
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Arizona Biotechnology Career Ladder



Grant amount: \$276,393

Grantee: Job Path, Inc.

Key partners: Workforce Investment System through the Pima County One-Stop Career Center, Pima Community College, Office of the Pima County Superintendent of Schools, BIO5 - the University of Arizona Institute for Collaborative Bioresearch, Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen), the Arizona Bioindustry Association, the Bioindustry Organization of Southern Arizona, La Paloma Family Services, and Flinn Foundation

Leveraged amount: \$90,010 cash and \$95,700 in-kind

Location of Grant Activities: Pima County, Arizona

Challenge: In Arizona, there is significant projected job growth in the biosciences and the number of skilled workers projected to enter the workforce will not meet this need. There are few educational programs addressing the need for laboratory science workers; a low enrollment in existing programs, and a large number of current biology students lack the hands-on laboratory skills needed for employment. There is also a clear gap between the readiness of students entering community colleges and the demands of bioscience coursework as evidenced by the high number of entering students who need remedial math and science coursework. As a result, many students are unable to successfully complete the prerequisites for the biotechnology coursework.

Addressing the Challenge: Through the \$276,393 grant from ETA, and with \$185,710 in leveraged resources, Job Path, Incorporated will implement a career ladder model that partners with Pima Community College and the local biotechnology industry to: 1) build an educational pipeline for biosciences; 2) continue development of curricula; and 3) implement innovative approaches to experiential learning and statewide coordination. A Biotechnology Summer Institute will be created for high school students to serve as a feeder into the community college's introductory and core biotechnology programs. Job Path, Inc. will recruit and enroll participants from untapped labor pools and transitioning workers from declining industries and provide program and financial support to participants taking biotechnology courses or prerequisites. An internship program, in partnership with bioscience employers, will allow school-to-career opportunities for participants.

Projected Outcomes:

- 50 graduates of Biotechnology Summer Institute;
- 40 Pima Community College students complete introductory classes and advance to biotechnology prerequisites
- 60 graduates of the biotechnology college program who will move on to employment or higher education;
- 30 graduates from paid internships with bioscience employers.



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

*Biotechnology Industry Demonstration Grants
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