
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

A Partnership for Defining the Biotech Workforce



Grant amount: \$2,510,117

Grantee: San Diego Workforce Partnership

Key partner: BIOCUM

Leveraged Amount: \$1,756,066

Location of Grant Activities: Greater San Diego, California

Challenge:

The biotechnology industry faces two critical challenges: 1) developing the capacity to collect industry-specific information on the different jobs and skills needed in this industry; and 2) attracting a pipeline of youth to employ in the industry while ensuring that teachers understand and can better counsel students preparing to pursue biotechnology careers.

Addressing the Challenge

Under their \$2,510,117 grant, the San Diego Workforce Partnership and its partner, BIOCUM, will pursue two strategies. Under the first, these two organizations will partner to serve as a clearinghouse for local and national labor market research related to the biotechnology industry. This center also will serve as a national site for conducting focus groups, gathering and analyzing data, and generating reports and ideas. Information will be shared electronically with communities throughout the country who are developing or advancing biotechnology initiatives. The second strategy coordinates student internships (from high-school to post-doctoral levels) and teacher externships for the regional biotechnology community.

Projected Outcomes:

- Development of a sustainable, multi-purpose biotechnology training and resource center. The center will ultimately serve as a national clearinghouse for biotechnology industry labor market and occupational information; competency and skills requirement information; and training, internship, and research opportunities at all levels; and
- A replicable, comprehensive student internship and teacher externship program for the broader San Diego biotechnology community. Internships will provide hands-on, industry-standard learning opportunities for students ranging from the secondary to post-doctoral level, and will also provide a pathway for dislocated workers to transition to high-growth biotechnology careers. The externship program also will help provide area biotechnology employers with a needed pipeline of biotechnology workers.

