

## 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](http://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

2018 Team USA



2018 TEAM USA Members

*Allen Huang, Lucy Chen,  
Alexander Tsao, and Jason Yang*

“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 47 states, have participated in the annual USA Biology Olympiad (USABO) since 2002 when the USABO was inaugurated. In 2018 nearly 10,000 students from 47 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.

## Where is the New Home of the USABO?



University California San Diego (UC San Diego)  
Home of the Tritons

## 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, multiple true/false, and free response questions and is administered in class.

### USABO National Finals

The top 20 Semifinalists are invited to attend the USABO National Finals held on the campus of University of California San Diego. 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 2019 IBO will be held in Szeged, Hungary July 14 to 21, 2019.

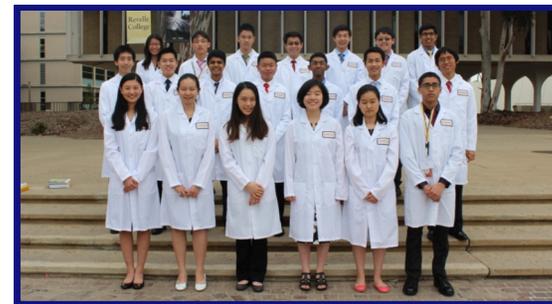


Reök Palace , Szeged, Hungary

## 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 1 to January 16, 2019 at the CEE website at [www.cce.org](http://www.cce.org).



The 2018 National Finalists in lab coats.

"The USABO finals were intense and exciting...my days learning biology [were] at a [unbelievable] pace. The lectures were engaging and pushed me to think critically. It wasn't all studying. All the Finalists managed to make Finals fun, instead of a grueling experience. I will definitely look back on the USABO finals with a smile!" *Lucy Chen, 2018 USABO National Finals Gold Medalist*

"...Two weeks of intense, non-stop lectures, lab time, and studying are both exhausting and exhilarating. Over my 3 years attending the Finals I've been exposed to an incredible range of experiences that greatly expanded the breadth and depth of my biological knowledge. Meeting a multitude of brilliant professors and finalists helped show me the broad spectrum of career choices available in biology... I will always appreciate what USABO has become over the years, and am forever grateful for its influence on my life." *Alexander Tsao, 2017 & 2018 USABO Gold Medalist*

"I truly had the time of my life at Finals. Attending lectures by renowned scientists, going hands-on in exciting field labs, and all the other experiences the Finalists underwent really showed me the infinite possibilities that biology has to offer, and cemented my decision to study it in the future. I made lifelong friends who shared the same passions, desires, and goals. I look forward to working with them in the future in the STEM." *Allen Huang, 2018 USABO Gold Medalist*

"...Between lectures and labs, we gained experience in almost every aspect of biology, from biosystematics to game theory. Beyond learning about biology, I was surrounded by 19 other brilliant Finalists, heard experiences and advice from current biology researchers. Just having the opportunity to visit the shores of La Jolla made Finals an extremely memorable. The USABO Finals was truly a unique and unforgettable experience" *Jason Yang, 2018 USABO National Finals Gold Medalist*