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For Immediate Release

THE MAINE ACADEMIC DECATHLON ANNOUNCES UPCOMING STATE COMPETITION

On **February 27th**, at **Scarborough High School** approximately **150** students from **9** high schools will compete in the **State Academic Decathlon Competition**. Participating high schools include **Bangor High School, Calais High School, Cheverus High School, Hall-Dale High School, Monmouth Academy, Oak Hill High School, Portland High School, Scarborough High School, and Woodland High School.**

The Academic Decathlon, the premiere national scholastic competition for high school students, was created to provide opportunities for students to experience the challenges of rigorous team and individual academic competition. Each student competes in ten events which are Economics, Essay, Art, Interview, Language and Literature, Math, Music, Science, Social Science and Speech. Each year the Science or Social Science topic is used as the Super Quiz topic. The competition format of the Super Quiz differs from that of the other subject areas. While students take one written test in each of the other six subjects, they will take an oral test in the Super Quiz subject. The oral relay portion of the Super Quiz is the only part of the actual testing that is open to the public, and it is inevitably one of the most memorable and exciting parts of the Academic Decathlon competition.

The ten-event academic program strives to foster a greater respect for knowledge, to promote wholesome inter-school academic competition, and to further develop student communication skills. A unique aspect of the Academic Decathlon is that it is designed to include students from all academic abilities and achievement levels. Each nine-member team consists of three "A" (Honor division), three "B" (Scholastic division), and three "C or below" (Varsity division) students. Each team member competes in all ten events against other students in their individual divisions. However, team scores are calculated using the top two individual scores from each division to arrive at an overall team score.

Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded for individual events and total scores. Overall individual winners are recognized as are champion teams. The broad base of awards allows for major recognition of academic accomplishment. Teams advance through local, regional and state levels of competition. The state champions compete at the national finals. This year's national event will take place April 28th–30th in Anchorage, Alaska.

A new theme of study is established every year with topics that are relevant, current and challenging. This year's theme is India. Students have composed an essay based on a prompt whose central theme incorporates information relating to the current curriculum. Students will also perform a prepared speech and impromptu speech and participate in an

interview before a panel of community volunteer judges. The Academic Decathlon emphasizes the personal and academic growth of each student who, by meeting the challenges with honesty and integrity, can reap the rewards of greater self-knowledge and self-confidence for the future.

Interested in learning more about the Maine Academic Decathlon, or want to learn how to become a sponsor or volunteer? Please visit www.mainead.org or call the State Director at 1-207-933-4252.

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