

## 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 free of cost to all participants.

### Contact Information

Center for Excellence in Education (CEE)  
8201 Greensboro Drive, Suite 215  
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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**

Team USA Brings Home  
3 GOLD & 1 Silver!



2016 TEAM USA Members Thomas Xiong, Boyang (Peter) Dun, Varkey Alumootil, and Bowen Jing

"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 2016, nearly 10,000 students from 45 states registered to participate in this prestigious competition which was jointly sponsored with Purdue University. 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, and 2015 each Team USA member has brought home a gold medal.



2016 International Biology Olympiad Closing Ceremony, Hanoi, Vietnam

## 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 \$80 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 2017 IBO will be held in Coventry, United Kingdom, July 23 to 30, 2017.



National Finalist ejecting sample dye into specimen.

## 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 14 to January 16, 2017 at the CEE website at [www.cee.org](http://www.cee.org).



The 2016 National Finalists in lab coats.

"USABO National Finals...explore [s] the breadth and depth of the biological sciences...by world-class scientists describing...ground breaking research. I have made life-long friends who share similar passions" **Varkey Alumoottil, 2016 IBO Silver 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." **Bowen Jing, 2016 USABO Gold Medalist and 2016 IBO Gold Medalist**

"I have made connections with students...around... the world who share my passion for biology. Studying for the USABO provided me with an incentive to go above-and-beyond the regular biological sciences. I plan to turn this passion into a career as a biotech entrepreneur." **Boyang (Peter) Dun., 2015 & 2016 IBO Gold Medalist**

my [lab] experience ...was quite limited... after many failures [dissecting plants], I was reward with an almost picturesque microscope slide of internal plant anatomy. USABO has further inspired me to continue on a path of biology and academia throughout college. **Thomas Xiong, 2016 IBO Gold Medalist**