

event, and 45 states currently send teams to the national finals. This year they will be in Providence, Rhode Island, and the winner of the regional competition, Central High School of Omaha, will go to Rhode Island. We've talked a lot about educational excellence in this body, and also in creating an experience for young people. The Academic Decathlon is a competition involving a team of six full-time students from the eleventh and/or twelfth grades of a high school. Each team must include an A grade level student, two B grade level students, and two C or below grade level students. Every member of every team will take an objective test in the areas of economics, fine arts, language and literature, mathematics and science, also social science. In addition, each student must give both a planned and an impromptu speech, write an essay and be involved in an interview. Finally, each team is involved in a super quiz on a selected topic. The super quiz is patterned much after the old General Electric College Bowl and is truly an exciting event. And I would have hoped that some of you could have taken that in at the University of Nebraska at Omaha where the state contest was held. It truly is amazing and marvelous to watch these young people who have such a wealth of knowledge. The State of Nebraska has been involved in the Academic Decathlon for six years. During the first three years, the only high schools involved were from the Omaha Public School system. And during the third year of operation a planning committee was formed to broaden the scope of the decathlon beyond the Omaha Public School system. This was necessary to maintain a state charter from the United States Academic Decathlon, and also as we are hoping to spread the decathlon across the entire state. The planning committee decided that the gifted program of the Omaha Public Schools could not continue to operate the Nebraska Academic Decathlon, and a new sponsor had to be found. The Nebraska District of Optimists and the University of Nebraska at Omaha agreed to co-sponsor the decathlon. In order to accomplish this, a nonprofit corporation was formed with the work of the corporation being done on a voluntary basis. Twenty teams competed in the two regional events, and the trip to the national finals in Providence, Rhode Island was won by Omaha Central High School. The marvelous thing about the Academic Decathlon is not only the participation of these eager young people, but also the volunteer efforts of teachers, outside tutors and the volunteers of the Optimists and the University of Nebraska at Omaha who can carry out this event and make it a truly memorable one for those young people. I urge your support of this resolution, and not only that, but perhaps your ongoing