
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

National Center for the Biotechnology Workforce



Grant amount: \$5,000,000

Leveraged amount: At least \$7,490,000 in-kind from the participating community colleges

Grantee: Forsyth Technical Community College

Key Partners: New Hampshire Technical College, Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Indian Hills Community College, Ottumwa, Iowa; Bellevue Community College, Bellevue, Washington; Miracosta Community College, San Diego, California. Biotechnology employers aligned with each community college will also participate in the project.

Location of Grant Activities: Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Ottumwa, Iowa; Bellevue, Washington; San Diego, California

The Challenge

Biotechnology industry leaders have identified a shortage of skilled workers at the technician level in various specialty skill areas. Community colleges and industry lack sufficient connections to help prepare workers for jobs in biotech. Further, a comprehensive set of industry standards and corresponding training material, particularly at the technician level, does not yet exist.

Addressing the Challenge

The \$5 million grant will support the development of a National Center for a Biotechnology Workforce by the five community college partners located in different regions across the country. They will work with employers to identify industry skill needs and develop training curricula for a range of biotech sectors. Each community college and their respective faculties will be responsible for the skill standards and workforce data.

Projected Outcomes

- The establishment of the National Center for the Biotechnology Workforce comprised of five leading community colleges in most regions in the country.
- The development of industry-standard curricula, training and educational resources.
- National distribution of curricula and training methodologies developed through the National Center for the Biotechnology Workforce to community colleges and training institutions located in regions of the country where biotechnology comprises a significant portion of the local economy.

