

# Community-Based Job Training Grants

## *Northampton Community College*

**Grantee:** Northampton Community College (NCC)

**Industry Focus:** Biotechnology

**Key Partners:** Sanofi Pasteur, the Monroe County CareerLink, the Bethlehem Area School District, the Easton Area School District, and the Wilson Area School District

**Grant Amount:** \$713,025

**Leveraged Amount:** \$595,304

**Location of Grant Activities:** Pennsylvania

**Challenge:** The Center for Workforce Information and Analysis in the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry projects that pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing employment in the Lehigh Valley and Pocono Counties, where this project is located, will grow 36 percent between 2002 and 2012. Employment growth within the Lehigh Valley in this sector will be almost 23 percent, while in the Pocono counties it is projected at almost 43 percent.

**Addressing the Challenge:** This multi-faceted initiative will have several special features. First, a career lattice of credentialed, customized training options will be developed including two new credit-bearing specialized diplomas focusing on aseptic (clean room) processing and automated processing for incumbent, dislocated, and entry-level workers. Also, education and training opportunities will be provided for secondary students and educators including dual enrollment courses for local school districts and their students who are interested in biotechnology careers and professional development courses/programs for secondary teachers in biotechnology-related fields. Additionally, new lab equipment and supplies will support aseptic and automated process instruction, thus increasing NCC's capacity to develop a larger pool of qualified technicians for regional biotech industries.

### **Projected Outcomes:**

- Train 140 students (60 incumbent workers, 40 dislocated workers, and 40 students taking elective courses in the Associate's Applied Science in Biotechnology degree program)
- Develop new curriculum for specialized diplomas in Aseptic Process and Automated Processing
- Establish and validate aseptic and automated processing competencies
- Host online biotechnology forum created with approximately 30 new industry participants
- Engage 40 secondary educators in in-service, professional development training

