Southern Illinois University Carbondale is hosting our 25th annual Challenge to Excellence Summer Program for academically talented students. The program focuses on experiences designed to improve a student's higher level thinking skills in math, science, and creative writing as well as in other skill and content areas. Over the past two decades thousands of students have participated in and benefited by their experiences in Challenge to Excellence.

This year we have expanded our program to include students who are currently in fifth grade. Students currently in the fifth, sixth and seventh grades will attend the program from June 15 - June 20, 2008. Students currently in the eighth, ninth and tenth grades will attend June 22 - June 27, 2008. The cost for those students who live on campus is $350 (early bird) or $360 (late registration). The cost for the students who commute from home is $280 (early bird) or $290 (late registration). Parents do have the option of paying tuition in two installments or by credit card. Instructions for payment will accompany acceptance letter. Deadline for Early Bird Registration is May 23, 2008.

This will be a special year for us as we celebrate the success of 25 years of Challenge to Excellence. Many of our former “campers” have matriculated at our finest universities and are now teachers, doctors, engineers, journalists, computer scientists, pharmacists, etc. In fact, recently one of our former Challenge to Excellent students received a Pulitzer Prize for journalism.

I encourage you to distribute these brochures to interested, qualified students in your school or school district. Students are encouraged to have an IQ score of at least 120 (if available) and achievement test scores at the 90th %ile or above. The brochure and this letter may be duplicated.

Please feel free to call me (618-453-5336) or e-mail me (johnm@siu.edu) if you or your students have any questions.

Sincerely,
D. John McIntyre
Professor & Director, Challenge to Excellence
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Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL 62901