PRESS RELEASE--TEXAS STATE GERMAN CONTEST

[number] German students from [Name] High School [will compete this coming/competed this past] Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Texas State German Contest, [to be] held at Texas State University in San Marcos. Every year, roughly 1000 German students from middle and high schools throughout Texas compete in 36 events representing a wide range of interests, including competitions in music, academic knowledge, arts and crafts, extemporaneous and conversational speaking, skits, and declamation. Among the popular events are the "Pass auf!" ("Pay attention!") quiz bowl, folk dancing, polka band, and gingerbread house construction. Participants compete at their level of German, and are awarded ribbons and trophies in individual and group events. Schools receive sweepstakes points based on their success, and compete for overall sweepstakes honors.

To qualify for the state contest, students must have ranked in the top five in an event at one of the three regional contests that were held: Winterfest (North Texas) in the Dallas/Fort Worth area on Jan. 27; and Sprachfest (South Texas) in San Antonio and Houstonfest (East Texas) in Houston on Feb. 3. Within the contest system, approximately 1500 students from 90 schools will participate.

Winterfest was first held in 1972, Sprachfest was added in 1976 and Houstonfest in 1980. The Texas State German Contest was introduced in 1982 to allow students to move to the next level of competition. The three regional contests and state contest comprise the largest German contest system in the United States. More information on the Texas State German Contest can be found at www.texasstategermancontest.org.