

The Alabama Statewide High School Mathematics Contest

BY JEFF DODD

Announcement

We regret to report that it was necessary to cancel the 2004 Alabama Statewide High School Mathematics Contest. The resumption of the contest, which we eagerly await, is contingent upon the success of a currently ongoing search for a Contest Director.

ACTM is searching for the following qualities in a volunteer Contest Director:

- Postsecondary or retired mathematics instructor
- Skilled and experienced leader
- Committed to reporting contest progress to the ACTM Board of Directors

ACTM also is searching for volunteers to serve on the State Mathematics Contest Committee, which will be chaired by the Contest Director. The Committee volunteers will:

- Be postsecondary or retired mathematics instructors,
- Develop and publish the tests, and
- Promote and publicize the contest.

Anyone interested in serving in any of these capacities should contact Dr. Jeff Dodd, Jacksonville State University, jdodd@jsucc.jsu.edu, (256) 782-5112.

The *Contest* web site:

<http://mcis.jsu.edu/mathcontest/>

is being kept up to date with the most current information available about the status of the contest. It also serves as a detailed archive for the years 1998-2003.

A Personal Note From Jeff Dodd

The Mathematical, Computing and Information Sciences Department of Jacksonville State University proudly directed the Alabama Statewide Mathematics Contest, sanctioned by the Alabama Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ACTM) and the Alabama Association of College Teachers of Mathematics (AACTM), during the years 1998 - 2003. We regret that the transition of directorship has not run as smoothly as we had hoped, and has resulted in disappointment for us and the many math teams and coaches throughout the state.

I regret that it is impossible for me to “take back” directorship of the contest due to several other commitments that I have made for the next several years. I am not able to give it the time and attention that it will need now, more than ever. (Also, it is still not clear how long I will be in the state and hence, the problem of finding new leadership for the contest would only be postponed a few years.) Of course, as long as I am in the state, I will be willing to contribute extensively to the resurrection and operation of the contest.

I am committed to finding a new director and providing whatever help and advice is necessary to reorganize the contest, so that it will be better than ever. There is still a great deal of solid infrastructure on which to build. The machine is merely dormant; all that is needed is a leader to energize it and guide it, and a few more hands to lighten the work load for everyone. I will be “broadcasting over all channels,” looking for “concerned citizens” who are willing to serve as Contest Director. I am also interested in finding people who would just like to contribute to the contest. Of course, any suggestions and recommendations are welcome and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jeff Dodd

Contest director: 1998 - 2003

Editor’s note: The Alabama Statewide High School Mathematics Contest has proved to be a “launching pad” for the mathematical careers of a number of prodigious high school students throughout the state of Alabama. The contributions of Contest Director, Dr. Jeff Dodd and his predecessor, Dr. Chet Palmer, as well as the contributions of all those who have actively supported this event over the years cannot be overstated. Needless to say, those to whom the torch is passed will continue the tradition of playing a significant role in the mathematical development and careers of students in Alabama.