
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Training for Careers in Biotechnology



Grant amount: \$2,433,160 – 2 years

Leveraged amount: \$650,000 (\$400,000 in cash; \$250,000 in-kind)

Grantee: Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse

Key partners: Renal Solutions, Inc. (plus six additional biotech employers in the area); Community College of Allegheny County; The Pittsburgh Technology Council; The Allegheny County Workforce Investment Board; and The Allegheny County Job Link

Location of grant activities: Community College of Allegheny County and local employers

Challenge

The biotechnology industry faces several significant workforce challenges: 1) many of its jobs require a wide variety of skills; 2) there is a need to attract youth as well as untapped labor pools into biotech, including workers from declining industries, veterans, and persons with disabilities; and 3) community colleges must build capacity to deliver new curriculum and training models that include apprenticeship.

Addressing the Challenge

With its \$2,433,160 grant, the Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse will combine industry-identified skills and vocational/academic disciplines to shape potential biotechnology workers with a variety of qualifications. The goal of the project is to rapidly deploy professionals into biotechnology employment. Biotechnology organizations will work directly with the Community College of Allegheny County and the Pittsburgh Technology Council through the “information channeling” program to create customized training programs. These classes will be melded into the core biotechnology curriculum. As a part of its efforts to support the growth of greater Pittsburgh life sciences employers, the project will provide training for new entrants into biotech as well as retraining for workers affected by declining industries.

Projected Outcomes

- A replicable biotechnology business curriculum and training that integrates research, physiology, laboratory protocols, regulatory issues, manufacturing, and other required cross-disciplinary competencies
- Placement of at least 400 new biotechnology workers in the life of the two-year grant
- Enabling workers to transfer their skills from declining industries into biotechnology

