

A decorative graphic consisting of a yellow circle on the left side. A blue bracket is positioned on the left side of the circle, and a yellow bracket is on the right side. A horizontal bar with an orange-to-brown gradient is overlaid on the circle and brackets.

Regional Strategies

Non-traditional, cluster-based grant programs

Austin Biotech Workforce Education Consortium

Biotechnology and Life Sciences Cluster

Austin-Round Rock MSA

(Caldwell, Bastrop, Hayes, Travis and Williamson Counties)

Austin Biotech Workforce Education Consortium

Executive Summary

- Short-term, entry level training *for new workers* with limited or no biotechnology industry experience
- Training enhancement *for current workers and current students* in electronics or medical laboratory technology fields into applied biotechnology
- Promote science education and interest among high school students
- Engage industry for input, evaluation, and employment

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Regional Partners and Stakeholders

■ **Partners**

- Austin Community College
- Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce
- University of Texas' Ray Marshall Center

■ **Key stakeholders**

- Employers
 - Ambion, Austin Diagnostic Clinic, Clinical Pathology Labs, Stratagene, Incell, TX Dept of Health and others
- Workers
 - Current industry workers
 - Future workforce

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Cluster Impact Strategies & Deliverables

- **Engage Industry**
 - Faculty externships
 - Student internships
 - Employment Opportunities
- **Training**
 - Entry-level for new workers (36 students)
 - Enhanced Degree for current students and workers (24 students)
- **Support**
 - Tuition, books, internships for 60 students
- **Sustainability**
 - Courses/internships continue

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Key Issues and Challenges

■ Process issues

- The grant period is 24 months but the funding was split into two 1-year contracts which requires more administrative work

■ Project issues

- In hindsight we would have benefited from a more targeted outreach approach
- Should have requested additional funding for marketing to promote awareness of the industry

Austin Biotech Workforce Education Consortium

Primary Contacts

- Grant Recipient
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- Grantee Project Manager
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- TWC Project Manager
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- TWC Cluster Manager
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