

---

## President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

*Massachusetts BioCareer Lab*



**Grant amount:** \$1,372,250

**Grantee:** Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation

**Key partners:** Massachusetts Biotechnology Council (MBC); Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation (Mass Bio Ed); Massachusetts Workforce Board Association; Commonwealth Corporation; The University of Massachusetts' and 5-campus statewide; The Boston Private Industry Council (Boston PIC); The Metro Northwest Regional Employment Board; The Metro Southwest Regional Employment Board; the Museum of Science (Boston) and Boston University School of Medicine's City Lab and key companies, including our first major sponsor, Genzyme.

**Leveraged amount:** \$350,000 from MBC and Mass Bio Ed; \$50,000 from state and local Workforce Investment Boards

**Location of Grant Activities:** Greater Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville, Massachusetts.

### **Challenge:**

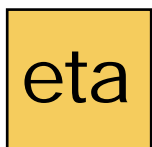
A chronic and growing shortage of qualified biotechnology workers stems from a lack of high school preparation and solid knowledge base in the life sciences. As a result, biotechnology companies cannot find enough qualified workers for excellent opportunities. The industry has designed multi-faceted strategies to expose and attract youth to biotechnology careers and to encourage the appropriate high school preparation in order to support successful technical skill training at the post-secondary level.

### **Addressing the Challenge:**

With its \$1,372,250 grant, the BioCareer Lab initiative will launch BioCareer Labs in 25 urban and high-needs public schools (as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act and school "report cards" on student achievement). The labs will include new science equipment, teacher training with follow-up and technical support, establishment of regional training centers using a "train-the-trainer" model, access to a "biotech lab kit" and hands-on, real-world wet lab curricula, and school-to-career pathways in partnership with workforce investment boards and colleges. Mass Bio Ed will lead the effort to identify and test an industry-defined standard of quality for facilities, teaching and learning of biotechnology in high schools. BioCareer Labs will serve as a pilot for the larger scale "BioTeach" program, which has a mission to outfit every public high school in the state of Massachusetts. The overall goal of the project is to spark interest in the life sciences at the high school level as a national model.

### **Projected Outcomes for the Two-Year, DOL Grant-Funded Period:**

- Teach 2,000 students and 100 science teachers and provide ongoing teacher training;
- Identify and refine industry standards for facilities, teaching, and learning.
- Outfit more than 150 Massachusetts schools with new science lab equipment and supplies (5-year project goal)



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

*Biotechnology Industry Demonstration Grants  
Announced on September 15, 2004*