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## **DuPage Regional Office of Education Holds Spelling Bee Final**

**Wheaton (February 28, 2019)** – On Wednesday, February 27, the DuPage Regional Office of Education hosted the DuPage County Spelling Bee Final at Wheaton North High School. In partnership with ComEd, a total of 25 finalists from DuPage public, private and parochial schools participated.

After ten rounds of competition, Atman Balakrishnan, a seventh grade student from Hinsdale Middle School spelled arbitrage and raclette correctly to win the competition. This is Atman's second consecutive first place finish. Atman will head to the Scripps National Spelling Bee for a second time held in Washington D.C. in late May.

“It is rewarding to know that once again, we will be sending a DuPage County student to the Scripps National Spelling Bee,” stated Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, DuPage Regional Superintendent of Schools. “We are looking forward to cheering Atman on at the National Finals. We also wish to thank our sponsor, ComEd, for without their support this would not happen.”

Students from 69 schools from across DuPage County competed at school and district level spelling bees. School enrollment dictates the number of finalists invited to attend the County Spelling Bee final.

Funding provided by ComEd will pay for Atman and a guest to attend the national competition. Other award sponsors included Meriam-Webster, Encyclopedia Britannica and Jay Sugarman, chairman and CEO of iStar Financial.

Atman's father, Dr. Balu Natarajan, won the Scripps National Spelling Bee in 1985.

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### **About DuPage County Regional Office of Education**

The DuPage Regional Office of Education is a service organization whose responsibilities are defined by Illinois School Code, Illinois Administrative Code, Illinois State Board of Education mandates, and stakeholder needs. The essential role of the office is to provide high quality service and support to all stakeholders and collectively expend every effort to meet the special responsibility to prepare our children for the world they will face. In addition to the myriad of services provided directly to educators and schools, the office also provides services and support to community members, private schools, parents, children, business leaders, and others. For more information visit [www.dupageroe.org](http://www.dupageroe.org).