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## President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

### *Iowa Biotech Workforce Development Project*



**Grant amount:** \$996,250

**Leveraged amount:** \$231,474 from Indian Hills Community College and employers.

**Grantee:** Indian Hills Community College

**Key partners:** Iowa Economic Development; Iowa Biotechnology Association; Iowa Renewable Fuels Association; Des Moines Area Community College; Iowa Workforce Development; and several key Iowa biotechnology employers (Cargill, Genencor, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Garst Seed, Phytodyne, and Kemin Industries).

**Grant activities** will take place statewide.

### **Challenge**

The State of Iowa and Indian Hills Community College have recently completed seven regional assessments to determine the need for biotechnology training. Results indicated that enhanced curriculum development is needed for future graduates as well as a strong and consistent need to upgrade the skills of incumbent biotech employees.

### **Addressing the Challenge**

Indian Hills Community College will establish a collaborative, statewide approach to growing the biotechnology industry as part of the state's economic base. It will educate Iowa's middle and high school students and Job Corps participants about biotechnology/ bioprocessing career options, as well as coordinate multiple opportunities for science teachers to build curriculum and skills in the field. The project will also develop and deliver training programs for Iowa's rapidly growing ethanol industry. In addition, it will develop curriculum for biotechnology technicians specializing in proteomics, a new field that seeks to identify and understand the proteins cells produce in different situations.

### **Projected Outcomes**

- Expose thousands of Iowans to biotech career options through television, radio, printed material, websites, etc.
- Feature employer visits to schools and course development for thousands of middle and high school students and Job Corps participants as well as hundreds of teachers.
- Online training will be provided for 600 incumbent biotechnology workers.
- One hundred new biotechnology workers will be trained in cooperation with Workforce Development and Iowa's Job Corps.
- Nineteen companies will have their training customized, and 400 ethanol employees will be trained or retrained.
- A proteomics curriculum will be made available to post-secondary institutions nationwide.

