

CEE's e-Newsletter: Stay informed about the latest news and events.



### **Research Science Institute**

The Center for Excellence in Education's (CEE) 39th annual Research Science Institute (RSI) is being held through August 6, 2022, for the first time in person since 2019. Ninety-two high school students from 38 states and 16 countries have convened for CEE's prestigious six-week summer academic research program. CEE's RSI is a summer science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) program collaboratively sponsored with Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) that combines on-campus course work in scientific theory with off-campus research in science and technology. Students conduct original, innovative research in state-of-the-art university laboratories, hospitals, and corporate research facilities. Students make oral and written presentations based on their research during the last week of the program. RSI is offered at no cost to all students competitively selected to attend. To date, over 3,000 high school students representing every U.S. state and more than 56 nations have experienced RSI.



### **Congratulations to Mark Kantrowitz!**

**Mark Kantrowitz**, an alumnus of CEE's inaugural 1984 RSI and a member of CEE's Board of Trustees, published his [first column](#) as an official contributor to *The Wall Street Journal*. Mr. Kantrowitz, President of Cerebly, Inc., is a nationally recognized expert on student financial aid, scholarships, college savings plans, and student loans. He delivers practical information, advice and tools to students and their families for them to make informed decisions about planning and paying for college. He earned Bachelor of Science degrees in mathematics and philosophy from MIT and a Master of Science degree in computer science from Carnegie Mellon University. He is a recipient of the Center's 2021 Lieberman Award for Outstanding Achievement in STEM.

He was named a Money Hero by *Money* magazine and a College Financing Ace by *Investment Advisor* magazine. Mr. Kantrowitz is the author of five bestselling books about scholarships and financial aid, including *How to Appeal for More College Financial Aid*, *Twisdoms about Paying for College*, *Filing the FAFSA*, and *Secrets to Winning a Scholarship*. This year he is also serving as Director of RSI.



### Meenakshi Ambati Wins First Place in Video Contest

Congratulations to **Meenakshi Ambati** (RSI '21), who won first place in a contest sponsored by the NIH's National Eye Institute (NEI). Her award-winning video shares an association between atrophic macular degeneration and the medicine fluoxetine, also known as Prozac. In addition to a cash prize, she was invited to spend a day touring NIH this summer. Meena is a recent graduate of Albemarle High School in Charlottesville, Virginia. She was the overall and GenePool winner in the 2021 International BioGENEius Challenge, a 2021 Davidson Fellow Laureate, and an ISEF Grand Award recipient.

From January 27 to May 1, 2022, NEI hosted an Eye on the Future video contest. NEI received over forty submissions from individual teens and groups explaining their favorite science experiments, discussing impactful scientific discoveries, and showcasing live science demonstrations. [Watch Meena's video.](#)



### Allen Lin Receives Gates Scholarship

CEE is pleased to announce that **Allen Lin** (RSI '21) has been named a Gates Scholar. An incoming first-year student at MIT, he is a graduate of the Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky, where he served as a mathematics tutor, the co-president of the chess club, and a member of the math club. During the 2021 RSI he worked with MIT faculty on an original math research project about circular symmetrization. He plans to major in mathematics.

As a recipient of The Gates Scholarship, Allen will receive funding for college that covers the full cost of attendance not already covered by other financial aid. Launched by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2017, the Gates

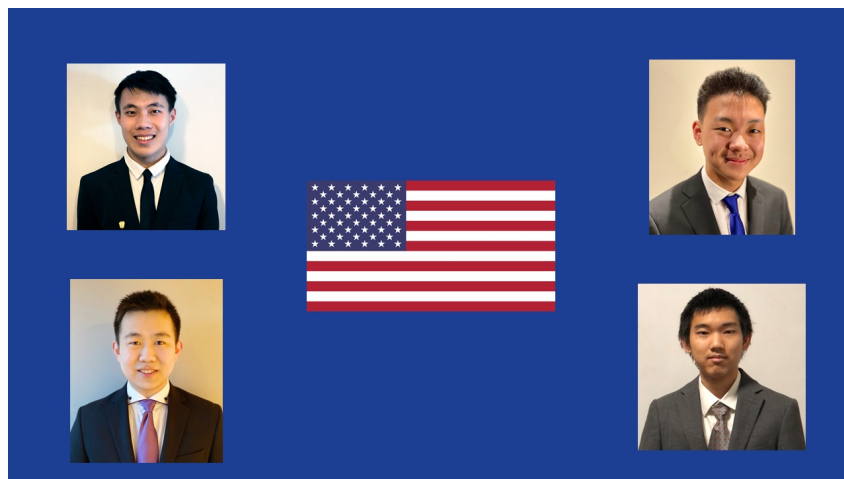
Scholarship continues the Foundation's long-standing commitment to help outstanding minority students from low-income backgrounds realize their maximum potential.

# USA BIOlympiad 2022

## USA Biolympiad

CEE congratulates the high school biology scholars who earned medals at CEE's 20th Annual USA Biolympiad (USABO) National Finals, held at Marymount University on its Arlington, Virginia campus from May 28 to June 9, 2022. Gold medalists are **Derek Chen**, Belmont High School, Belmont, Massachusetts; **Lawrence Long**, BASIS Independent Silicon Valley, San Jose, California; **Greycen Ren**, Adlai E. Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, Illinois; and **Jason Wang**, Marriotts Ridge High School, Marriottsville, Maryland. Silver medalists are **Sean Fei**, Lexington High School, Lexington, Massachusetts; **Amber Luo**, Ward Melville High School, East Setauket, New York; **Lawrence Ma**, Ridge High School, Basking Ridge, New Jersey; and **Julianne Wu**, University High School, Irvine, California. Bronze medalists are **Luke Z. Mo**, duPont Manual High School, Louisville, Kentucky; **Andrew Van Dusen**, West Windsor Plainsboro HS South, West Windsor, New Jersey; **Richard Zhu**, North Hollywood Senior High School, North Hollywood, California; and **Richard Zhu**, Peddie School, Highstown, New Jersey.

During the 10 days of the USABO National Finals, students participated cost-free in intensive theoretical and practical tutorials. The high school students studied with leading U.S. biologists who are experts in the fields of cellular & molecular biology, plant anatomy & physiology, animal anatomy & physiology, genetics & evolution, ecology, ethology, and biosystematics. The young scholars were mentored by **Kathy Frame**, USABO Advisor & Consultant. At the closing USABO medal ceremony, radiologist **Ravi Kamath**, MD, PhD, (RSI '92) presented the Keynote address. National Finals Bronze medalist **Richard Zhu** from New Jersey gave the [closing remarks](#).



## 2021 USA Biolympiad Team Honored

The Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) honored the 2021 USA Biolympiad Team at its 2022 International BIO Convention held in San Diego, CA on June 15th. The 2021 USABO National Finals Gold Medalists who were honored by BIO are: **Derek Chen**, Belmont High School, Belmont, Massachusetts; **Judson Lam**, Naperville North High School, Naperville,

Illinois; **Greycen Ren**, Adlai E. Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, Illinois, and **Albert Zhang**, North Hollywood Senior High School, North Hollywood, California. This is a most prestigious honor for CEE, USABO, and all teachers and students who participated in USABO. BIO is the world's largest advocacy association representing member companies, state biotechnology groups, academic and research institutions, and related organizations across the United States and in 30+ countries.



### **Bhav Jain is a Truman Scholar**

Congrats to **Bhav Jain** (USABO '18) for being named a 2022 Truman Scholar. He graduated this spring from MIT with a BS in brain and cognitive sciences management. He is interested in global health care delivery and transforming clinical care as a future physician-policymaker. His research spans oncology delivery, health disparities, and health systems transformation. He is President and Co-Founder of the nonprofit The Connected Foundation, which forges intergenerational connections between youth and seniors. In 2020 he served as a counselor at CEE's RSI. He earned a bronze medal in the 2018 USABO National Finals. He graduated from Franklin Regional Senior High School in Murrysville, Pennsylvania.

As a Truman Scholar, Bhav will receive up to \$30,000 toward graduate studies in the United States, as well as access to development programs such as the Truman Scholars Leadership Week, the Summer Institute, and other Truman Fellows events. [More...](#)



### **Teacher Enrichment Program**

**Travis Williams**, the new manager of CEE's Teacher Enrichment Program (TEP), is preparing for fall, which will consist of a full schedule of cost-free STEM education programming for teachers. He recently served as a continuous improvement coach at Spartansburg School District 7 in Spartansburg, South Carolina, and served as a science teacher in Arlington, Virginia. Travis earned a bachelor's degree in science teacher education and an MS degree in educational leadership and administration from Western Governors University.

In partnership with the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, TEP hosted a

Health Science Highway series this spring that brought together healthcare professionals with high school STEM teachers. The series video [playlist is on YouTube](#).

To date, nearly 5,000 teachers from over 1,600 schools have participated in TEP. The program has reached nearly 800,000 underserved rural and urban students to encourage STEM careers. All TEP resources and professional development events are cost-free to participants.



### STEM Lyceums

CEE welcomes **Roxana Stefanescu** as the manager of CEE's STEM Lyceums program. She earned a BS in Physics and an MS in Biophysics from the University of Bucharest, a PhD in Physics from Florida Atlantic University, and performed post-doctoral research in neuroscience at Emory and the University of Michigan. Roxana comes to CEE after working in industry as a bioinformatician and a scientific project manager. Roxana will lead Lyceums' student outreach in STEM fields, advocating for excellence in education.

CEE's STEM Lyceums program consists of monthly virtual meetings that engage high school students in discussion and exploration of STEM concepts and unique STEM career pathways, provided at no cost to schools or students. Students interact with STEM professionals and fellow students, both national and international. Meetings foster critical thinking skills, encourage excitement for science, and prepare students to enter STEM careers. CEE's STEM Lyceums partners include Virginia Bio, United Negro College Fund, and the Urban League of Hampton Roads.

CEE is also excited to announce that three students who attended CEE's STEM Lyceums were awarded scholarships to attend a six-week virtual summer program focused on STEM hosted by RePicture, a public benefit organization. The scholarship recipients are **Kuzey Kantarcioglu** (Istanbul, Turkey) - Robert College; **Madeline Pinches** (Los Alamitos, California) - Los Alamitos High School; and **Aquib Syed** (Richmond, Virginia) - Todd Allen Phillips Center for Medical Sciences at Mills E. Godwin High School. The program explores STEM careers, builds important professional skills and a resume, and enables each student to create a unique online portfolio of work to highlight on job and university applications.

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