

Excellence

Center for Excellence in Education

Top U.S. and International High School STEM Students Selected for 34th annual Research Science Institute

80 high school students from 35 states and 15 countries convene at MIT for prestigious six-week summer academic research program

McLean, VA (June 25, 2017) – The [Center for Excellence in Education](#) (CEE) today welcomed the 80 top achieving U.S. high school and international scholars to the 34th annual [Research Science Institute](#) (RSI), jointly sponsored with the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#) (MIT). RSI is an intensive, six-week program that gives students the opportunity to conduct original, cutting-edge science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) research in state-of-the-art university laboratories, hospitals and corporate research facilities in Boston and Cambridge, MA.

“The Research Science Institute offers great math and science students the opportunity to experience graduate-level research and camaraderie with other academically talented STEM scholars,” said Joann P. DiGennaro, CEE President. “RSI has more than 2,500 successful alumni with a STEM career retention rate of 80 percent.” In addition to their individualized research, the students—dubbed “Rickoids” after the late Admiral H.G. Rickover, father of the Nuclear Navy and founder of the Center with DiGennaro—also study pure and applied mathematics, physical and biological science, economics and humanities.

RSI scholars also learn about the careers, achievements and challenges of STEM through presentations and dialogue in RSI’s *Distinguished Guest Lecture Series*. More than 20 recognized STEM leaders will share their experiences with RSI scholars, including:

- Nobel Laureate Dr. Wolfgang Ketterle, the John D. MacArthur Professor of Physics at MIT and Director of the MIT-Harvard Center for Ultracold Atoms
- Dr. Thomas Leighton, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, Akamai Technologies
- Nobel Laureate Dr. Eric Maskin, the Adams University Professor in the Department of Economics at Harvard University

RSI is offered cost-free by CEE to competitively selected top achieving students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Students are selected by CEE’s committee of professional educators and RSI alumni based on high school records, personal essays, standardized test scores, teacher recommendations, research experience, potential for leadership, and honors and awards in math and science.

The RSI annual summer program (June 25 to Aug. 5) consists of one week of theoretical classroom work, followed by four-and-a-half weeks of high-level research under the mentorship of leading scientists, engineers, and researchers in the students' respective areas of interest. In their final week, students demonstrate their research work through written academic papers and oral presentations to their peers and a panel of judges.

Dr. Amy Sillman, an RSI '84 alum, will lead the Institute this summer. RSI's 2017 academic professors include:

- Dr. Christopher Skinner, RSI '88, Princeton University (Mathematics)
- Dr. Forrest Michael, RSI '90, University of Washington (Chemistry)
- Dr. Matthew Cain, RSI '97, U.S. Army Natick Soldier Systems Center (Biology)
- Dr. Jason Nielsen, RSI '89, University of California, Santa Cruz (Physics)
- Dr. Steven Leeb, MIT (Engineering)
- Mr. Lance Rhoades, University of Washington (Humanities)

In addition to 50 U.S. high school rising seniors, 30 international students will participate from Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, India, Lebanon, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey at RSI 2017. This is the first year a student from the Philippines will participate at RSI.

Research Science Institute 2017 U.S. Students

California

Mythri Ambatipudi, *St. Francis High School, Mountain View*

Amy Dunphy, *Harker School, San Jose*

Sydney Marler, *Phillips Academy (Andover, MA), Ridgecrest*

Advait Patil, *Lynbrook High School, San Jose*

Utkarsh Tandon, *Cupertino High School, Cupertino*

Colorado

Isani Singh, *Cherry Creek High School, Greenwood Village*

Hannah Zhang, *Fairview High School, Boulder*

Connecticut

Daniel Michael, *Wooster School, Danbury*

Delaware

YuQing Xie, *The Charter School of Wilmington, Wilmington*

Florida

Sidhika Balachandar, *Buchholz High School, Gainesville*

Michael Fein, *Miami Palmetto Senior High School, Miami*

Georgia

Zoe Weiss, *Lakeside High School, Atlanta*

Idaho

Kylie Hansen, *Twin Falls High School, Twin Falls*

Illinois

Samaksh Goyal, *Neuqua Valley High School, Naperville*

Indiana

Bowen Jing, *West Lafayette Jr-Sr High School, West Lafayette*

Michelle Shen, *Park Tudor High School, Indianapolis*

Kansas

Erin Smith, *Shawnee Mission West High School, Shawnee Mission*

Maryland

David Wu, *Montgomery Blair High School, Silver Spring*

Massachusetts

Indumathi Prakash, *Sharon High School, Sharon*

Harshal Sheth, *Westford Academy, Westford*

Michigan

Arushi Arora, *Novi High School, Novi*

Shrikant Chand, *Detroit Country Day School, Beverly Hills*

Minnesota

Daniel Stein, *Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis*

Mississippi

Charley Hutchison, *Saint Andrew Episcopal School, Ridgeland*

Missouri

Alan Peng, *Rockwood Summit High School, Fenton*

Nevada

Matthew Bauer, *Davidson Academy of Nevada, Reno*

New Hampshire

Vinjai Vale, *Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter*

New Jersey

Jordan Lee, *Academy for the Advancement of Science & Technology, Hackensack*

New Mexico

Isabel Gallegos, *Albuquerque Academy, Albuquerque*

New York

Julian Rubinfein, *Stuyvesant High School, New York*

Michael Truell, *Horace Mann School, Riverdale*

North Carolina

Rohan Deshpande, *East Chapel Hill High School, Chapel Hill*

Sophia Luo, *North Carolina School of Science and Math, Durham*

Ohio

Grace Tian, *Wellington School, Columbus*

Oklahoma

George Wang, *Oklahoma School of Science and Math, Oklahoma City*

Oregon

Arnob Das, *Jesuit High School, Portland*

Pennsylvania

Karthik Yegnesh, *Methacton High School, Eagleville*

South Carolina

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, *Fort Mill High School, Fort Mill*

Texas

Rucha Joshi, *Westwood High School, Austin*

Syamantak Payra, *Clearbrook High School, Friendswood*

Michelle Yakubek, *Texas Academy of Math and Science, Denton*

Utah

Matthew Radovan, *Ridgeline High School, Millville*

Vermont

Avi Cohen, *South Burlington High School, South Burlington*

Virginia

Marissa Sumathipala, *Broad Run High School, Ashburn*

Franklyn Wang, *Thomas Jefferson HS for Science & Technology, Alexandria*

Washington

Anne Lee, *Stem High School, Redmond*

Dhruvik Parikh, *Henry M Jackson High School, Mill Creek*

West Virginia

Michael Yan, *Morgantown High School, Morgantown*

Wisconsin

Sophia Sun, *Brookfield Central High School, Brookfield*

Wyoming

William McInroy, *Laramie Senior High School, Laramie*

Research Science Institute 2017 International Students**Australia**

Joshua Marsh, *Tully State High School, Queensland*

Hannedige Peiris, *Methodist Ladies College, Kew VIC*

Bulgaria

Ivan Ivanov, *American College of Sophia, Sofia*

Tanya Otsetarova, *Academy Kiril Popov HS of Mathematics, Plovdiv*

Canada

Flavia Dumitrascu, *Ashbury College, Ontario*

Oishi Hawlader, *Gonzaga Regional High School, St. John's NL*

China

Qiangqia Zhang, *Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, NH - USA*

India

Keerthana Kasi, *Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Sr Secondary School, Chennai Tamil Nadu*

Lebanon

Salim Ballouz, *Rafic Hariri High School, Beirut*

Ghinna El Sabbagh, *Rafic Hariri High School, Beirut*

Rami Hafez, *Rafic Hariri High School, Beirut*

Philippines

Agnes Robang, *Philippine Science High School, Diliman, QC*

Poland

Grzegorz Uriasz, *Liceum Ogólnokształcące, Krosno*

Saudi Arabia

Abdulelah Alkhamis, *AlAnjal High School, Jeddah*

Musab Almajnouni, *Manarat Al-Riyadh International School, Riyadh*

Singapore

Shun Long (Winston) Fu, *River Valley High School, Singapore*

Ruobin Han, *Raffles Institution, Singapore*

Anqi Li, *Raffles Institution, Singapore*

Timothy Tan, *Hwa Chong Institution, Singapore*

Andrea Teo, *Raffles Institution, Singapore*

Jacob Teo, *NUS High School of Math and Science, Singapore*

Spain

Silvia Casacuberta, *Aula Escola Europea, Barcelona*

Joel Romero, *F.X. Lluch I. Rafecas, Barcelona*

Alex Segui, *Institut Jaume Vicens Vives, Girona*

South Korea

Gaeun Kim, *Stanford University Online High School, Stanford, CA*

Sweden

Victor Kohlin Lovfors, *Europaskolan Strangnas, Storgatan*

Johanna Lindholm, *Polhemskolan, Lund*

Switzerland

Julius Vering, *Gymnasium Neufeld, Bern*

Turkey

Ratip Berker, *Robert College, Istanbul*

Begum Ortaoglu, *Robert College, Istanbul*

About the Center for Excellence in Education

The Center for Excellence in Education was founded in 1983 by the late Admiral H.G. Rickover and Joann P. DiGennaro, President of the Center. 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. CEE's programs include the Research Science Institute (RSI), the USA Biology Olympiad (USABO), and the Teacher Enrichment Program (TEP).

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Related websites:

Center for Excellence in Education: <https://www.cee.org/>

Research Science Institute: <https://www.cee.org/research-science-institute>