MISSION: The Center for Excellence in Education (CEE), a charitable non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, nurtures high school and university scholars to careers of excellence and leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and encourages collaboration between and among scientific and technological leaders in the global community.

IMPACT: CEE has contributed to the scientific leadership of this country since its founding in 1983 by the late Admiral H.G. Rickover, Father of the Nuclear Navy and civilian use of nuclear power, and Joann DiGennaro, CEE’s President. CEE refers to alumni as “Rickoids” in fond honor of the late Admiral H.G. Rickover.

PROGRAMS: CEE programs are nationally and internationally recognized for providing opportunities to some of the world’s greatest young minds through collaborations with educational institutions, foundations, corporations, government agencies, and individuals who share a commitment to educational excellence. CEE sponsors the Research Science Institute (RSI), USA Biolympiad (USABO), the Teacher Enrichment Program (TEP), STEM Lyceums, and the Department of Defense Research Laboratories Internships.

All CEE programs are offered cost-free to students and teachers. Funding for the Center’s work is from corporations, individuals, foundations, and government agencies.

The Research Science Institute (RSI) is recognized as the most prestigious international summer research program in the world for high school students. RSI is cooperatively sponsored by MIT, where the program is hosted in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It allows students to study advanced theory and to conduct research in STEM.

USA Biolympiad is the nation’s largest biology education and testing program for high school students. It enriches the life science education of 11,000 talented students annually with twenty finalists invited to a two-week residential training program. Ultimately, four students are competitively chosen to represent the USA at the International Biology
Olympiad (IBO), a worldwide competition involving student teams from over 60 countries. Every member of USA Biolympiad Team has medaled at the IBO since first competing in 2003.

CEE’s Teacher Enrichment Program provides opportunities for underserved rural and urban high school teachers to connect with experts from industry and academia to explore cutting-edge research and development and make meaningful professional links with direct benefits for them and their students.

CEE’s STEM Lyceums are 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 careers.

Additionally, CEE partners with the Department of Defense (DoD) to place CEE alumni from the RSI and USABO programs in STEM internships in DoD Research Laboratories throughout the U.S. CEE received applications from program alumni who attend top-tier colleges and universities.

CEE’s international footprint reaches 56 nations with the Research Science Institute modeled in Bulgaria, China, India, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Feng Zhang (RSI ’99), PhD, is a pioneer of CRISPR technologies. He holds the James and Patricia Poitras Professorship in Neuroscience at MIT. He is also with the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard.

Kelley Harris (USABO ’03, RSI ’04), PhD, is assistant professor in the Department of Genome Sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Olgica Bakajin (RSI ’91), PhD, is Founder, CEO & CTO of Porifera, Inc. She has led Porifera to apply its forward-osmosis technology to problems in Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD), water reuse, and food and beverage processing around the world.

Ben Silbermann (RSI ’98) is co-founder and CEO of Pinterest, a virtual pin board and one of the most popular social media sites in the world.

Chairman’s Note

“CEE is the crown jewel of free, competitive STEM programs for the most talented U.S. and international high school and university students. I’m proud to know that CEE has nurtured and challenged thousands of brilliant scholars who are taking their place in significant leadership roles in corporations, research labs, and universities. CEE scholars are the foundation for the increasingly high demand for a STEM-ready workforce. I continue to be honored to serve CEE as its Chairman, and I’m equally impressed every day by the achievements of our scholars.”

Mel Chaskin, Chairman