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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: James R. Bartunek, P.E.
State **MATHCOUNTS** Coordinator
(402) 489-5959

LUX MIDDLE SCHOOL from LINCOLN is the 2011
NEBRASKA STATE MATHCOUNTS WINNER

Lincoln - The Nebraska State **MATHCOUNTS** competition was held on Saturday March 19, 2011, on the east campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Over 700, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from 88 schools throughout Nebraska began the competition phase of **MATHCOUNTS** in Regional competitions in February. 13 winning teams of 4 students each and 21 additional top individuals from all sections of the state advanced to the state competition.

The winning top four school teams at the state competition were:

First Place: Lux Middle School - Lincoln
Coach: Leona Penner
Team Members: Ingrid Zhang
Erin Cooney
Emma Cooney
Tony Kirkpatrick

Second Place: Alice Buffett Magnet Middle School - Omaha
Coach: Linda Severin
Team Members: Derek Chew
Darrell Chew
Aaron Linnell
Quinn Brandt

Third Place: Norris Middle School - Firth
Coach: Debbie Field
Team Members: Bryson Anderson
Matt Rohman
Trenton Buhr
Nick Wieskamp

Fourth Place: St. Vincent DePaul School - Omaha
Coach: Diane Warneke
Team Members: Don Nguyen
Alex Vetter
Kevin Lynch
Zach Cairney

The top four individual winners in the state competition make up the Nebraska State team and will receive all expense paid trips to compete in the National **MATHCOUNTS** competition against 55 state, territories, Department of Defense and other teams in Washington D.C., on May 6th, 2011. They are:

Ingrid Zhang	Lux Middle School - Lincoln
Derek Chew	Alice Buffett Middle School-Omaha
Erin Cooney	Lux Middle School - Lincoln
Emma Cooney	Lux Middle School - Lincoln

Coaches for the state team will be:

Leona Penner	Lux Middle School - Lincoln
Linda Severin	Alice Buffett Middle School-Omaha

MATHCOUNTS is a nationwide program now in its 28th year designed to answer the problem of declining math skills among U.S. students. It targets 6th, 7th and 8th graders, who are at a crucial stage in developing and sustaining interest and ability in mathematics. A secondary purpose is to heighten student awareness of the importance of mathematics. Through coaching, competition and peer recognition, **MATHCOUNTS** helps students develop math skills that are the basis for success in our technological world.

MATHCOUNTS was developed as a positive and rewarding solution to help in reversing the problems of math illiteracy. The program builds skills, promotes problem solving and drills students in dealing with complex problems and hard to handle numbers. It also provides an opportunity to bring 6th, 7th and 8th grade students together to prompt lively exchange of mathematical ideas through competition.

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