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 Rubinftein, 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
Aleix 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