

Department of Mathematics  
and Computer Science  
426 Stillwell Building  
Western Carolina University  
Cullowhee, NC 28723

Computer Science Program Director  
Address

January 20, 2010

Dear Director:

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science of Western Carolina University is sponsoring its Twenty-First Annual Computer Science Contest. The contest will be on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 and is open to all public and private high schools in Western North Carolina. The contest is from 10 to noon with some light food provided beforehand (donuts, soft drinks, and coffee). The award ceremony is at 1:45.

The contest is designed for students to work together in small teams to solve a series of programming programs. The contest will be held in several of the university's electronic classrooms. Each team will be assigned two computers for developing the team's programs and submitting them. The teams may consist of up to three students. Each team can use at most two computers to ensure that teams with fewer members are not at a disadvantage.

We will be accepting a limited number of teams that can participate remotely. If your school is interested in this possibility, please contact me.

The contest programming language is Java. The number of team awards will depend on the number of teams entered, with as many as first, second, and third places awarded. Each team is allowed to bring two reference books on Java to use during the contest.

The Java programming will be done using the current version of Sun Microsystem's Java Platform Standard Edition. The programming environment on the machines also includes BlueJ, a simple graphical front-end to the Java Platform. BlueJ's website is <http://www.bluej.org/>. More information is available at <http://www.wcu.edu/8492.asp>.

The easiest way to register is to send me email at [holliday@email.wcu.edu](mailto:holliday@email.wcu.edu) containing the name of your school, your name, your contact information (email address and postal address), and the number of teams. Please register by the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. If your school's number of teams changes, please e-mail me to update your registration. We look forward to seeing you at the contest.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Holliday  
Director, WCU Computer Science High School Programming Contest  
Professor of Computer Science