
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Biotechnology Human Capital Investment Project

Grantee: Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board

Key Partners: Collegiate Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development, Delaware BioScience Association, Delaware Economic Development Office, Delaware Valley Industrial Resource Center, Innovation Philadelphia, Life Science Career Alliance, Biotechnology Council of New Jersey, New Jersey Commission on Higher Education, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Pennsylvania Bio, Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, and Select Greater Philadelphia

Grant Amount: \$1,500,000

Leveraged Amount: \$750,000

Location of Grant Activities: southeastern Pennsylvania (7 counties), southwestern New Jersey (5 counties), and northern Delaware (1 county)

Challenge: There are nearly 400 companies and 53,000 workers currently employed in greater Philadelphia's growing biomanufacturing and life sciences industry. The region has a robust source of research development workforce pipelines supporting nearly \$1.6 billion (2003) of National Institutes of Health funding in the three states. However, the manufacturing workforce pipeline is in the early stages of development. The industry seeks a reliable and highly skilled advanced manufacturing workforce. The two core competencies that are required to grow this biomanufacturing base are fermentation and cell/tissue cultures.

Addressing the Challenge: Through regional community colleges, this project will build pipelines for workers in the specialized life sciences. The first step involves transforming the region to change the way industry and education relate to one another, through the work of the Biotechnology Human Capital Investment Project (Biotech Project). The Biotech Project established the framework to support the biotechnology sector workforce needs. The project now will expand geographically and further integrate education and industry by creating programs for cooperative learning experience, industry-validated skill-based certificates, and an integrated learning process that delivers a well-educated, highly trained skilled workforce.

Projected Outcomes:

- Development of two skill-based certificate models for the biotechnology industry in collaboration with the educational community and industry partners
- Development of three career pipelines for each of the models
- Development of an industry-based validation process for each of the models.
- Creation of three to four regional cooperative learning sites
- Completion of training for at least 100 participants for both programs

