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# President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

## *Training for Careers in Biotechnology*



**Grant amount:** \$2,433,160

**Grantee:** Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse

**Key partners:** Renal Solutions, Inc. (plus six additional biotech employers in the area); Community College of Allegheny County; The Pittsburgh Technology Council Catalyst Connection; The Allegheny County Workforce Investment Board; and The Allegheny County Job Link

**Leveraged amount:** \$400,000 from The Pittsburgh Technology Council, Community College of Allegheny, and Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse

**Location of Grant Activities:** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

### **Challenge:**

The biotechnology industry faces several significant workforce challenges: 1) many of its jobs require a wide variety of skills; 2) there is a need to attract youth as well as untapped labor pools into biotech, including workers from declining industries, veterans, and persons with disabilities; and 3) community colleges must build capacity to deliver new curriculum and training models that include apprenticeship.

### **Addressing the Challenge**

With its \$2,433,160 grant, the Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse will try to match trained workers with local area biotechnology companies. Through curriculum and training, it will combine industry-identified skills and vocational/academic disciplines to shape workers with a variety of qualifications. As a part of its efforts to support the growth of greater Pittsburgh life sciences employers, the project will provide training for new entrants into biotech as well as retraining for workers affected by declining industries.

The goal of the project is to rapidly deploy professionals into biotechnology employment. Biotechnology organizations will work directly with the Community College of Allegheny County, the Pittsburgh Technology Council and Catalyst Connection through the "information channeling" program to create customized training programs. These classes will be melded into the core biotechnology curriculum.

### **Projected Outcomes:**

- A replicable biotechnology business curriculum and training that integrates research, physiology, laboratory protocols, regulatory issues, manufacturing, and other required cross-disciplinary competencies;
- Placement of at least 400 new biotechnology workers in the life of the -three year grant; and
- Enabling workers to transfer their skills from declining industries into biotechnology.

