
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Iowa Biotech Workforce Development Project



Grant amount: \$996,250

Grantee: Indian Hills Community College

Key partners: Iowa Economic Development; Iowa Biotechnology Association; Iowa Renewable Fuels Association; Des Moines Area Community College; Iowa Workforce Development; and several key Iowa biotechnology employers (Cargill, Genencor, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Garst Seed, Phytodyne, and Kemin Industries)

Leveraged amount: \$231,474 from Indian Hills Community College and employers partners

Location of Grant Activities: Iowa

Challenge:

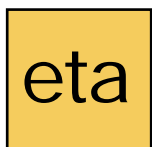
The State of Iowa and Indian Hills Community College have recently completed seven regional assessments to determine the need for biotechnology training. Results indicated that enhanced curriculum development is needed for future graduates as well as a strong and consistent need to upgrade the skills of incumbent biotech employees.

Addressing the Challenge:

With its \$996,250 grant, Indian Hills Community College will establish a collaborative, statewide approach to growing the biotechnology industry as part of the state's economic base. It will educate Iowa's middle and high school students and Job Corps participants about biotechnology/bioprocessing career options, as well as coordinate multiple opportunities for science teachers to build curriculum and skills in the field. The project provides pre-employment assessment and training to the unemployed and underemployed in cooperation with Workforce Development and will develop and deliver training programs for Iowa's rapidly growing ethanol industry. In addition, it will develop curriculum for biotechnology technicians specializing in proteomics, a new field that seeks to identify and understand the proteins cells produce in different situations. Proteomics is closely allied to the study of the genome.

Projected Outcomes:

- Expose thousands of Iowans to biotech career options through television, radio, printed material, websites, etc. ;
- Feature employer visits to schools;
- Develop courses for thousands of middle and high school students and Job Corps participants as well as hundreds of teachers;
- Online training will be provided for 600 incumbent biotechnology workers;
- One hundred new biotechnology workers will be trained in cooperation with Workforce Development and Iowa's Job Corps; and
- Nineteen companies will have their training customized, and 400 ethanol employees will be trained or retrained.
- A Proteomics curriculum developed and will be made available to post-secondary institutions nationwide.



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

*Biotechnology Industry Demonstration Grants
Announced on August 17, 2004*