PLU High School Programming Contest
February 2011 Contest Results

The First Annual Pacific Lutheran University High School Programming Contest was held Saturday, February 5th, at the Morken Center for Learning and Technology.

Thirteen teams registered for the contest with over 30 students from five 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 original problems written for each category (Advanced and Novice). This year's contest problems involved such tasks as finding paths through 2-dimensional space, decoding encrypted messages, searching and manipulating strings, converting numbers into binary form, finding minimal escape routes, and navigating a maze. 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 who 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 - Auburn Riverside High School - Hunter L., Billy K., Michael L.
        (7 problems in 367 minutes)
2nd Place - Bonney Lake High School - Nathan F., Zach G.
        (5 problems in 261 minutes)
3rd Place – Bonney Lake High School - Conner S., Zach P., Laiton W.
        (5 problems in 265 minutes)

Novice Category:
1st Place - Pierce County Skills Center - Alex O., Zachary J., Kenny M.
        (4 problems in 237 minutes)
2nd Place - Auburn Riverside High School - Kevin L., Will S., Rachel A.
        (3 problems in 142 minutes)
3rd Place - Technology Access Foundation Academy - A'leesia M., Xavier R., Octavia B.
        (2 problems in 26 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 enthusiasm and performance 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
Susan Evans from The Technology Access Foundation Academy
David Hamann from The Pierce County Skills Center
Jan Stuckey from Olympia High School

We also want to thank PLU student volunteers Steven McDonald, Lauren Johnson, and Chris Grouse.

The PLU High School Programming contest will be held every year on a Saturday in late January or early February at the Morken Center for Learning and Technology. The contest sponsors include the PLU Department of Computer Science and Computer Engineering, PLU Division of Natural Sciences, and the Microsoft Corporation.
For further information visit the web site www.cs.plu.edu or contact Dr. Kenneth Blaha by email blahakd@plu.edu or by phone (253) 535-8702.