
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative
*Lakeland Community College Biotechnology Workforce
Development Program*



Grant amount: \$333,485

Leveraged amount: \$92,892 in-kind from Lakeland Community College's general fund

Grantee: Lakeland Community College

Key partners: STERIS Corp.; Athersys, Inc.; Lakeland's BioTech Council and its employer members; School systems in Mentor, Ashtabula, and Mayfield, Ohio; Tech Prep Consortium; Ricerca Biosciences; and BioEnterprise

Grant activities will take place in Northeast Ohio.

Challenge

Sustaining current and projected growth in the biotechnology industry requires a strategic alliance between educators, businesses, and workforce development. Such growth is reflected in Northeast Ohio, where biomedical/biotechnology is growing at a 9 percent rate. In order to sustain such growth, the industry requires a pipeline of skilled workers.

Addressing the Challenge

The grant will support Lakeland Community College's Biotechnology Workforce Development Initiative, which is developing training programs designed to recruit new workers for the biotechnology industry. Lakeland Community College is partnering with industry to create training and curriculum for four levels of training: a high-school technician program, an Associate of Science research assistant degree, a Bachelors of Arts degree, and a research scientist Master's Degree. The grant will also support the development of a BioCenter, as well as a national biotechnology career coaching model. The BioCenter will be equipped with industry-standard equipment and be available to students and teachers to strengthen their knowledge and interest in biotechnology. The national biotechnology career management model will provide access to career information via a "Biotechnology Career Coach" website. The career ladder will focus on recruitment and training of entry-level biotech workers, with an emphasis on basic scientific knowledge and good laboratory and manufacturing practices.

Projected Outcomes

- Strengthened high school science instruction by providing student and teacher access to equipment and expertise through a BioCenter;
- A four-tiered career ladder program with internships and career coaching;
- A national biotechnology career coaching model that will provide education and training information needed for job advancement.

