

President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

National Center for the Biotechnology Workforce



Grant amount: \$5,000,000

Grantee: Forsyth Technical Community College

Key partners: New Hampshire Technical College, Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Indian Hills Community College, Ottumwa, Iowa; Bellevue Community College, Bellevue, Washington; and MiraCosta Community College, San Diego, California. Biotechnology industry employers that are aligned with each community college will also play a role

Leveraged amount: At least \$7,490,000 in-kind from the participating community colleges

Location of Grant Activities: Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Ottumwa, Iowa; Bellevue, Washington; and San Diego, California

Challenge:

Biotechnology industry leaders have identified a shortage of skilled workers at the technician level in various specialty skill areas. Community colleges and industry lack sufficient connections to help prepare workers for jobs in biotech. Further, a comprehensive set of industry standards and corresponding training material, particularly at the technician level, does not yet exist.

Addressing the Challenge:

The \$5 million High Growth Job Training Initiative grant will support the development of a National Center for a Biotechnology Workforce by the five community college partners located in different regions across the country. They will work with employers to identify industry skill needs and develop training curricula for a range of biotech sectors. Each community college and their respective faculties will be responsible for the skill standards and workforce data.

In the Southeast, Forsyth Technical Community College will lead Biotech Research and Development. In the Northeast, New Hampshire Community and Technical College will lead Biomanufacturing. In the Midwest, Indian Hills Community College will lead Agriculture bio-processing and renewable fuels curriculum. In the Northwest, Bellevue Community College will lead Bioinformatics, and in the Southwest, MiraCosta Community College will lead Bioprocessing.

Projected Outcomes:

- The establishment of the National Center for the Biotechnology Workforce comprised of five leading community colleges in most regions in the country.
- The development of industry-standard curricula, training and educational resources.
- National distribution of curricula and training methodologies developed through the National Center for the Biotechnology Workforce to community colleges and training institutions located in regions of the country where biotechnology comprises a significant portion of the local economy.

