

Archived Information

Center for Excellence in Education

Goal Area: Increasing Public Understanding about Math and Science

Summary: The USA Biology Olympiad encourages secondary-level biology teachers and their students in their studies, through offering a series of tests that allow students to compete nationally and internationally in academic competitions. This program is offered in conjunction with George Mason University, in Fairfax, Virginia, the host site for the annual two-week Biology Olympiad ‘camp’ for America’s top twenty high school biology achievers.

Purpose: The Biology Olympiad helps to support the teaching of biology throughout America, in schools spanning the socioeconomic spectrum. It raises awareness of the exciting career possibilities offered in the field of biology, and encourages students to consider a career in biology.

Accomplishments/Results: This year, nearly 5,000 students from across the U.S., as well as Puerto Rico and U.S. dependents abroad participated in the first round Open Competition.

Plans for the next 12 months: CEE hopes to work more closely with the College Board to publicize the program more widely, and to encourage more students to participate. CEE is investigating sources of scholarship support for the program, and will at some point include a teacher training component to complement the two-week program at George Mason University.