

# centerline

## CEE ADVISOR TO STEM EDUCATION CAUCUS



*A* STEM Education Caucus has been formed to provide a meaningful bipartisan forum for the 118th Congress to discuss issues related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. The Center for Excellence in Education is serving as Advisor to the Caucus.

CEE Honorary Trustee Congressman **Neal Dunn, M.D.** (R-FL) and Congressman **Jake Auchincloss** (D-MA) formed the caucus to support and promote STEM education at all levels (K-12, higher education, and in the workforce). CEE will provide relevant education materials and experts to advance the goals of this important Congressional member organization.

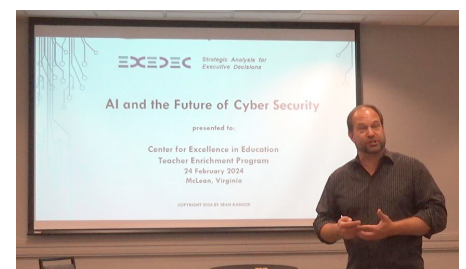
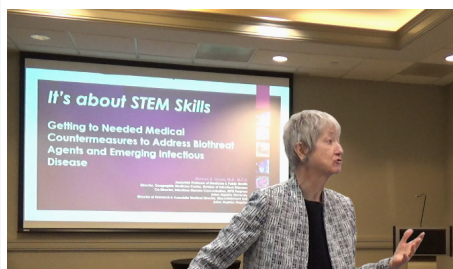
CEE, founded by the late **Admiral H.G. Rickover** and **Joann DiGennaro**, has been a recognized leader in STEM education for 40 years, with programs to encourage leadership and innovation among top STEM students, to enhance STEM teacher professional development, and to expand the STEM career pipeline to underserved rural and urban students. The Center's 3,400 alumni represent all U.S. states. They are leaders in business and education, improving lives through research, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

## REGENERON SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH WINNERS



*Alan Bu*, an alum of CEE's 2023 Research Science Institute (RSI) and student at Phillips Exeter Academy, NH, placed tenth in the 2024 Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS) science and math competition. He received the \$40,000 prize. Six other 2023 RSI and USABO alumni, pictured above with Ms. DiGennaro, were among the top 40 finalists: **Maryam Abdel-Azim**, Central Bucks High School, PA; **Sophie Chen**, Caddo Parish Magnet High School, LA; **Sarang Goel**, Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science, TX; **Luke Huang**, New Canaan High School, CT; **Ekansh Mittal**, Westview High School, OR; and **Julianne Wu**, University High School, CA. Ms. Wu also was a medalist in CEE's USA Biolympiad in 2021 and 2022.

## CEE HOSTS STEM TEACHER SESSION



CEE's Teacher Enrichment Program (TEP) presented a STEM Teacher session on February 24 in McLean, Virginia. This event provided educators with information to take back to their classrooms. CEE Trustee **Noreen Hynes, MD, MPH**, pictured, Director, Geographic Medicine Center, Infectious Diseases, Johns Hopkins University, and **Sean Kanuck, Esq.** (RSI '88), a renowned cyber security expert, presented comments on their respective fields. **John Miller, PhD** (RSI '87), Senior Lecturer for Financial Mathematics, Department of Applied Mathematics & Statistics, Johns Hopkins University, and high school student **Nicholas Yan** (RSI '23) were panelists on "AI in the Classroom."

## CEE ENDOWMENT REACHES MILESTONE

CEE is pleased to report that CEE's Endowment reached a milestone of \$10 million. This is attributable to the hard work of the CEE Endowment Committee, comprised of the following CEE Trustees:



**Rasheed Sabar** (RSI '00), Chairman of CEE's Endowment Committee, is Co-Founder & Co-CEO, Correlation One, which helps enterprises and government organizations develop talent and close critical gaps in data, digital, and technology skills with training solutions. He graduated summa cum laude from Harvard with a degree in Literature.



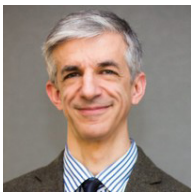
**Mel Chaskin**, Chairman of the CEE Board of Trustees, is President & CEO, Vanguard Research, Inc. (VRI), a systems analysis, development, engineering and management firm excelling in delivering outstanding services to customers of all sizes. He earned a B.S. degree from New York University and studied at the Naval Post Graduate School.



**Steven P. Strong, PhD** (RSI '84), Vice Chairman of CEE's Board of Trustees, is Founder & Principal, Fenrir LLC, a data science company specializing in quantitative finance. He received his B.A. from Cornell and his PhD in physics from Princeton University.



**Mark Kantrowitz** (RSI '84) is President, Cerebly, Inc. He is an expert on student financial aid, scholarships, and student loans. He earned bachelor's degrees in mathematics and philosophy from MIT and an M.S. degree in computer science from Carnegie Mellon University. He also is Director of RSI.



**Roger Pellegrini** (RSI Parent '11) is Managing Director, Securitization Finance, RBC Capital Markets. He earned a B.S. in aeronautical and astronautical engineering from MIT and an MBA from Yale School of Management.

The Center created its endowment in 2006 to build toward perpetual funding for CEE's STEM educational programs.

## IN MEMORIAM



Senator Lieberman pictured with Dr. Aaron S. Kesselheim (RSI '91), M.D., J.D., M.P.H., the recipient of CEE's Lieberman award, in 2023.

The Center for Excellence in Education has lost a staunch supporter, a champion for CEE's educational programs, a friend to Admiral H.G. Rickover, and a mentor to Joann DiGennaro. For seventeen years, **Senator Joseph Lieberman** served as an Honorary Trustee to the Center, advising about educational policy, providing introductions for possible funding of the Center's work, and meeting with alumni of the Research Science Institute. The Center's first funding from the Department of Defense was made possible through meetings arranged by the Senator for the Admiral and Joann. The DoD funding sustained the initial Institute's ability to remain free of cost to academically talented high school students. The Institute has remained without cost to young high school scholars, many of whom could not have attended had the RSI had a fee. Senator Joe Lieberman and the Admiral were proud of their Jewish heritage, and spoke frequently about the importance of the need to prioritize science and technology studies to maintain U.S. global leadership.

The Center presents the Lieberman Award for Excellence in Science and Technology to an alumnus of its educational programs every two years. The recipient of the award is chosen by the Center's Board of Trustees. Senator Lieberman will be remembered for his love of country, family, and loyalty to friends. He was what Admiral Rickover once referred to as this nation's finest Mensch.

## RESEARCH SCIENCE INSTITUTE



CEE's Research Science Institute (RSI) will be in session from June 23 to August 3, 2024, on the campus of MIT. RSI brings together 100 top U.S. and international high school students for the cost-free, six-week summer program that provides students with the opportunity to conduct original, innovative research. CEE Trustee **Mark Kantrowitz** (RSI '84) will serve as the Director of RSI. CEE's RSI combines on-campus course work in scientific theory with off-campus research in science and technology. Students learn at no cost from distinguished speakers from academia and the corporate world in evening presentations. Students present their research to a panel of judges. More information is at [www.cee.org/programs/research-science-institute](http://www.cee.org/programs/research-science-institute).

## USA BIOLYMPIAD



Preparations are underway for the 2024 USA Biolymriad (USABO), the nation's most prestigious biology education and testing program for U.S. high school students. A record 682 schools registered for the exam, and nearly 10,000 high school students registered for the online Open Exam. The top 20 semifinalists will attend the USABO National Finals at Marymount University May 25-June 8. USABO. During the two-week USABO National Finals students participate in cost-free, intensive theoretical and practical biology tutorials. The four gold medalists from USABO's National Finals will represent the U.S. at the 35th International Biology Olympiad (IBO), involving student teams from over 70 countries. IBO will be hosted in Astana, Kazakhstan in July 2024. Every member of the U.S. Team has medaled in the international competition since the U.S. began competing in 2003. More information is at [www.cee.org/programs/usa-biolymriad](http://www.cee.org/programs/usa-biolymriad).

## TEACHER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



Teacher  
Enrichment  
Program

TEP is hosting virtual Bite of Science workshops and College & Career Panels for STEM teachers and principals at high schools. Recent topics have included aerodynamics, food science, cancer research, sports, information technology and computing, space, medicine, and architecture and design. All the TEP recordings are available for free on CEE's YouTube Channel. TEP organizes opportunities for underserved rural and urban high school teachers to take STEM information back to their classrooms. TEP links STEM educators across the country with professional resources and connections to advance their careers and to directly benefit their students. To date, more than 4,000 teachers from over 1,400 schools have participated, reaching more than 600,000 rural and urban students. More information about TEP is at [www.cee.org/programs/teacher-enrichment-program](http://www.cee.org/programs/teacher-enrichment-program).

## STEM LYCEUMS



Through its STEM Lyceums program, CEE sponsors cost-free webinars to connect underserved high school students with the Center's ecosystem of top STEM industry professionals and innovators. CEE's STEM Lyceums is a virtual club that builds high school STEM communities and engages students in discussions and explorations of STEM concepts and STEM career pathways, provided at no cost to students. Meetings foster critical thinking skills, encourage excitement for science, and prepare students to enter STEM careers. To date, topics have included aerospace, biomedical engineering, clean/renewable energy, data science, and cybersecurity genomics, health sciences, music, nuclear engineering, pharmaceuticals, smart devices in healthcare, and zoology. More information about STEM Lyceums is at [www.cee.org/programs/stem-lyceums](http://www.cee.org/programs/stem-lyceums).

## NEW CEE TRUSTEE



CEE is pleased to announce that **Sharon H. Smoot** has joined CEE's Board of Trustees. She has served as president of BWXT Nuclear Operations Group, Inc., headquartered in Lynchburg, Virginia. BWXT is a *Defense News* Top 100 manufacturing

and engineering innovator. Ms. Smoot exemplifies excellence with her proven executive leadership in large, complex, industrial and naval operations.

Ms. Smoot has devoted more than 30 years of her civilian career to the U.S. Navy, including serving as executive director for logistics, maintenance, and industrial operations for the Naval Sea Systems Command. She previously held positions in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, U.S. Fleet Forces Command and Norfolk Naval Shipyard. Smoot has earned many awards and honors, including the Department of the Navy Civilian Distinguished Service Award, NAVSEA Meritorious Unit Commendation, and the Presidential Rank Award. She received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Tech and a master's degree in engineering management from Old Dominion University.

*Excellence*  
Center for Excellence in Education

## 2024 Coca-Cola Scholars



CEE announces that five of CEE's RSI 2023 alumni are among the 150 high school seniors who are 2024 Coca-Cola Scholars. They are: **Aiden Ackerman**, Stuyvesant High School, New York, NY; **Chelsea Hu**, BASIS Independent McLean, McLean, VA; **Katherine Murphy**, Shawnee Mission East High School, Prairie Village, KS; **Gautam Ray**, Jackson Academy, Jackson, MS; and **Andy Yang**, Dutch Fork High School, Irmo, SC.

Coca-Cola Scholars were selected from an initial pool of 103,800+ applications from across the country. Each Coca-Cola Scholar receives a \$20,000 college scholarship and joins a family of 6,900+ alumni. The scholars will attend Coca-Cola Scholars Weekend in Atlanta in late April, where they are the guests of honor at the 36th annual Coca-Cola Scholars Banquet and participated in the Coca-Cola Scholars Leadership Development Institute facilitated by program alumni.

## NEW CEE STAFF



**Susan Borden** has joined CEE as Development Director. She brings a background in higher education to our development team, where she'll use her experience in foundations, stewardship, and donor relations to build support for all CEE programs. "I'm excited

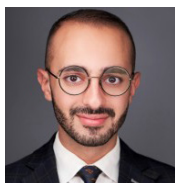
to join CEE at a time when the importance of STEM education is so clearly understood by students, educators, parents, and policymakers," she says. "Each of the center's programs is exciting on its own. Taken together, they provide a valuable model for addressing the scientific and educational challenges of the 21st century." Susan earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, where she spent most of her career before joining the staff at CEE.



CEE welcomes **Kaitlyn Diaz** as Program Assistant, USABO. She graduated from the University of Virginia in 2020 with a Bachelor of Science in Education – Youth and Social Innovation, and a minor in Anthropology. Kaitlyn noted, "I'm enthusiastic about

continuing my commitment to serving students through the Center's mission, which involves nurturing high school and university scholars to careers of excellence and leadership in STEM." In her role as USABO Program Assistant, Kaitlyn looks forward to contributing to the biology competition, "which not only enhances life science education for high school students, but also allows me to witness and support their academic, professional, and personal growth."

## WHERE ARE CEE ALUMNI NOW?



**Abdulaziz Alkattan, MD, MPH (RSI '08)** is a surgery/clinical informatics fellow at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/ Columbia University Medical Center. His MBBS is from Alfaisal University and MPH from Columbia University.



**Anjali Chadha (RSI '18)** is a research scientist at The Francis Crick Institute. She earned a BS in biological/biosystems engineering and literature at MIT.



**Robert Cooper, PhD (RSI '97)** is a physicist at the Naval Surface Warfare Center. He earned a B.Sc. in physics and mathematics at The University of Toledo and a PhD in physics at the University of Michigan.



**Arnob Das (RSI '17)** is Staff Scientist at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He completed a bachelor's degree in molecular engineering and MS in materials science and engineering at Stanford University.



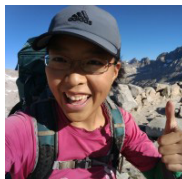
**Chandreyee Das, PhD (RSI '92)** is Director of Content and Marketing at QuartzBio. She earned a BS in biochemistry and chemistry at Penn State and a PhD in chemistry and chemical biology at University of California, San Francisco.



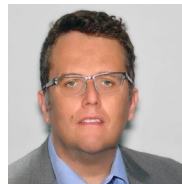
**Brian Kantsiper, PhD (RSI '87)** is Chief Engineer at the Space Development Agency. He completed undergrad at Princeton in engineering and PhD in aeronautics and astronautics at MIT.



**Pamela Krahl, MD, MPH (RSI '85)** is Associate Director of Occupational Health Services at the Smithsonian Institution. She earned a BS with Merit in oceanography at the U.S. Naval Academy, and MPH and MD at Emory University.



**Patricia Li (RSI '08)** is Co-Founder at Rentana, a revenue management platform used by multifamily owners and operators. She completed an S.B. in physics and mathematics at MIT.



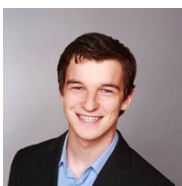
**Dragan Manoev (RSI '93)** is a Managing Director at Alantra, an international financial services firm. He completed a BA in mathematics at Pomona College.



**Yukino Nagai (RSI '10)** is a mechanical engineer at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. She completed undergrad at MIT in mechanical engineering and an MS at Johns Hopkins University.



**Shannon Ryan, JD (RSI '90)** is a Senior Vice President at Assembly Biosciences. She completed a B.S. at University of the Redlands and JD at Columbia Law School.



**El Shayer (RSI '13)** is Assistant Director of Baseball Systems at Chicago Cubs. He completed his undergraduate degree and MS in statistics at Stanford University.

## CEE ALUMNI EVENT



RSI and USABO alumni and friends gathered in Menlo Park, California for an evening of camaraderie, food, and networking on February 22. Special thanks to CEE Trustee **Arvind Parthasarathi (RSI '90)**, who hosted this terrific event.

# THANK YOU CEE DONORS!

November 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024

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