

President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Biosciences Job Growth Initiative



Grant amount: \$1,000,000

Grantee: Miami Dade College

Key partners: MediVector, Inc., Onco-Vector, Inc., IVAX Corporation, South Florida Workforce, Inc., Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce

Leveraged amount: \$250,000 cash and \$1,084,000 in-kind contributions

Location of Grant Activities: Miami-Dade County, Florida

Challenge:

The biotechnology industry in southern Florida faces five critical workforce development challenges: 1) increasing the capacity of education and training providers; 2) creating a pipeline of new and untapped labor pools, particularly those transitioning from declining industries, minorities, job-seeking homemakers, and veterans; 3) designing stable career ladders and lattices; 4) promoting a positive image for emerging bioscience/biotechnology industries, particularly among future workers; and 5) providing postsecondary education alternatives, based on lifelong learning.

Addressing the Challenge

With the \$1,000,000 grant from ETA for the Biosciences Job Growth Initiative (BJGI), Miami Dade College and its partners will address the specific large-scale job creation (1,500 jobs) associated with the MediVector Biopharmaceutical Center under development in Liberty City, Fla., a low-income, Empowerment Zone community. The college will increase the capacity of local education and training providers, establish a pipeline to access untapped labor pools, develop specialized skills sets and develop competency models within the context of integrated lifelong learning, introduce Good Manufacturing Lab, Clinical, and Documentation practices to curricula, and deliver Industrial Pharmaceutical Manufacturing (IPM)/Biosciences career guidance at all stages of lifelong learning. Miami Dade College will create bachelor's degree programs consisting of two years of study at community college followed by two years of college and a post-bachelor's fast-track Advanced Technical Certificate, as well as create company specific, non-credit training. Finally, retention rates in the training programs and within partner companies will be increased by conducting skills assessments, providing student services, basic skills remediation, basic job skills training, and implementing industry mentoring and internship programs.

Projected Outcomes:

- Train 800 incumbent and future IPM technicians and related workers;
- Increase retention (new and incumbent workers) by 30% annually; and
- 80% of job trainees secure job placement



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

*Biotechnology Industry Demonstration Grants
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