge top-performing university students to rely on their programming skills and mental endurance to solve complex problems under a grueling five-hour deadline.

IBM’s sponsorship has fueled the growth of the contest to include tens of thousands of students. Since the IBM sponsorship began in 1997, the number of teams participating has grown from 1,100 to more than 7,100 teams.

For more information on previous contests, problem sets and last year’s final standings, visit http://cm.baylor.edu/welcome.icpc.

More information is available at IBM’s contest page. The event also can be followed on Twitter.

For more information, contact Felix Hamza-Lup, assistant professor of computer science.
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