

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Athens Technical College

Grantee: Athens Technical College

Industry Focus: Biotechnology

Key Partners: Gwinnett Technical College, the University System of Georgia, the Atlanta Regional Workforce Board, the Northeast Georgia Workforce Board, the Georgia Biomedical Partnership, and the Georgia K-12 public education system

Grant Amount: \$1,996,326

Leveraged Amount: \$1,777,325

Location of Grant Activities: Georgia

Challenge: The Georgia Department of Economic Development has initiated a two-pronged approach to make bioscience research and biomanufacturing a key element in its economic development strategy, which could generate approximately 2,000 jobs in the state: 1) using bioscience incubator facilities to develop marketable products, and 2) recruiting established bioscience companies to the state. In the final report detailing selection of sites in states other than Georgia, the two overriding concerns were: 1) lack of capacity to train the workforce needed in Georgia and 2) lack of appropriate bioscience educational curriculum.

Addressing the Challenge: This project will create a Georgia Bioscience Technology Institute (GBTI) to increase laboratory space, update instructional materials, and provide a well-trained bioscience workforce.

Projected Outcomes:

- Train 343 participants in the biotechnology and bioscience fields
- Establish a bioscience education and workforce training center that serves as a career ladder point of contact
- Target certificate and degree programs toward displaced workers and career changers; and increase availability of weekend and evening programs for student flexibility and use distance learning
- Enable faculty to tour local bioscience workplaces on a rotating schedule to be aware of current methodologies
- Provide labs and facilities for recruitment and training
- Offer short-term training modules (one-to-four weeks) for companies in need of new employee education or incumbent employee growth opportunities
- Provide biotechnology-based curriculum and laboratory training for rising 11th and 12th grade high school students

