PLU High School Programming Contest
February 2012 Contest Results

The Second Annual Pacific Lutheran University High School Programming Contest was held Saturday, February 4th, at the Morken Center for Learning and Technology.

Eighteen teams registered for the contest with 40 students from eight schools competing for awards and prizes. Students worked for three hours to write programs to solve as many problems as they could from a set of ten problems written for each category (Advanced and Novice). This year's contest problems involved such tasks as simple file compression, determining lines of sight in a 2D plane, finding embedded palindromes, decoding scrambled text, finding the next lexicographic permutation of an integer, and examining the horizontal and vertical symmetry of a snowflake. The problems are purposely written to cover a range of topics and difficulties, and to provide inspiration for post-contest study when the teams return to their regular school efforts. Teams are ranked by the number of problems solved. Teams that solve the same number of problems are ranked by the total time needed to solve the problems.

Congratulations to the following teams:
Advanced Category:
1st Place - Garfield High School – Lane A. and Michael R.
        (7 problems in 384 minutes)
2nd Place - Engelberg Homeschool – Frances D., Alex E., and Max P.
        (7 problems in 404 minutes)
3rd Place – Olympia High School – John J. and David S.
        (6 problems in 340 minutes)

Novice Category:
1st Place – Issaquah High School – David L. and Kara W.
        (4 problems in 230 minutes)
2nd Place – Bonney Lake High School – Taylor B. and Cody S.
        (3 problems in 28 minutes)
3rd Place – Peirce County Skills Center - Levi D.
        (3 problems in 65 minutes)

All the winning teams received engraved medals and the top team in the advanced category won a perpetual trophy that is engraved with their names and the name of their high school. The winning team will retain the trophy for one year to be displayed at their high school.

Pacific Lutheran University professors Ken Blaha and David Wolff said that they were very impressed by the talent and enthusiasm of students that attended the competition.

Special thanks to team coaches for their help and support:
Robyn Saarenas from Auburn Riverside High School
Shannon Thissen from Bonney Lake High School
Mark Engelberg from Engleberg Homeschool
Earl Bergquist from Garfield High School
Brett Wortzman from Issaquah High School

David Hamann from The Pierce County Skills Center
Jan Stuckey from Olympia High School

We also want to thank PLU student volunteer Alana Weber.