
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative
*Lakeland Community College Biotechnology
Workforce Development Program*



Grant amount: \$333,485

Grantee: Lakeland Community College

Key partners: STERIS Corp.; Athersys, Inc.; Lakeland's BioTech Council and its employer members; School systems in Mentor, Ashtabula, and Mayfield, Ohio; Tech Prep Consortium; Ricerca Biosciences; BioEnterprise; NeoBio; Lakeland Community Learning; Lakeland NASA SEMAA (Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academy); Lakeland Center for Quality and Productivity; and AAMI (Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation)

Leveraged amount: \$92,892 in-kind from Lakeland Community College's general fund

Location of Grant Activities: Northeast Ohio

Challenge:

Sustaining current and projected growth in the biotechnology industry requires a strategic alliance between educators, businesses, and workforce development. Such growth is reflected in Northeast Ohio, where biomedical/biotechnology is growing at a 9 percent rate. In order to sustain such growth, the industry requires a pipeline of skilled workers.

Addressing the Challenge:

The grant will support Lakeland Community College's Biotechnology Workforce Development Initiative, which is developing training programs that are designed to recruit new workers, beginning at the high-school level and up through a Master's Degree level. Lakeland Community College is partnering with industry to create training and curriculum for four levels of training beginning with a high-school technician program, an Associate of Science research assistant degree in biotechnology, a Bachelor's of Arts degree, and a research scientist Master's Degree. The grant will also support the development of a BioCenter, as well as a national biotechnology career coaching model. The BioCenter will be equipped with industry-standard equipment and be available to students and teachers to strengthen their knowledge and interest in the biotechnology industry. The national biotechnology career management model will provide access to biotechnology career information via a "Biotechnology Career Coach" website. The career ladder will focus on recruitment and training of entry-level biotech workers, with an emphasis on basic scientific knowledge and good laboratory and manufacturing practices.

Projected Outcomes:

- Strengthened high school science instruction by providing student and teacher access to equipment and expertise through a BioCenter;
- A four-tiered career ladder program with internships and career coaching; and
- A national biotechnology career coaching model that will provide education and training information needed for job advancement.

