

About the Center for Excellence in Education

Mission Statement

The Center's mission is to nurture high school and university scholars to careers of excellence and leadership in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and to encourage collaboration between and among leaders in the global community.

History

The Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) was founded in 1983 by the late Admiral H. G. Rickover, Father of the nuclear navy and of civilian uses of nuclear power, and Joann P. DiGennaro, CEE's President. They recognized that nurturing careers of excellence and leadership in science and technology in young scholars was an essential investment in our nation's global future. The Center's programs help keep the U.S. competitive in science and technology, and to further international collaboration among leaders of the world. CEE challenges students and assists them on a long-term basis to become the creators, inventors, scientists, and leaders of the 21st century.

CEE Programs

Admiral Rickover and Ms. DiGennaro met with educators around the world to create a unique educational experience for students of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and launched the **Research Science Institute (RSI)** in 1984. The program is collaboratively sponsored with MIT.

CEE launched the **USA Biology Olympiad (USABO)** in 2002, the premier competition in biology for high school students. The following year, the USA participated for the first time in the 2003 International Biology Olympiad (IBO).

The CEE's **Teacher Enrichment Program (TEP)** helps to assure a future talented and diverse U.S. workforce in STEM and focuses on best practices and resources.

RSI, USABO, and TEP are cost-free to all participants.

Contact Information

Center for Excellence in Education (CEE)
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For registration information for all CEE programs:
Research Science Institute (RSI)
Teacher Enhancement Program (TEP)
USA Biology Olympiad (USABO)

Visit CEE at www.cee.org



For more information on the USABO, contact
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USA Biology Olympiad Sponsors



Excellence

Center for Excellence in Education

Proud Sponsor of the

USA BIOlympiad

Team USA Brings Home
4 GOLD Medals!



2017 TEAM USA Members

*Edward Lee, Alexander Tsao,
Catherine Wang, and Thomas Xiong*

"The USA Biology Olympiad encourages excellence in science education. It propels American high school students and their teachers to reach beyond that provided in the classroom."

*Joann P. DiGennaro, President
Center for Excellence in Education*

What is the USA Biology Olympiad

Over 80,000 high school students, representing 46 states, have participated in the annual USA Biology Olympiad (USABO) since 2002 when the USABO was inaugurated. In 2017 nearly 10,000 students from 44 states registered to participate in this prestigious competition which was sponsored through grants and in-kind (See the brochure back page for the list of sponsors and in-kind providers). The USABO mission concentrates on stimulating young scholars' intellectual curiosity and developing their critical thinking in laboratory skills and biological reasoning to propel them to careers of excellence and leadership in science and technology.

The USABO is a three-tier competition that demands the very best of students in biology theoretical and laboratory knowledge. The top four students from this competition represent the USA at the International Biology Olympiad (IBO) as Team USA. Each member of Team USA has medaled since the USA first competed in the 2003 IBO. In 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, and 2017, each Team USA member has brought home a gold medal.



*2017 International Biology Olympiad
Closing Ceremony, Coventry, United Kingdom*

Who Participates

CEE encourages teachers and schools to register grades 9 to 12 biology students for the Open Exam. AP courses are not required. The registration fee is \$95 per school regardless of the number of student participants.

The Competition

USABO Open Exam

A nationwide 50-minute exam open to any U.S. high school biology student in a registered school. The exam is multiple-choice and administered in class.

USABO Semifinals

The top 10% of Open Exam participants are eligible to take the Semifinal Exam. The exam consists of multiple-choice, short-answer, and free response questions and is administered in class.

USABO National Finals

The top 20 Semifinalists are invited to attend the USABO National Finals. The National Finals consists of two weeks of intensive theoretical and practical tutorials, where students work with leading biologists.

At the conclusion of Finals, the students take two exams—a practical and theoretical—to compete for one of the four places on Team USA.

International Biology Olympiad

The four gold medalists from the National Finals represent the United States at the International Biology Olympiad (IBO). The 2018 IBO will be held in Tehran, Iran July 15 to 22, 2018.



National Finalist micropipetting a sample for analysis.

Teacher Resource Center

The Teacher Resource Center (TRC) is an online set of tools for teachers. It includes recommended readings, separate study guides with web links for each of the seven IBO focus areas, practice questions, previous exams, competition guidelines, checklists, access to the previous exams, results of the exams, histograms of score distribution, and facts. The TRC assists teachers to provide students with the information required to reach the "Gold Standard of Excellence."

Schools may register **October 2 to January 16, 2018** at the CEE website at www.cce.org.



The 2017 National Finalists in lab coats.

"USABO...forced me to grapple with topics [beyond] my original interests...to discover my passion for them...I had never stepped inside a biology lab...(but learned)...challenging, practical skills ... that were an engaging and enriching exposure to actual biology..."
Edward Lee, 2017 USABO Gold Medalist and 2017 IBO Gold Medalist

"USABO is... the most rigorous...academic program I have ever experienced...the peer group ...is the most diligent and intelligent ...united by the common goal ...to make beneficial contributions to society."
Alexander Tsao, 2017 USABO Gold Medalist and 2017 IBO Gold Medalist

"...USABO feels like...a... giant family...who are all ... inspiring and passionate... I learned the most and made some of my closest friends...USABO humanized the field of biology for me and gave me the tools to pursue it as far as possible in high school..."
Catherine Wang, 2017 USABO Gold Medalist and 2017 IBO Gold Medalist

...USABO [is] more... than a series of tests and rewards. [it] has allowed me to construct and rediscover my love for biology...and the chance to meet hundreds of exceptionally talented, driven, and... amazing individuals... USABO has been very much so a grand part of my life. And I am ever much so a better person because of it.
...Thomas Xiong, 2016 & 2017 IBO Gold Medalist