



## PRESS RELEASE

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### LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOSTS THE REGIONAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

**Lansing, MI** – What do “sumo-bot” robots, green lasers, graveyard bone data, and Michigan native songbirds have in common?

They’re all part of the Regional Science Olympiad that will be again hosted by Lansing Community College on Saturday, March 19, in the Arts and Science Building on the downtown campus.

Teams from 14 Lansing tri-county high schools will square off in brain-buster competition as will teams from 13 area middle schools. Over 300 of the region’s best and the brightest young minds will strut their knowledge of a broad discipline of sciences.

They're competing for medals, trophies and bragging rights for a job well done. Some of these student/scholars have put in months of preparation for the Olympiad.

The three top scoring teams from both middle and high school competitions will earn the right to test their science skills against students from throughout Michigan at the state competition at Michigan State University in May (Saturday, April 30, 2011 ). The ultimate cream of the crop will head to the nationals later this year (Madison Wisconsin, May 20-21).

The competition runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

The students will take part in exams designed test their knowledge of fossils, reptiles and amphibians. They also must compete in hands-on events which, among other things, could require students to construct robots, bridges or electric vehicles. The robots – standing only a foot or so tall – take part in sumo-bot wrestling where students control the robot and try to knock competing robots from the ring.

They'll also be expected to name birds native to Michigan. They'll also need to bone up on human diseases and micro-biology

It's a lot of fun. But that's only part of the goal. "Competition like this gives students a well-rounded view of science and the exposure that will allow them to see if science might be a career option for them," said Robin Wagner, the lead faculty for biology who has been at LCC for 17 years. "Over the years, programs like these have helped steer a lot of students in the direction of medical, technical or science careers."

Teamwork is a must in the demanding and ever-changing science careers of today and the Olympiad encourages the teams of students to engage in groups learning, problem solving and cooperation.

Over 14,000 schools participate nationally and the number continues to grow since the event began in 1985 with MSU hosting the national competition. That first year's competition drew teams from 17 states compared with 49 states who field teams today.

Last year's Regional Science Olympiad saw St. Johns High School take first while Okemos High School finishing second. At the LCC sponsored middle school competition, Mason Middle School was the winner with Washington Woods Middle School coming in second.

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### ***About Lansing Community College***

*Lansing Community College is Michigan's third largest community college with more than 30,000 students attending each year. LCC offers courses in general education for those interested in transferring to a four-year institution, career and workforce development, developmental education and personal enrichment. To meet the professional development and training needs of regional employees, the college offers customized programs for credit, non-credit and continuing education. The University Center at LCC offers students the opportunity to earn bachelor's and master's degrees from six partner universities on the downtown LCC campus. For more information, visit [lcc.edu](http://lcc.edu).*