



Center for Excellence in Education

## Media Advisory

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## Premiere USA Biology Olympiad Finals

*Students Compete to be on the Four Member Team USA  
at the International Biology Olympiad*

- Who:** Center for Excellence in Education (CEE)
- What:** 6<sup>th</sup> Annual USA Biology Olympiad (USABO) National Finals
- When:** Monday, June 2, 2008 to Saturday, June 14, 2008
- Where:** George Mason University
- How:** Please email [ggoldmark@cee.org](mailto:ggoldmark@cee.org) to attend a research session at the 2008 USABO to see the students at work

Now in its sixth year, the 2008 USABO National Finals will bring together 20 of this nation's top achieving young biology scholars to compete for a place on the four member Team USA. The International Biology Olympiad (IBO) will take place in Mumbai, India. Continental Airlines, the official airline of the USABO, will fly Team USA to Mumbai to compete against the world's finest biology students.

The Center for Excellence in Education, a nonprofit organization in McLean, Va., nurtures young scholars to careers of excellence and leadership in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The Center also encourages collaboration among leaders in the global community. CEE began sponsoring the USABO in 2002 to train future leaders in the biological sciences.

The USA Biology Olympiad stimulates young scholars' intellectual curiosity and develops their critical thinking skills in biological reasoning. The rigorous USABO competition demands the best in practical and theoretical knowledge. The National Finalists are selected after

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participating in an Open Exam followed by a Semifinal Exam. The top four students at the USABO National Finals will comprise Team USA 2008 at the IBO. Nearly 10,000 students from across the nation registered for the open exam this year.

All four members of Team USA earned gold medals at the 2007 IBO garnering the title, "Number One World Team."

"The USA Biology Olympiad offers academically achieving high school students much needed time in highly advanced laboratories," said Joann DiGennaro, President of CEE. "Many of these young scholars do not get enough hands-on laboratory experience or critical thinking exercises in their high schools. CEE is proud to sponsor the USABO and to give the scholars this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

The biology scholars will be taught and mentored by professors from Purdue University, John Hopkins University, University of Maryland, Princeton University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Southern California, Brandeis University, Harvard University, George Washington University and Yale University. Students will study animal anatomy and physiology, cellular biology, genetics and evolution, plant anatomy and physiology, ecology, ethology and biosystematics.

The 20 National Finalists are:

#### **California**

Alexandre Boulgakov, Santa Monica High School, Santa Monica  
Michael Hirshleifer, University High School, Irvine  
Tingwei Tsai, Lynbrook High School, San Jose  
Lyndon Zhang, Mission San Jose High School, Fremont  
Kaili Zhou, Mira Loma High School, Folsom

#### **Delaware**

David Huang, Charter School of Wilmington, Hockessin

#### **Florida**

Yunxin Jiao, Miami Palmetto Senior High School, Miami

#### **Maryland**

Jonathan Gootenberg, Montgomery Blair High School, Rockville  
Jonathan Liang, Thomas S. Wootton High School, North Potomac

#### **Massachusetts**

Winthrop Harvey, Dover Sherborn High School, Sherborn

#### **Michigan**

Surya Nagaraja, Salem High School, Canton

#### **New Jersey**

Yoonjoo Lee, Bergen County Academies, River Edge

Michael Zhu, Union County Academy for Information Technology,  
Westfield

**New York**

Judy Baek, Stuyvesant High School, Douglaston  
Alexandra Hanin, Stuyvesant High School, Brooklyn  
Shu Pang, Stuyvesant High School, Fresh Meadows

**Tennessee**

Katherine Xue, Oak Ridge High School, Knoxville

**Texas**

Kenneth Hu, Clements High School, Sugar Land

**Washington**

Seungsoo Kim, Mountain View High School, Vancouver

**Wisconsin**

Maria Krupenkin, Middleton High School, Middleton

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*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 young scholars to careers of excellence and leadership in science and technology, and to encourage collaboration among leaders in the global community. CEE sponsors the Research Science Institute (RSI) and the USA Biology Olympiad (USABO). For more information about the Center and its programs, visit CEE's Web site, [www.cee.org](http://www.cee.org).*